Parent Information

Contact me

My preferred method of contact is the ClassDojo app.

I am also available via email at: alanaf@loxton-lutheran.sa.edu.au

Class name

In Japanese the number one is ‘ichi’ and the number two is ‘ni’.

This was discovered by students in our class and has become our new class name!

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>REMEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>PE uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canteen open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>PE uniform</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>German Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canteen open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>PE uniform</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Chapel 9:15</td>
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<td>Fortnightly: Assembly 2:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canteen open</td>
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### Morning Reading

This term we are aiming to have a calm and restful environment for our morning reading. Students will read quietly, including to a friend and an adult. As always, parents who are available to listen to reading between 8:50 and 9:15 will be greatly appreciated.

### Our classroom

Recent visitors to our class will notice that there has been some change to our classroom. We are in the progress of working out how each of us learns best and have made extra room for exploring, working together and dancing! You are welcome to come visit us in the morning and check it out for yourself.
Homework

Homework for both Year 1 and 2 students will consist of daily reading and sight word practise. Sight word practise begins with reading high frequency words and, once this is complete, students will practise writing the words. It is recommended that Year 1 students spend 10 minutes on homework, with an additional 5 minutes for Year 2s.

Class Behaviour Goals

In Term 1, Anneka developed a list of class goals based on our behaviour cross. These will remain priorities for our class environment throughout the year. The school-wide Step system remains in place, as well as use of Think Tank where restorative intervention can take place. For a full list of goals and further details please see the previous parent handbook, our classroom, or contact me.

Spelling

When we teach a student to read we empower them by teaching the strategies and cues they need to gain confidence and independence.

Research shows that students benefit from this same approach when learning spelling. In order to empower my students to become confident and proficient spellers I will be focusing on developing their skills in:

- Sound cues - what words sound like
- Visual cues - what words look like
- Meaning cues - what the word means
- Making connections to other words, and
- Checking

Spelling lists and tests, while remaining important for high frequency words that cannot be sounded out, will become a lesser focus within our classroom. Instead, we will focus on building our familiarity with these strategies. Assessment will be conducted predominantly through work samples.

If you have any further questions regarding the spelling program please contact me.
Why I am using ClassDojo
ClassDojo is often referred to as a ‘behaviour management’ app. While this is one of its functions, I first and foremost see it as a communication tool. The student feedback aspect gives me, and other teachers connected to the class, another way to reward students for their contributions to class. ‘Class Story’ lets me give you reminders and share updates from the school day and messages gives me a direct line of communication to you.

Positives
Sometimes I will set class goals, but mostly I will be using Dojo as personal motivation for students and to remind them of all the fantastic things they have achieved. The ‘positive’ feedback is my favourite function of ClassDojo. It is a great way of ensuring each student is being appreciated every day for their unique contribution to our class.

‘Needs Work’
While trialling ClassDojo in the 1/2 class over the past few weeks, I have been adapting how I use it to ensure it is both a meaningful and encouraging experience for students. Part of my reflection throughout this process has been on how to use the ‘Needs Work’ function in the most appropriate manner. At present, the approach I will be taking is to upload ’needs work’ feedback for Steps 2, 3 and 4 only. Step 1 (reminder) and Think Tank though will appear in the comments section viewable by parents, meaning students will not see these as ‘red’.

Student accounts
During the initial stages of introducing ClassDojo I have not been actively encouraging students to establish their student accounts, as I wanted them to have support from you or myself when viewing their day. Now that the process has been more fine tuned, I will be establishing student accounts for those who have not already done so. Given their age, you will receive an email to approve this account.

Please ensure students only log in using their account, not yours, as this will restrict them from seeing messages sent between yourself and teachers.

Messages
When messaging a teacher on ClassDojo, only that teacher is able to see the message.

Notifications
If you do not wish to receive notifications from ClassDojo you can either use the website rather than the app or turn off notifications in your device’s settings.

For Apple devices this can be done in the ‘Notifications’ option in ‘Settings’. Simply scroll down and select the ‘ClassDojo’ option. While I would recommend keeping ‘Badge App Icon’ on, which is the red circle that appears on the app’s icon with the number of notifications, you may wish to turn banners, sounds or both off.