WELCOME TO YEAR ONE 2014

YEAR ONE TEACHERS

1A: Mrs Withford (Mon-Wed)
    Mrs Clayton (Thur-Fri)

1C: Mrs Carroll

1S: Mrs Sheldon

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher/s. It’s a good idea to make an appointment if you wish to discuss anything in detail, so we can be sure to give you our full attention.

HOME READING

All children in year 1 need to participate in the home reading program. The home reading program is essential to further develop your child's reading skills. The books are all levelled and children will change their books on Fridays. Please encourage your child to complete their home reading by reading orally every day. Even the very best of readers benefit from reading aloud.

Children will move up through the levels as their skills progress. They will be tested on a regular basis and moved accordingly.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE WEEK?

**Monday**
- Fitness
- 1C – Library borrowing
- 1S – Science (Mrs Till)

**Tuesday**
- Fitness
- 1A - Science (Mrs Till)
- 1C – Science (Mrs Till)
- 1S – Library borrowing
- Afternoon staff meeting for teachers

**Wednesday**
- Scripture
- 1A – Library literacy
- 1C – Computers
- 1S - Computers
- Morning and afternoon staff meeting for teachers

**Thursday**
- Fitness
- Assembly/Parliament
- Year 1 groups (music, technology, art )
- Junior choir – lunchtime for those participating

**Friday**
- Gym - all year 1 classes
- Change home readers
- Home readers come home
- 1A – Library borrowing)
- 1A - Computers

These may change during the year.
**SPELLING**

Spelling of core words, family words, “sounds” words and sight words will be done in class. We will have a dictation of words covered during the week on Fridays. Children will not have to practice the words at home, but they can if they want. The words will also be on Spelleodrome. We will send home a list of the words we are looking at, but there is no compulsory spelling homework. We want all children to be successful spellers! The magic 200 words will be the sight words we will be learning to spell to begin with. The Oxford word list will then be used. These words form the basis of children's reading and writing.

**MATHEMATICS**

This term Year 1 will be consolidating on mathematical concepts taught in Early Stage 1. We will be focusing on the following topics in Number - counting forwards and backwards from given numbers, patterns and number relationships, skip counting, simple addition and subtraction, multiplication, money, chance and data. In space and geometry we will be focusing on 2D shapes and position of objects, and in measurement we will be focusing on time including analog clocks, seasons and the calendar, measuring length and volume and capacity of objects.

Some activities will be written and there will be lots of hands on activities and games.

**WRITING**

Writing in full sentences, with capital letters and full stops is a focus area in Year One. When your child is writing at home, please remind them to use these.

Journal Writing every Monday – Children will be encouraged to write about something they did on the weekend or during the week, or something they are going to do.

Text Type Writing is where children learn how to write different types of writing, such as narratives, information reports, recounts, procedures etc. They will learn how to set them out correctly and be encouraged to edit their own work before handing it in. This term we will be studying and writing recounts and descriptive texts.

DEAW- Drop everything and write will be incorporated into our daily program 4 times a week. This is a K-6 program.

‘Always do your best work.’ While we have handwriting lessons twice a week, we will be emphasising presentation, particularly neat, legible handwriting in all lessons in order to reinforce these skills.

Year 1 is also completing an integrated literacy unit on fairy tales. We will be incorporating this into our descriptive and narrative text writing.
OTHER KEY LEARNING AREAS
In addition to English and Maths, the curriculum requires we cover the other Key Learning Areas of (HSIE) Human Society and its Environment, Science & Technology, CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts), and PDHPE (Personal Development, Health & Physical Education.)

HSIE
Year 1 will be studying the HSIE topic of Celebrations this term. This unit provides opportunities for students to explore the customs and practices associated with celebrations. The unit focuses on what celebrations mean to people, and the similarities and differences in the ways people celebrate.

SCIENCE
This semester for Science we will be completing a Primary Connections unit called “Schoolyard Safari”. This unit links science with literacy. By observing the features and behaviour of small animals, students glimpse the diversity of animal life. Students explore small animals leading to a better understanding of how their adaptations help them survive in their habitats. This Science unit will be completed with Mrs Till in Science lessons each week.

PDHPE
This term year 1 will have gymnastics for sport each Friday. Sportspro will be teaching the children with fully qualified teachers. This is a fantastic program and all the equipment is provided for use during our Gym session.

CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS

Visual Arts
This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to express themselves through painting and various craft techniques. Please ensure your child has a paint shirt to avoid paint on clothes. An old T-shirt or paint smock is ideal.

Drama and Dance
Students will be given opportunities to express themselves through dance and drama, in specialist drama or class drama and music programs. The children will also get an opportunity to participate in dance lessons this year with Mrs Lukic.

Music
We’ll learn songs and percussion pieces throughout the year. The children will also get an opportunity to participate in music lessons with Mrs Sheldon this year.
HOMEWORK

This year we have one book to purchase. It is called “My Useful Word Book” and it used to help the children with words when writing.

Homework in 2014 will consist of home reading, talking to learn, learning spelling and sight words and spending time with the family. For those children who really ‘crave’ homework there is always Mathletics and Spellodrome. The home reading will ensure the continuation and love of our Berowra Book Busters and reading for enjoyment. With the added pressures of after school activities (sport, dance, music, etc) and family commitments, homework is taking up more and more of precious family time. Research and project will be completed in class time.

TEXTBOOKS

This year we have one book to purchase. It is called “My Useful Word Book” and it used to help the children with words when writing. Scrapbooks are also used in year 1 and the cost of these will be invoiced to parents in the next few weeks.

NOTES

If your child has been away, a note is required stating the reason. This note needs to be in within 7 days of the absence or the absence is recorded as unexplained. It greatly helps us if you can send the note in ASAP. A written note is required rather than an email. Emails are great if you want to let us know your child is sick, but DEC policy requires assigned written note to keep on file.

If you need to bring your child to school after the bell or take them from class early you will need to sign them in or out at the office using a green slip. You will then need to present this note to the teacher when collecting your child or bringing them to class.

It is also important that any payments for excursions, sport or performances are in on time. Cut off dates are strictly adhered to. The school can only process payments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Money will be collected in class on these days.

Thank you
Mrs Withford, Mrs Clayton,
Mrs Carroll,
Mrs Sheldon