

Welcome to Year One, 2015! We are looking forward to an exciting year with lots of learning and lots of fun.

We have already had a great start to the year with all the children arriving refreshed, excited and ready to take on new challenges.

In our classrooms we have been thoroughly immersed in our 'Start Up' program which has involved lots of games and activities aimed at getting to know each other. The children have been telling us about their families, things they like and don't like and what their expectations for the year are. In addition, we have been working really hard to set up our classroom expectations and routines.

As the term progresses, our learning will be more focused. In all areas of the curriculum, we aim to deliver interesting, rich and challenging lessons that will cater for everyone. We will adopt lots of different teaching approaches, including whole class and small group activities. These group activities may take place in your child's classroom or across all three classrooms in the area. Your child will have regular contact with all of the Year 1 teachers. Our lessons aim to be as 'hands on' as possible and relevant to the everyday lives of the students.

LITERACY

During Term 1 our reading program will be mainly focused on the features of Fiction texts. Through whole class and small group guided reading sessions, children will discuss and demonstrate an understanding of characters, settings and plot. Towards the end of the term, we will begin to compare these features to that of non-fiction texts. In Guided Reading groups, the children will be challenged to improve both their decoding skills and their understanding of what they have read.

Each day your child will bring home a book to read at home. This is intended to build on the skills we have been working on in class and also be an enjoyable family task. The book should be easy for your child to read and therefore, they should be able to practise their fluency, expression and comprehension. We would really appreciate your help in making sure that readers are returned every day after being read at home. We would also appreciate volunteers to listen to our children read each morning and help them to choose a new book.

Our writing program at the beginning of the year has the children producing lots of recounts of events in their lives. Through the production of these recounts we are working on skills such as using correct punctuation (capital letters and full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and commas). During the second half of the term, the children will be encouraged to take responsibility for checking that their writing contains all the formal punctuation we have looked at.

The children will be continually working on their handwriting skills through various tasks. During Term 1, it is really important that we work on correct pencil grip and correct formation of letters.

We will be working on a new two letter sound blend each week in order to complement our reading and writing programs.

In Year 1 there are scheduled opportunities each week for the children to participate in our 'Show and Tell' sessions. Your child will be allocated a day and they are encouraged to bring something from home to share with the class.

NUMERACY

Our Numeracy program in Term 1 focusses on counting forward and backward, recognising numerals, ordering numbers and counting collections. We will look at place value of numbers up to 100 and number patterns when counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

Children will also work on telling the time to the hour using informal units to measure length, making classroom graphs, ordering and naming days and months of the year and revising the attributes of 2D shapes.

Numeracy in the Year 1 classroom involves a lot of 'hands on' manipulation of concrete materials, used to demonstrate our understanding and further our skills.

INQUIRY

Our broad Inquiry topic for Term 1 is Living and Non Living Things. As we will be working closely with the children to develop this concept, we are looking forward to seeing where this takes us. If any of our parents have skills that relate to our concept, we would love to hear from you. We love using the expertise of our parents.

We are looking forward to this busy term as we all get to know each other. Please feel free to contact any of us with any queries or concerns.

Thanks

Mark O'Halloran, Sue Pearson and Melissa Greatrex

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