Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Chantelle Meade and I have the pleasure of teaching the year four students this year. Each week our class will also have the educational assistance of Gay Vandenberg, Mary Brogan and Kirianna Carroll. The term is already off to a busy start with swimming lessons and a footy clinic run by the West Coast Eagles in the first three weeks. I am sure it will continue to remain busy and we are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Our class theme is Underwater Rainforests and we are taking a close look at the coral reef ecosystem. The students will be able to participate in an excursion to AQWA, The Aquarium of Western Australia, which will give them a valuable and up close encounter with our topic. This will be held on Thursday, 28th March. More information regarding this excursion will be sent home closer to the date. This term will also include both our School Faction (Friday week 6) and Interschool (Friday week 7) Swimming Carnivals.

Please find attached a copy of the class timetable for your information. This may change if required, however we hope that we will continue with the smooth start to the year and no changes are foreseen. Please take note that Physical Education and sport occur every Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear to participate in all activities on those days. Our library day is also Tuesday. Children require a library bag to protect our wonderful school library books. Any sort of bag will be fine as it will help ensure everyone gets to enjoy the books. Please ensure your child has a library bag and it is kept inside their school bag.

**Homework**

* Maths and Literacy Homework*
We have made the homework for the first term very structured. The aim is to get students into a regular routine with set tasks in both maths and literacy each night. Their homework should not exceed thirty minutes a night. Students are required to work on the same set of times tables and spelling words over a whole week. I may also begin to send home extra literacy or numeracy if I feel that your child requires some extra practice or as extension.

* Home Reading*
Students are also required to read aloud for ten minutes per night. Reading is vital in developing language and writing skills and we encourage parents to not only listen to their children read, but also to engage in conversation about the book. Asking questions about characters, the plot and the illustrations helps identify the level of understanding your child gains when reading. We do ask that students bring in their reading book and homework folder each day so we may use the book in class. The students are required to change their book as needed from the levelled boxes.

**Behaviour**
We have a reward system in the classroom focusing on students’ positive behaviour. This term the students are helping to build our own coral reef and earn a faction point and a raffle ticket for every piece of coral they earn towards our reef. The raffle is drawn every two weeks and students get the opportunity to draw from the prize box.
The whole school good standing behaviour system will continue this year. Students who lose their good standing will not attend school rewards sessions.

This term our class also have the opportunity to participate in LOTE and Computing with Mrs Minchin, Music with Mrs Barrett-Lennard and Technology and Enterprise with Mrs Colebrook.

**Technology and Enterprise**
In Term 1 students will learn more sketching and designing ideas to help complete Design Plan tasks during the year. The main focus will relate to the class topic of “Coral Reefs” and students will design and make a 2D padded fish to hang in the classroom.

**Italian**
Through repetition, oral games and songs we will extend our knowledge of the Italian language and culture of Italy. We will be looking at clothes in different seasons, learn how to say the time in Italian, looking at the currency in Italy and “buying” clothes, etc with our “money”. We will continue to revise what we already know by repetition, oral work and of course songs.

**IT - Computing**
Our lessons will comprise of touch typing for 15 minutes and using Microsoft Word to further our skills. Some of the areas that we will focus on are; changing size of the page, change line spacing, toggle between programs, use undo/redo on menu bar as well as the buttons and using text wrap. We will set up email addresses in our contact folders. We will also use Mathletics, Reading Eggs to promote our literacy and numeracy.

**Music - Mrs Barrett-Lennard**
The music program during term one will include:
* The history of music and musicians eg Beethoven, The Beatles, ABBA.
* Musical Instruments eg how particular instruments are made, variations of selected instruments, instruments in the school music room.
* Reading music; from very basic understandings to the more complex.
* Playing instruments and singing eg playing the instruments in the music room and singing songs such as the National Anthem (both verses) and well known Australian songs.

The music program will be based on the concept of music as a whole learning area, therefore considering all aspects of music and showing the children that music is about listening, enjoying, playing, singing, dancing and composing.

We have had a pleasing start to they year and I am looking forward to a busy and eventful term ahead. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask. Feel free to use your child’s communication books, or contact me through the school office should you like a parent interview at any time throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Chantelle Meade