Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year! We would like to thank you for all the generous gifts on behalf of all of the Year 2 team.

Down Under
Our topic for the first half of the term will be “Down Under”. The children have received a video message from Barnaby Bear asking for their help! He is going to be visiting Australia and would like to know where he should go, what he should see, what the weather will be like and what he should pack. The children will be finding out the answers to all of these questions by researching the answers in a variety of ways. They will be investigating Aboriginal art and creating their own picture.

Saturday 26th January is Australia Day – we plan to celebrate it ourselves in school on Friday 25th January. We would encourage the children to dress up in something related to Australia and we will have a selection of Australian themed activities running throughout the day.

Pen Licences
This term, we will begin to give out ‘pen licences’. These are for children who consistently use neat, joined up writing. They will be able to start writing in pen. The pens will be provided. Please encourage your child to concentrate on their handwriting!

Homework
Homework will be on DBprimary every Friday as usual. Please hand it in on the following Thursday.

Times Table Challenge
In Year 2 the children are taught the 1, 2, 5 and 10 times tables and corresponding division facts. They will have their own ‘Times Table Challenge’ booklet which will be kept in school. They will focus on learning one times table at a time, e.g. 2 times table. Children will be tested for each level when they are ready. The levels are as follows:
- Bronze award - reciting facts in order
- Silver award - recalling facts out of order
- Gold award - recalling division facts
- Platinum award - answering related word problems
Please support your child by practising these regularly at home so that children learn them off by heart.

General Reminders:
- Reading books – It is your child’s responsibility to ensure that they change their book regularly. Adults will continue to assess reading bands.
- Personal equipment/clothing – Please ensure that ALL of your children’s belongings are named with a name label or permanent marker.
- Swimming (Maple Bay) – Swimming lessons will be every Wednesday. Your child will need a swimming costume/trunks, a towel and a swimming hat. Children can take goggles to their lesson, however these are not essential.
- Elm Bay will be having indoor PE lessons on Friday and outdoor lessons on Wednesdays. Maple Bay will have indoor P.E. on Fridays.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. You are always welcome to pop in after school if you ever have any queries.

Many thanks,
Mrs Lindop Mrs Dubiel