



9th March, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are now half way through the term and we are really starting to notice how children have settled into school routines and expectations. Here are a few more communication items for you to be aware of;

### Home Readers

Each child will have received a home reader in a special purple folder this week, along with their home reading record, some sight word cards and suggestions of sight word games to play at home. Children's days for changing home readers are the same day as their news day. Please return readers to school on this day. We will only change children's readers once a week throughout term one.

### Students' Behaviour at School

We wanted to make everyone aware of different behaviour management strategies that we use at school, in the classroom and playground. Learning social skills is a big part of learning at school. It is quite common for children in kindergarten to become over excited when playing which can result in pushing or hitting during games. On occasions when children hit or push others in the playground or classroom there are a number of ways we deal with this. Firstly we always try to work out exactly what has happened and who was involved. This means talking to both parties.

We encourage children who use aggressive behaviour to think about the way that their behaviour makes others feel and to also consider what they could do next time instead of acting in a way that hurts others. Children may also be separated from the group for a time (never longer than five minutes). We also encourage children to apologise to those whom they have hurt and try to resolve any conflict.

### Helping in the Classroom

We would love to start involving you in our learning times at school. At the moment we would really appreciate help during maths groups and reading groups. Parents who come in to help at these times will be involved in working with a small group of children. It may involve reading with children or

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**Shoalhaven Anglican School**  
17 Croobyar Road  
PO Box 32 Milton NSW 2538  
Tel 02 4454 0688  
Fax 02 4454 0504  
office@sas.nsw.edu.au

assisting children with a game or another simple activity. At the end of the letter is our maths or reading group times. If you would like to help, please indicate on the form the times that you would be available and return to your class teacher by Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> March. We will organise and send a roster at the end of next week.

If you are unable to help each week but may be able to come in occasionally your help would also be most welcome. Please also indicate this on the form. You are welcome to come in and help just on the days that you can, however it does help us with planning and organization if we have a few days prior notice.

### Student Teacher

Over the second part of this term, Ms Nicole Stephens will be completing a practicum experience at our school. She will be working alongside Rebecca Mackay, but will be involved in teaching students in both KM and KH. Ms Stephens is studying Early Childhood at Macquarie University and is in the fourth year of her studies. We are excited and looking forward to her involvement at school. She will be visiting over the next few weeks to observe and get to know our classes and school before beginning her practicum on the 16<sup>th</sup> March until the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Belinda Harding



Mrs Denise Mewett



Mrs Rebecca Mackay

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I will be available to help with maths and/or reading groups at the following times;
  
- I can not come in each week but would occasionally like to be able to come in and help at one of these times.

(Please circle the time that would suit you)

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Reading Groups

Tuesday 9:40 -10:40

Wednesday 9:40 - 10:40

Thursday 9:20 - 10:00

Maths Groups

Tuesday 11:30 - 12:30

Thursday 11:30 - 12:30

Friday 11:30 - 12:30