Welcome to year 4. I hope you all enjoyed your holidays with your child and are looking forward to your child’s year in room 25. My name is Merinda Smith and I live in the local area. I have been teaching at Secret Harbour Primary since 2008 and I am looking forward to another fun and exciting year of learning.

Open door policy:
I strongly believe that parents are partners in the education of their children; therefore I have an “open door” policy. If you have any concerns regarding your child please don’t hesitate to come see me or email to arrange a time to discuss your concerns privately and confidentially. I generally check my emails once a day so if I do not respond the same day I will as soon as possible. Merinda.Smith@education.wa.edu.au If you would like a copy of my letters sent home electronically (e.g. term overviews) please email at the above address so I have your preferred address and will also email them to you.

Philosophy:
I believe that children should have a positive self esteem and need to be encouraged to become responsible and independent learners. As a teacher, I will provide a safe, warm and stimulating environment to ensure that the children feel comfortable to attempt challenges with confidence.

Classroom Behaviour Management:
I conduct a fair but firm behaviour management policy that is consistent with that of the whole school. The procedure is as follows:

1. Rule reminder/Warning.
2. A second reminder and warning with their name placed on the board.
3. Cross next to their name and time-out in class.
4. Two crosses and time out in another class.
5. Referral to the office.

More serious behaviour will skip steps and be referred directly to the office and parents/carers notified.
Children will be rewarded for positive behaviour. This may be in the form of free time, stamps, star awards, faction tokens etc. and lots of positive feedback!

Homework policy:
Students take a different home reader each week from the class set. I ask that parents ensure students read each night and or listen to their child read, helping if necessary. Home reading should not be hard, as the emphasis is on the child feeling confident, comprehending the text and recognising words they know. There will also be math and spelling homework sent home weekly to complete starting week 3.

Library – Our library and computer day is Tuesday. Students need to bring their library bag or else they will not be able to loan a book. Students will then have to wait to the following week to obtain a book from the library with their library bag.

Assembly – Our assembly item will be Friday, 2nd June at 9am (Term 2, week 6). Song lyrics will be sent home closer to the date and for those who which to have a speaking part their scrip will also be sent home to learn.

SPECIAL EVENTS/ INCURSIONS/ EXCURSIONS/ CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING

FEBRUARY
- School Photos will be in week 4. The dates allocated for photos are 22nd, 23rd & 24th. Our class day and time will be confirmed closer to the date.
MARCH

- 17th – National Day against Bullying
- 21st – Harmony Day
- 31st – Grow Your Own Mind Day

APRIL

- 4th – Open Night
- 7th – Last day of term 1.

June

- 2nd – Room 25 assembly item.

ENGLISH

Language: In Year 4 students will develop their understanding of how to use strategies for spelling words, including spelling rules, knowledge of word families, spelling generalisations, and letter combinations including double letters. Students will use SoundWaves as a program to enhance their phonemic awareness and develop their spelling strategies.

Literature: Students will make connections between the ways different authors may represent similar storylines, ideas and relationships. They will explore a variety of historical letters and narratives in order to critically analyse differing perspectives.

Literacy: Students will identify and explain language features of texts from earlier times and compare these with the vocabulary, images, and content of contemporary texts.

Handwriting: The students will practice and consolidate their handwriting techniques required of them within the Year 4 curriculum.

How You Can Help:

Please encourage your child to read every day for a minimum of 10-15 minutes. Ensure that a variety of texts are available e.g. novels (chapter books), non-fiction books, newspapers, magazines, electronic texts etc. Engage in questions about the text being read – characters, plot, predicting what might happen, information learnt etc.

MATHEMATICS

Students will participate in a range of mathematical investigations facilitated through the use of the schools iMaths mathematics program. In Term 1 students will complete investigations that cover the following concepts.

Number and Algebra

Use of pictures, numerals, number names and number sentences to represent numbers up to 10 000 and multiplication facts.

Properties of odd and even numbers

Multiply by 10, 100 and 1000 as well as rounding to 10 and 100

Multiplication and division facts 2, 3, 5 and 10

Addition of larger numbers up to 10 000

Measurement & Geometry

Investigation of the appropriate use of centimetres, metres and kilometres.

How to use and read maps.

Statistics & Probability

Create, describe and interpret bar and picture graphs

How You Can Help:

Continued support and revision of basic facts, especially times tables. Support your child in completing maths homework and assist or revise unfamiliar concepts where necessary.
HISTORY
Our history will include:
In Term 1, students will investigate a range of printed and digital stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival. Students will explore historical letters and narratives to further develop their understanding of primary and secondary sources as well as the impact the First Fleet has had on our history as Australians.

How You Can Help:
Discuss and research this period of Australian History with your child. Encourage and support independent research in relation to this topic and identify the difference between primary and secondary sources as a means of drawing information about historical subjects

Kids Matter:
Our focus on social skills will include:
- Development of a class agreement where all students are responsible for drafting classroom behaviour expectations.
- Inclusion of all students in school and playground activities.
- Fostering a sense of team work and shared responsibility among the students.

How You Can Help:
- Encourage positive relationships between your child and other students.

- Just a reminder that if students arrive before 8:35 they need to wait in the undercover area for supervision.
- I am also sending a timetable of our schedule home for your reference.
- I will be holding a parent meeting Thursday, 23rd February (week 4).

Looking forward to a great year!

Kind regards,

Miss Smith