Dear Junior School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year for 2015, and a special welcome to our new students who have joined us at Greythorn in Year 1 and 2. We have spent the first few days getting to know each other and the students are becoming familiar with our school routine. Our first term Inquiries are ‘Learning to Learn’ and ‘Let’s Celebrate’. Our ‘Learning to Learn’ Inquiry has been focusing on reviewing our school rules and the most productive behaviours needed to be a successful learner. The ‘Let’s Celebrate’ Inquiry, will focus on how people from different places and cultures come together to share and celebrate special moments.

Please read carefully the following important information:

**PUNCTUALITY**
Unless attending OSH Club / Before School Care, Year 1 students are not permitted in the school building prior to 8.55 am. School bags must remain in the Year 1 area until the teacher collects the students after the morning bell. It would assist us if parents could keep line up areas clear for student use.

Year 2 students have permission to deliver their iPad to their classroom and hang their bag on their peg. They can access the corridor from 8.45am and then immediately return outside.

Please complete a late arrival slip if your child arrives after 8.55 am. If your child arrives late or gets picked up early, ensure you collect a note from the office and hand it directly to the teacher supervising your class at the time of arrival/departure. Eg. If your child is at Library, deliver the note to the Librarian and not the classroom teacher.

**HATS**
Just a reminder – hats are compulsory until the end of April including before and after school, recess and lunchtimes, excursions and PE / PMP sessions. Please make sure your child comes to school with their *named* hat each day.

**TISSUES**
Please provide a box of tissues for your child to use in the classroom. Thank you if you have already sent one to school.

**BLUE SATCHELS**
The blue satchels are to come to school each day as they are used by Junior School students to carry a reader cover, readers, Magic Words booklets and notices between home and school. Year 2 iPads must also be stored safely inside satchels both to and from school.

**READERS**
Take home readers will commence in week 4 (16th February). Students may review the same reading level as last year or a new level. Take home readers should be able to be read independently by your child. Junior School students are expected to read 10 – 15 minutes aloud to an adult, five times a week. It is important to record your child’s progress in the reading journal which is checked weekly.

**READING JOURNAL**
The yellow reading journal is to be filled in each *night/day* your child reads. The journal should be kept in the blue satchel so that it can be checked regularly by the classroom teacher. Please count
the number of nights read and not the number of books read. These books will be sent home inside satchels when home reading commences in week 4.

**MAGIC 100 WORDS**
Where relevant, students will continue their ‘Magic 100 Words’ from Prep and move towards ‘More Magic Words’. We will continue to assess your child and review their previous words to accurately determine which sets they will use. Some students may review earlier sets than their current level to ensure they have retained the sight words. These words will be sent home shortly to some students.

**YEAR 2 HOMEWORK BOOK**
The Year 2’s will begin their homework book in week 4. They are to complete one contract only per week, which should be checked (but not marked) and signed by a parent before being handed in to the class teacher. This will be sent home on a Monday and is to be returned by Friday of the same week.

**CLASSROOM HELPERS**
We continue to value your assistance in classroom programs in the Junior School during our Early Years Literacy and Numeracy programs. A list of sessions will be distributed shortly, aiming to commence classroom assistance mid-term.

**1:1 iPad PROGRAM**
The Year 2 iPad program is up and running. Please refer to the GPS website if you have misplaced the documentation distributed in December 2014. Please remember that iPads are to be carried to and from school inside student satchels. Students attending OSH Club are to store their satchels inside a locked cupboard to ensure its safety. Please speak to OSH Club staff regarding this process.

Information about the commencement of the Year 1 iPad program will be conveyed in the coming weeks. As planned, this program is on track to commence at the start of Term 2.

We will continue to keep you informed via the school newsletter and purple coloured notices.

**ALLERGIES**
Please note that we have students at this level who have nut and other food allergies. Please refer to Newsletter 1 on the GPS website for more information - ‘Medical Matters’ page 2.

**PARENT / TEACHER DISCUSSION**
These meetings will occur on February 24th and 25th, with notices and booking options being sent home shortly. Timetables, classroom information and other details will be distributed at these meetings.

We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Junior School Team

*Year 1 and 2 Teachers*