Welcome back to another exciting year at school! The students of 1/2W have settled in well and are already working hard. We had a great response to our Parent Homework – thank you to all the parents who returned ‘projects’ about their wonderful children. I loved reading about your families and the individual interests of your child. Knowing this means I can plan learning experiences that are relevant and meaningful for each student in our class. If you have not completed this task, it is not too late! This is your opportunity to tell me how special your child is.

We have a busy term of learning planned. We have spent the last two weeks settling into routines and completing assessments to ensure we can set appropriate learning goals. We have also been getting used to our new classroom. We already have a favourite place! Our Reading Sanctuary is a quiet space where students can relax and enjoy reading. We have a large variety of books, however, the factual texts are the most popular. Many students in 1/2W are interested in natural science and enjoy learning about the wonders of the world. It is inspiring to see them sharing knowledge and questioning why things are the way they are.

In English, students are looking at different purposes for writing. We are examining a book called ‘The Jolly Postman’, by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. This book is fascinating, as it includes different types of mail that the postman delivers to fairytale characters. We will be examining different types of mail, including letters, invitations, pamphlets and even a miniature book! Throughout the term, we will examine the mail that the Jolly Postman delivers and discuss what purpose each one has. The story also gives us an opportunity to revisit some popular fairytales and look at how the characters have been portrayed by the author. So far, we are enjoying it very much!
In Maths, students are working on tasks that are suited to their level of understanding. They are focusing on counting up to 20, 30, 50, 100 and beyond, solving addition problems using a number line and developing a stronger understanding of place value. Students are also working hard to learn number patterns and enjoy skip counting every day. Our favourite counting game is ‘Buzz off hairy legs’ and everyone gets very competitive! We even count the number of boys and girls left in the final 10 and try to predict if it is more likely for a boy or girl to win. The final two students even win a little prize, so we have a real incentive to try hard with our counting!

Our History unit this term is one close to our hearts. We are examining the important contributions made by the early settlers of Campbelltown to our community. We have looked at pictures of our town from over one hundred years ago – it certainly looks very different! The first settler we are researching is John Macarthur, who was a pioneer in the wool industry. We discovered his picture used to be on the $2 note, before we had coins. Everyone was really interested in this. Some students are now wondering if Macarthur Square was named after John Macarthur. Stay tuned for an update!

I will provide an outline of the other subjects in our next blurb. I’d just like to spend some time outlining some important routines and procedures for our class. Homework will be handed out on Monday and is due on Friday, when it is marked. If homework is handed in after this day, it will be marked the following Friday. Home Readers need to be returned on a regular basis. I endeavour to change readers at least three times per week. For those students on higher levels, it might be better to spend a few days on the same book. This is especially important to practise fluency and ensure your child understands what they are reading. You may have also noticed your child has ‘Magic Words’ in their folder. Please practise these sight words daily. It is quite okay if they sound out the words at first, however, we are working on instant recognition before they can be moved to the next level. Congratulations to the students who have already completed their Magic 100 words – your new levels will be coming soon!

Finally, in order for our class to run smoothly, we would appreciate the following contributions from each student:

- paint shirt (labelled)
- box of tissues
- roll of paper towel
- handwash/sanitiser
- glue stick
I look forward to a productive year with the students and families of 1/2W. Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks

Mrs Woods