Dear Parents,

Welcome to our year two/three class. We are looking forward to an excellent year working together with you and your child.

Penny will be teaching Mondays and Tuesdays and Sara on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For two weeks, Penny will be taking some Long service leave and holidaying in Tasmania. Deb Bowden will fill in for her.

**Theme**

Each term much of our learning is based around a theme which helps to stimulate and motivate the child's interests and hopefully develop discussion with you at home.

This term the theme will be “Australiana.” This fits in nicely with our Geography and History strands of the new Australian Curriculum.

**Values**

Values are a big focus in our room. Every fortnight we will be introducing a different value and hope that you will continue encouraging this at home. For the first fortnight we are focusing on **Honesty** and then moving to **Being Responsible**.

**Parent Information Session**

Next Tuesday afternoon 26th February, we will be running a Parent Information Session. All parents are encouraged to attend.
**Communication**
We will send out a monthly newsletter keeping you informed of our happenings both in the classroom and the school. If you have any concerns what so ever during the year please come in and see us before or after school or ring the school for an appointment. Likewise we will make an interview time to discuss any concerns we may have. Feel free to correspond with us by making notes in your child’s homework book.

**Absenteeism**
The department follows up any children who do not attend school regularly. Therefore could you please make sure you cover the absentee with a note, a phone call to the school or you can tell us verbally.

**Spare Stationery**
We collect up any spare stationery the children have and then hand it out as required. Any remainders will be sent home at the end of the year.

**Swimming Lessons**
As you are aware swimming lessons begin for our class in week 5 and 6. The time we will be going swimming is 11:40-12:20. Please send your child to school wearing their bathers and school uniform. Spare clothes and a towel in an enviro bag as they do seem to last longer and avoids the embarrassment of undies falling out of lost property. (This happens regularly) Goggles are a good idea so their eyes don’t get too affected by the chlorine.

**Where Are We?**
Our classroom is located in the old junior cluster. We are very lucky to have full access to the central area for Art, Science and any small group work. We also have access to a table tennis table.

**Fruits and Vegetables**
In our class we like to promote a healthy lifestyle and part of that is eating a healthy diet. Students are encouraged to bring cut up fruits or vegetables each day in a small container. Students are also encouraged to bring their bottles filled with water into class.

**Parent Helpers**
We will be looking for class helpers throughout the year. At the moment we would love to make a roster of any parents or grandparents who would be able to listen to reading before school between 8.20-8.45am. Then once swimming lessons are over from weeks 7 onwards we will also be looking for maths helpers for a maths game session on Tuesday from 2pm -3pm. If you are interested please see Penny.

**Homework**
At Donnybrook we do have a Homework Policy which requires homework to be completed each night. We ask that each child read for approximately 15 minutes each night. Your child will also be coming home with a Homework Journal each night. Each child is working on an individually tailored spelling program so it is very important to practise these words each night. Contemporary research is confirming that children embed skills and understandings through repetition and this is proven to be a worthwhile exercise. These words will be tested each Friday.