Level 1 Bulletin: Thursday 14 February

The Foundation children are adapting well to their new routines and school expectations. Thank you to all the parents who are saying goodbye to their children on the dots so as to make the separation process as easy as possible!

**Buddy Programme:** The Foundation children have all met their Buddy classes and have been allocated a buddy or buddies for the year. Many schools have Buddy Programmes to assist young children’s transition to Primary School. Our Buddy programme has run successfully for many years and promotes the values of our school: honesty and truthfulness, kindness and compassion, responsibility and respect.

Our Level 6 students (Grades 5 and 6) have all signed ‘contracts’ with their teachers that state how they must behave and treat their buddies.

Why do we have a Buddy Programme?

For the younger children, an older Buddy provides an extra familiar face in the yard and helps to alleviate any fear of the ‘big’ kids in the playground. A variety of activities are planned throughout the year for the children to participate in, such as sports games, reading sessions, maths or science activities or art and craft sessions. In our experience, as the Foundation children get to know their buddies we see a huge growth in their confidence. At the end of the term we are planning to have a ‘Buddy picnic’ at a local park!

For the older children, the buddy program:

(a) provides them with opportunities to undertake peer tutoring,  
(b) promotes confidence,  
(c) encourages them to behave as positive role models,  
(d) fosters skills of empathy, and  
(e) contributes to a positive and caring school culture.

A notice board located in the stairwell of the Infant Building has more information about Buddies and will showcase photos of the various Buddy activities throughout the year.

**Hand skills**

We have noticed that a number of children are finding it difficult to use scissors properly. We really need your help. It is important that children learn the correct way to hold and manipulate scissors as it is a skill that will be used for a lifetime!

What you can do to help your child:

1. Provide as many opportunities as possible for your child to use scissors  
2. Draw straight and curvy lines on paper for your child to cut  
3. Practise cutting different shapes  
4. Make a collage with all the pieces  
5. Try cutting different materials or use speciality scissors e.g. zig zag craft scissors  
6. Check your child is using their scissors safely.  
7. Read the following link for more ideas about fine motor development including correct scissor grip:  