**Year 1 Teaching and Learning – Term 1**

**Welcome**

Welcome back to Term 1. We hope you all had a relaxing and well deserved break with your families and loved ones over the summer holidays. Both students and staff have come back refreshed, enthusiastic and ready for another exciting learning journey in 2016. It has been pleasing to see how quickly everyone has settled back into the routines of school.

We have many highlights to look forward to this term, including an in-house activity on ‘Water and why it is important to us’ to support our Inquiry topic ‘Our Sunburnt Land’.

This term, the Grade One students will focus on developing classroom routines and organisational skills to help them be ready for every learning opportunity and how to become responsible for their belongings. As part of our Quality Beginnings Program we will develop our class vision/mission statements and make ‘classroom promises’ that highlight appropriate behaviours and expectations for the year that incorporate our school values and motto ‘Be fair, Safe and Friendly’.

The Grade One students will be participating in an additional hourly session of Sport each week (outside of their timetabled PE/Sport allocated time) to keep active and further increase their general fitness. These sessions will take place on Mondays. Students will be engaged in rotational activities targeting balance, agility, movement and gross motor skills through explicit teaching of skills through team games. We encourage all students to have appropriate footwear (running shoes) on that day.

The Grade One team are looking forward to meeting and working with all parents and carers throughout the year and developing home school partnerships with you all. We are excited about having parent helpers assisting in our classrooms with reading and even offering your special talents/interests.

We look forward to another exciting and rewarding term.

Year 1 teaching team: Sharon, Vicky, Taryn, Sophie, Rose.

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**Important dates /Upcoming events**

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<td>3 February</td>
<td>Parent information evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Curriculum day (Pupil free)</td>
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<td>14 March</td>
<td>Labour Day (Public holiday)</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>Harmony day: African drumming workshop</td>
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<td>22 March</td>
<td>School photographs</td>
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**Student expectations**

By Term 1 we expect all students to:

- be at school on time and in line by the 9 o’clock bell
- ready to learn once in their classroom
- read every night
- practise their weekly spelling words
- be responsible for their belongings
- share their learning at home.

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**How you can help your child at home**

- Model a positive attitude towards school and all learning experiences
- Read to and with your child every night
- Maintain a consistent before and after school routine to help your child to be organised and be responsible for their belongings
- Help your child learn their weekly spelling words
- Our Inquiry topic this term is ‘Our Sunburnt Land’. Discuss, explore, and investigate this topic together.
What we are learning this term in the classroom

**ENGLISH**

Reading and Viewing
The Grade One students will be involved in an array of daily reading activities that are supporting, consolidating and extending their phonemic awareness, oral reading and comprehension skills. This term we will continue to revise and consolidate ‘Getting Knowledge Ready’ and using comprehending strategies of **Prediction** and **Making Connections**, and the development of **Vocabulary**. We will be explicitly teaching students how to **Find Detail** and the **Main Idea** in a story during reading aloud activities and guided reading sessions and encouraging students to spot Key words and ask questions.

Writing
Our focus this term will be on **‘Recounts’**, recording our personal experiences about our weekends and our exciting experiences. We will engage in **‘Descriptive’** writing and create mini autobiography books of ourselves. We will continue to teach correct letter formation concentrating on shape and sizing of letters during our weekly handwriting sessions.

Speaking and Listening
Our programs allow for daily opportunities to practise speaking and listening through class discussions and during share time and circle time. This term we are encouraging students to bring along a family holiday photo in an adventurous, fun and exciting setting (beach, bush walk, rainforest, and country) to share with the class. These photos will assist with tuning into our Inquiry topic ‘Our Sunburnt Land’.

**MATHEMATICS**

Number and Algebra
The Grade One students will continue to build solid foundations with their number knowledge through number fluency games and explicit instruction. Activities will include counting forwards and backwards up to 100, locating numbers on a number chart and number line. Students will skip counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s. They will investigate and describe number patterns formed and look at patterns using concrete materials. The students will count collections up to 100 by partitioning numbers (breaking them down) using place value.

Measurement and Geometry
This term the students will be introducing the concept of time focusing on naming and ordering the months of the year and seasons. They will create a classroom calendar to identify the date, days and months of the year including special events that will take place at our school.

Statistics and Probability
Both our Quality Beginnings Program and our Inquiry topic ‘Where we live and how it affects us’ will provide students with opportunities to gather data, make predications and display results of student interests such as birthdays, favourite pets, our weather, using table and picture graphs. Students will also be encouraged to interpret the data they have collected. Student learning will be differentiated to both support and challenge all students.

**INQUIRY**

Our Inquiry topic this term is ‘Our Sunburnt Land’. We will share what we know about the different parts and features of Australia and explore how and why weather is different in all these areas. We will ask questions about how the weather and our environment affect us and what we do. We will discuss why water is important to us and our land. Our In-house activity will help to support the student’s curiosity about the topic. If you have any special expertise in this area, please speak to your child’s teacher as we would love to have you in our rooms sharing your knowledge.
What we are learning this term in specialist classes

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**Physical Education**
The Physical Education program helps students develop a broad range of motor skills and movement patterns, using different sporting equipment in a range of environments. We will be encouraging fair play, good sportsmanship and participation throughout the program. Most importantly we will be having lots of fun while keeping fit and active.

**Music**
This term in music, grade one students will be learning how to play two note chords on tuned percussion instruments. We will be exploring different rhythms and chord patterns/progressions of some well-known songs as well as some unfamiliar tunes. We will also be exploring the concept of “call and response” and using tuned percussion to have musical conversations using a pentatonic scale. Students who learn instruments outside of school are encouraged to show classmates what they have been learning in their lessons and are welcome to bring instruments from home on their music day.

**Science/Spanish**
Science is delivered in the Spanish language in a 50 minute session each per week. Students are involved in hands on activities, where they will be encouraged to question, research, experiment, observe and communicate findings using the knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to the Spanish language. We will be working together with Art and Performing Arts to consolidate and expand their knowledge of Spanish.

**Art/Spanish**
In term one students are going to explore line, colour, shape, texture, pattern and repetition to create an artwork with oil pastels. Students will make an artwork to communicate their responses to the book “The Rainbow Fish” by Marcus Pfister. This will be used to reinforce that the school values are relevant in the art room. Students will continue to develop their Spanish vocabulary to be able to communicate in the Spanish/Art classroom.

**Additional Information**
- Extra sport sessions will take place for all grade one students on Mondays
- ICT sessions to take place weekly. View your child’s specialist timetable outside their classroom window.
- Library sessions to take place fortnightly (odd/even weeks). View timetable outside classroom window.
- Please send along a tissue box with your child. We seem to go through them so quickly!