Dear Parents and Carers of students in 1M,

Welcome to a new school year. The first few weeks of the year have been busy and productive with the students involved in a variety of tasks, organising our routines and our room. I look forward to a happy and productive year of learning with your children.

As we begin another year, it is worth remembering that there are a number of ways that you, as parents, can continue to help your child to make the most of their time at school.

- Be interested in what your child does in the classroom.
- Talk to your child about their day at school.
- Take an active interest in what your child is learning about and involved in at school.
- Ensure that your child arrives at school **before** the bell rings- the first few minutes of each day are usually devoted to “housekeeping” and if your child is not on time they may miss important information and tend to start the day anxiously.
- Please be aware of our school and class behaviour agreements and ensure that your child understands the importance of following them. Our school values reflect our desire to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff and ensure that our school community is a safe, respectful and happy one.
- If at any time you have any concerns or questions always talk to the teacher. Most things can be sorted out quickly and with little difficulty.

Remember, school is a positive and interesting experience. Let’s all enjoy it together!

The school continues to represent our core values with the owl as our mascot to help the children remember those values. In 1 M we have discussed our core values and made a class agreement to match.

**Our school is SAFE**

**We RESPECT each other as**

**LIFE LONG LEARNERS**

Awards
In order to support our productive and fulfilling learning environment for all students we have various encouragement awards.

- 1M take home soft toy
- 1M sticker chart
- 1M marble jar
- Regular school merit awards
- Hoot points according to school policy

Some general things to remember.

1. Attendance at school is compulsory. If your child regularly misses school their learning will be disrupted. If for any reason your child must miss school please ensure that a written note is brought to school and given to the teacher upon the child's return, as this is a legal requirement. Alternatively, you may email or ring the school office.

2. School begins at 9:10 am and our day finishes at 3:10pm. Our morning line up bell will ring at 9:05. Children should line up quickly and quietly in the morning ready to commence school. At the end of each day a teacher will escort the class to the K – 2 dismissal area where they will wait with your child until the child sees their parent or carer.

3. Children who arrive late to school must report to the office and get a late note. Please have a note explaining his/her lateness if possible. If you need to take your child from school early please ensure that you report to the office and a staff member will call through to the classroom and have your child sent down to meet you.

4. Please ensure that all of your child’s **possessions are labeled clearly with their names.**

5. Please make sure that they have a school hat and some wet weather gear when necessary.

6. Please continue to encourage your child's independence, for example tying their own shoelaces and taking care of their own possessions. These procedures really do help to make our day run smoothly.

7. Students may wish to bring their own pencils and other items to school. We use lead pencils, coloured pencils, pencil sharpeners and glue (such as a glue stick). They do not need to bring scissors or erasers. Please make sure all these items are also labeled and in a small pencil case. If you prefer all items can be provided. Any special items should be kept at home for their homework or any work they might like to do at home.

8. Our school runs a “**Crunch and Sip**” program. The children are given the opportunity to have a healthy snack during school time. This must consist only of fruit or vegetables and water. We also encourage all children to bring a healthy lunch. Please keep treats such as lollies, cakes, biscuits etc for home.

9. For a classroom to run efficiently we need some extra basic hygiene products. If you are able to donate these at any stage throughout the year it would be much appreciated.
   - boxes of tissues
   - rolls of paper towel
   - dishcloths or sponges
Library
Our library day is Thursday. Each child can borrow books on that day if they have a cloth library bag that is large enough to fit a big picture book. If your child misses a library lesson during the week, they may exchange their book at lunch on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Scripture
Each Tuesday the children are given the opportunity to attend religious instruction in specific Scripture groups. The group they represent specifically trains the teachers in these groups. Ethics is offered as an alternative to religious instruction.

Literacy
This area covers Reading, Talking and Listening and Writing.

All children will be involved in a specific literacy session five days a week. During this time the children will work in small groups to complete various stage appropriate literacy activities and guided reading. Some students will also attend the Reading Recovery program with Mrs Elfes.
Throughout the year each child will also be given many opportunities to speak in front of the class. Topics for our talking time will be specified on homework sheets. The children will be exposed to a variety of text types through all strands of literacy and will also be introduced to the conventions of writing throughout the year. Handwriting sessions will focus on the individual’s handwriting needs. Please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly during all writing activities at home.

Home Reading Program
This is an essential component of the reading program and will begin in week 5. Students will bring a book home each night and be asked to record the book title, and have a parent sign the recording sheet. It is recommended that this reading take place each day. The children will be reading at a level below their instructional level so the text should be easy to read. Children need to return their home reading bag each day so that they can change their reading books.

Mathematics
In Stage 1 we introduce the children to the language of Maths and encourage them to think mathematically. The children will be involved in learning in areas such as Numeracy, Data, Space and Geometry, Patterns and Algebra and Measurement. Much of their work will be done through hands on activities that are fun and interesting. Some written follow-up will be required.

HSIE
This term we are looking at a unit entitled “People in the Community”. This unit discusses our needs and wants as well as roles and responsibilities that we each have as members of a community.
Health/PD and PE

1M students will participate in fitness, aerobics and a program to develop skills necessary to participate in a variety of sports activities. The students are required to wear their sports uniforms on Friday. Each term a K – 2 PD /Health program operates. This term Miss Smallwood will be running a social skills program.

Creative and Practical Arts

Creative and Practical Arts activities are integrated into the class program. Children will be involved in some drama, dance and visual arts as well as singing and performing at assembly sometime during the semester.

Homework

Homework will be given out Friday and is due Friday. It is advisable to complete some of the homework each day in order to establish a regular routine. Of course each family’s routine is different so please work out what works best for your child. Homework will include learning spelling words, completing some activities in mathematics, and reading for approximately 10 minutes each night. Homework will begin in week 5.

Help wanted

If any parent is able to help with listening to children read, (or to sharpen pencils for 10 minutes any morning) it would be GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If at any stage you feel you need to talk to me further about your individual child please contact the school or pop a note into your child’s bag and I will contact you about a possible time.

I look forward to working with 1M and their families this year.

Important Dates for the diary:

- Wednesday February 11 – Parent information night - 5:30pm
- Tuesday February 17 - Scripture starts
- Wednesday March 3 - Opera Australia’s performance of “Cinderella”
- Monday March 16 - School photos
- Thursday March 19 - Harmony Day celebrations
- Monday March 23 - Thursday March 26 - Parent teacher interviews

Kind Regards

Julie Masters
## 1M Class Timetable Term 1 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What is on today?</strong></td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch 11.10 – 12.00</td>
<td>Lunch 11.10 – 12.00</td>
<td>Lunch 11.10 – 12.00</td>
<td>Lunch 11.10 – 12.00</td>
<td>Lunch 11.30 – 12.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>Recess 1.45 – 2.10</td>
<td>Recess 1.45 – 2.10</td>
<td>Recess 1.45 – 2.10</td>
<td>Recess 1.45 – 2.10</td>
<td>Recess 1.45-2.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>2.35-3.05</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Today I need my...</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Reading and Library Bag</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Reading Homework and I need to wear my sports uniform</strong></td>
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*This is a timetable to help remember what we have on each day and what needs to be brought to school. (Keep it somewhere where you can look at it to remind yourself what to pack in your bag)*