Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you all had a happy and Holy Christmas and a lovely holiday break with your children.

Books:
Thank you to all parents who have returned covered workbooks to school, they look great! If you still have books at home please send them back as students need to use them each day.

Homework:
Year 1 will commence homework this week, Week 3. There will be two elements to home tasks this year.

First component:
Spelling and Reading; each night students write their spelling list into the book provided. This is to be returned to school each Friday along with the home readers. Sight words are completed every night and marked off the home list once a week.

Second Component:
Eddies Endeavours grid: Children choose one task per element, which is then sent into school when completed and marked off by the teacher.

Maths Bags:
Bags go home, on a rotational basis each Tuesday and returned to school each Monday.

KEY LEARNING AREAS:

Mathematics:
Things you can do at home to help your child!

- Count Everything
- Count and Group – For example: have children count while you are hanging the clothes on the line and get them to group the pegs into groups of 2, 4s, 5s and 10s.
- Estimating – Developing number sense by asking them how many do they believe to be in a collection of objects and encouraging them to be realistic with numbers.
- Measurement - Allow students to watch during cooking preparation and use mathematical terminology in a conversation with them. Eg. Cup, 500ml. Allow them to (with supervision) cut their own lunch and talk about the fractions made and parts of a whole.
- Dominoes – use them for counting, adding and playing.
- Counting on and off the decade (counting patterns)
- Practise at home writing numbers using appropriate size.

Writing- Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he/she is learning at school.
**Reading Strategies:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Making Connections</th>
<th>Making Predictions</th>
<th>Creating Mental Images and Visualising</th>
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<td>Readers relate what they read to personal experiences. I remember when... If I were the character I would.</td>
<td>Make and confirm predictions as they form connections between their prior knowledge and the new information in the text. Predict, read on to check predictions. Justify reasons for predictions.</td>
<td>Readers create images in their minds that reflect or represent the ideas in the text. Create an image as they read. When I read this I saw...</td>
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**Asking Questions**
- Ask questions about the text.
- What if?
- What does?

**Inferring**
- Readers think about and search the text and use personal experience to construct meaning beyond what it literally states.
- I wonder... Why do you think that happened?

**Identifying and summarising Main ideas**
- Readers identify key elements and condense information to solidify meaning.
- Combine ideas.
- State them in your own words.

**Analysing and Synthesising**
- Readers create original insights by reflecting on texts and merging elements from text and existing schema.
- Link ideas
- Form conclusions

**Evaluating ideas and information**
- Reader judges, justify and or defend understandings to determine importance based on criteria. Respond to the text in a personal way. Give opinions.

**Religion:** In Religion this term we will be completing two units of study, ‘Baptism’ and ‘Lent and Holy Week’. Through the use of smart board technology and storytelling, students will learn about belonging to and being welcomed into God’s family and how the events of Holy Week demonstrate God’s great love for us.

**Science and Technology:** The new Science and Technology syllabus will be implemented this year. This term, students will be studying ‘School Yard Safari’. Children will identify and investigate types of animal life in the school playground.

**HSIE** Mrs Cecily Hankin will be teaching year one HSIE this year. Our topic this term is ‘Old Families, New Families’.

**PDHPE:** Our topic in Personal Development and Health is ‘Who am I?’. Children will develop an understanding of personal identity, positive relationships, the body systems and positive nutrition and lifestyle choices. Sport will focus on developing soccer and ball skills and gymnastics. Our aim is to foster a love of physical education as well as development of gross motor skills.

**Creative Arts:** This term we will focus on Visual Arts and Music.

**Travelling Ted and Prayer Book:** Travelling Ted and the prayer book will come home on a rotational basis. Please assist your child to write in the set book and return the next day so they can share their experiences with the class.

**Things children will need for 2015:**
- Coloured pencils
- Two lead pencils
- Eraser and sharpener
- Glue – one glue stick per term.
- Paint shirt (to be kept at school)
- Library Bag
- Crayons and textas are optional

**Crunch and Sip:** Each day, students take a 5 minute break in the morning session when they have a drink and a small snack. During this time children are only permitted to consume water and fruit. Research links this brain break to increased concentration and attentiveness.

**Bell Times and Organisation:**
- School commences 8.45
- School finishes 3pm
- Late arrivals/ early leavers

Please go to the office to get a late note. If you are leaving early go to the office and Mrs Sauer will call for the student to come to the office. If there is a need for students to leave early on a regular basis, (medical, sport) a letter is to be sent to the teacher and will be placed in the student’s file. You still need to sign them out each time.

**We are looking forward to a wonderful and productive term with your children:**

Thanks for your cooperation,

Mrs Deb Rafferty - 1R
Mrs Judy McManus 1M
Miss Sallie Pilgrim - 1P