Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic start to the school year! Your wonderful children have settled in well to the room 8 routine and are working enthusiastically. I have compiled some information below to give you an idea of what will be happening this term:

**Curriculum:**
The year 5s will be working hard this term to prepare for NAPLAN in week 3 of term 2. Students will sit tests in Maths, Reading, Writing and Language Conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar). While it is a lot of work to prepare for these tests, I will endeavour to keep the preparation as fun and as stress-free as possible.

In Maths, our focus over the next few weeks will be measurement. Throughout the year, there will also be an emphasis on the learning of basic number facts (especially the times tables) and mental math strategies.

In English this term, we will be concentrating on punctuation and grammar, persuasive writing and narratives. Students will be grouped in spelling and reading so that they can be challenged at a level that is appropriate to their requirements.

For the first half of the term, we will be studying Health and Science. S&E and T&E will follow in the second half of the term. In Health this term, students will be exploring positive behaviours, positive relationships and resilience. In Science, we will be learning about solids, liquids and gases.

**Timetable:**
Our class timetable is on display next to the front door. Specialist subjects include:

- Monday: Music with Mr Taylor
- Tuesday: Art with Mrs Cepo
- Tuesday: Library (please ensure your child has a library bag)
- Thursday: Indonesian with Ibu Panisilvam.
- Friday: Phys. Ed. with Mr Taylor; Senior sport
Homework:
The following information is taken from the middle childhood section of the USPS homework policy:

Homework can support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to:

- consolidate skills and concepts learned at school.
- explore new ideas and new situations.

Homework can support teachers by extending learning time in a supportive environment, where it is possible for parents to provided one-on-one assistance.

At Upper Swan we believe the purpose of homework is to:

- support individual and class learning programs of students
- allow students extra time to complete projects or research set during school time.
- encourage older students to work independently away from the school environment, enabling them to develop the work habits needed for their future education.

Parents can foster learning experiences in the home that provide opportunities for:

- Home reading- allowing extra ‘stay up’ time to foster reading.
- Maths-regular revision of developmentally appropriate number facts. Completing Mathletics tasks on the computer.
- Spelling-revision and drill of words as appropriate.
- Independent projects and research- time management type of homework that is due by a set date.
- Cooking activities that involve measurement and reading.
- Reading and money concepts when shopping.
- Involve children in reading timetables; for example television guides.

Time Allocation: 30 minutes per day. Make it an informal and pleasurable experience. When stress level rise it is time to stop.

Homework is assigned each Monday morning and is due on Friday morning. Ideally, students should be completing a little bit each night (not leaving it all until Thursday night!). I would encourage you to help your child with their homework if they require assistance. Homework tasks will include:

- Spelling practice (look, cover, say, visualise, write, check)
- Multiplication basic facts worksheet
- Weekly quizzes (which will give students practice at using internet search engines efficiently)
- Mathletics tasks
- NAPLAN practice questions
- Finishing off work.
- Reading (aim for at least 20 minutes each night)

*Study Ladder* is also available to students if they would like to do some extra work.

If homework is not handed in, students may miss out on senior sport that afternoon. If after-school commitments interfere with your child's homework routine, please help them to find other times during the week to complete their homework. Students should not become stressed or anxious with homework. If you have any concerns, please see me.

**Cooperative Learning:**
Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies play a major role in the teaching and learning in room 8. These strategies are designed to increase academic achievement, enhance self-esteem, create a more harmonious classroom climate, reduce discipline problems, and develop students' social skills and character virtues. You can find out more about this approach by visiting the Kagan website: [http://www.kaganonline.com/about_us.php](http://www.kaganonline.com/about_us.php)

**Class Virtues and Caring Habits:**
Each week we will focus on a selected virtue. Students are also able to ‘give’ a virtue to a fellow classmate when they observe that student displaying a virtue. Class virtues are announced each Friday afternoon, and students can record the virtues they receive on our virtue wall.

In week one, our class examined the seven caring habits of accepting, encouraging, supporting, listening, respecting, negotiating differences and trusting. We worked together to develop these caring habits into a set of class rules. These rules are on display in room 8.

**Behaviour:**
Students will be given Class Dojo points for good behaviour in class. Once a student has earned 10 dojo points, they will be awarded a green card. Dojo points can be lost for negative behaviours. You can monitor your child’s behaviour by using your parent log-in details (supplied last week). Groups can also earn group points, with prizes awarded to the leading group each week.
Negative behaviour will be monitored with a traffic light system:

- First step – verbal warning
- Second step – yellow traffic light
- Third step – red traffic light (in-class time-out)
- Fourth step – students will be sent to Mrs Stotter's class next door and will have to write a behaviour reflection.

My aim is to keep students engaged and challenged during class time, so that the use of this traffic light system is kept to a minimum.

**Buddy Class:**
Our buddy class is Mrs Casilli and Mrs Melican’s pre-primary class (room 13). We hope to catch up with our little buddies a few times each term to share some fun experiences. It will be a wonderful chance for the little kids to get to know some of the older students before they start in the big school next year.

**Assembly:**
The room 8 assembly is scheduled for Friday the 14th November (term 4, week 5).

**Contact Details:**
Please feel free to contact me by email: narelle.salomon@education.wa.edu.au
Please email me your contact details if you haven’t already supplied them.

I am generally available before and after school for quick chats. If you require more time, an appointment can be arranged.

The term 1 parent-teacher meetings will be held near the end of the term. Please don’t hesitate to contact me before this if you want to discuss anything or have any concerns about your child.

I’m looking forward to a productive and rewarding year with your delightful children.

Kind regards,

Mrs Narelle Salomon.
BSc. BVMS (Hons.) Grad. Dip. (Primary)