Dear 6Z Parents,

My name is Rob Zappia and I have the privilege of teaching your child in 2016. Welcome to 6Z! We have a great term planned and are looking forward to School Camp and helping our buddies settle in to ‘big’ school. I look forward to meeting you during the year and I am excited to be working with your wonderful children.

Dates for Term 1:
Week 3: Homework begins
Meet the Teacher Evening
Week 7: School Camp (7/3/16 - 11/3/16)
Week 10: Athletics carnival
Week 11: Parent-Teacher Interviews

Timetable
Monday: Library (Please remember to bring in a library bag each week)
Wednesday: Scripture and Science
Thursday: Mandarin
Friday: Sport

English
Speaking and Listening Students are encouraged to create speeches and engage in debating through our literacy group activities on a weekly basis. Prepared public speaking topics are set each term.
Reading Students read for 20 minutes each day in class and also participate in the home reading program each week beginning Week 3. We will also be looking at comprehension strategies, with a particular focus on Super 6, to assist our reading and understanding.
Writing Students will learn to write different types of text and also learn the purpose of a piece of writing. Students will be given opportunities to engage in writing 2-3 times a week.

Mathematics
In Maths, our activities will start with an emphasis on Whole Number followed by addition and subtraction strategies. We will have a focus on times table challenges each week. It would be great if you could challenge your children to a speed test at home!

Human Society and its Environment Students will be studying Antarctica this term.

PDHPE Our focus this term is on Road Safety. Sport is on a Friday and we are encouraged to wear our full sports uniform to school. Students also (if selected) participate in PSSA sport at various venues.
Homework
Homework will start in Week 3. It will be given out on a Monday and due back on a Friday. If the week has been particularly busy then it can be returned on a Monday morning. This will consist of a personalised list to practise each day with look/cover/write/check and other tasks. A unit of Mentals and a times table challenge. There will be a project which will have a series of tasks that are due at different times throughout the term. As well as regular reading, Reading Eggs and Mathletics. Please let me know via email or note if there is any problems.

Leadership
This is a big year for your child and there will be many opportunities for them to be involved in leadership activities. The most important one at the moment is supporting our new kindergarten students on a day-to-day basis. There is also the opportunity for a select group of Stage Three children to have a leadership role earlier in the year through the Premier's Sporting Challenge program.

Inquiry-Based Learning
Our class will be piloting inquiry-based learning scenarios and exciting student-lead work. This term our focus will be on Road Safety. Later in the year we will be looking at a History unit. Stay tuned!

Year 6 shirts
A note will be coming home soon regarding the special Year 6 shirts. We will be voting on a design and organizing this in the next few weeks.

Fundraising!
There will be many opportunities for our Year 6 students to raise money that will go towards a gift at the end of the year. Stay tuned for more details.

21st Century Learning
We are looking at decorating our classroom in a manner that promotes working in various ways and trying to steer away from the traditional desk work. Creating spaces such as standing areas and cushions, mats, bean bags, exercise balls and couches would brighten up our room immensely. If you have any of these lying around at home that are still in a reasonable condition we would love to take donations. Please send me an email with a photo and measurements and we’ll see if it fits.

Seesaw
6Z will be utilising an App called Seesaw. This is a secure method of sharing work with you directly and they will be able to produce a portfolio of work in which they can look back on throughout the year. There will be more information on this in coming weeks.

Chromebooks
Stage 3 students will also have access to Chromebooks which will be trialed in 6Z in coming weeks. Students will explore Google Apps and have the world at their fingertips in a secure manner.

Please contact me regarding any concerns at robert.zappia@det.nsw.edu.au or at school on 99137077. It would be great if you could all email me in the next few days in order to create a contact list.

Sincerely,

Rob Zappia
6Z Classroom Teacher
Assistant Principal