

LEARNING CONFERENCES - January 29 and 30 2015

We have decided to trial starting our school with Learning Conferences in 2015.

A Learning Conference is an organised discussion between the classroom teacher, the pupil, and their parent(s). The purpose is to strengthen and encourage the partnership between home and school at the beginning of Term 1. This provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about each other. There will be an opportunity to discuss areas of strengths/concerns, classroom expectations and programme, routines at home, effective communication strategies between home and school and so forth. It is designed to start the year on a positive note and allows for teachers to meet each child and their parents individually. This will replace our usual "meet-the-teacher" evening that normally occurs within the first two weeks of school. I am aware of several schools running Learning Conferences and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from parents and staff.

We will run the Learning Conferences over two days and these dates will be the official start of the school year: Thursday 29th January (between 12pm – 8pm) and/or Friday 30th January (between 12pm – 6pm). Towards the end of this term [most likely within the last week of school], parents will be asked to book online a 20 minute interview with their child's teacher for 2015 [2015 class lists will be known]. It is expected that each child and parent(s) will attend the interview as this will be seen as the formalised start to our school programme. NB: Any child unable to make their interview will be noted as absent from school for that day.

If previous feedback from others school is an accurate measure of the success of Learning Conferences, I am confident that we are making a positive move towards strengthening your child's learning. Since this is a trial, we will be seeking feedback from you regarding how successful you felt the interviews were.

You and your child will be expected to attend the booked conference which will be of 20 minutes duration. Your child will not be required to be at school either side of this time. The full school day starts from Monday 2 February.