Dear Parents and Caregivers of Students in 1T,

This information letter is to inform you of some essential information in regards to 1T this year. As your child’s teacher, I would like to introduce myself and explain how my class works. My name is Themelina Trikilis and I am the teacher of this terrific year group. I’m excited about the opportunity to get to know you and I’m looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

Our classroom routine will generally consist of literacy in the mornings, mathematics during the middle of the day and our integrated units in the afternoon. This routine is structured to support and assist Year One in developing their needs as lifelong learners whilst focusing on their literacy and numeracy skills.

In the morning during literacy sessions, we will cover different areas. These include shared, modelled and independent reading, writing, spelling, handwriting and talking and listening. Talking and listening will include news, explicit areas of language and prepared speeches. Some students may also attend the Reading Recovery program with Elizabeth Elfes or be involved in The Being Excited About Reading (BEAR) tutor program.

The children will be encouraged to focus in class by using our 5 L’s. These are look, listen, lips, legs and laps. We need to look at the person talking, listen to what they are saying, keep our lips closed so we are not tempted to talk and miss out on important information, keep legs crossed or still and our hands in our laps, so we are not distracted.

When talking we focus on ‘speaking slowly, speaking loudly and speaking clearly’. This strategy can be used at home to reinforce clear expressive communication. You are encouraged to assist your child by listening and modelling good talking and listening skills. It is important that they speak correctly and accurately, e.g., in order, enunciating beginning, middle and final sounds.

In mathematics we will learn all about number, patterns, measurement, space, geometry and data. This term we will practise our counting and addition. We will also learn the days of week and how to use a calendar to assist us with time and special events. Much of our work will be done through hands on activities that are fun and interesting. Some written follow-up will be required.

In the afternoons our integrated unit will cover Science and Technology, Creative Arts, Human Society and its Environment, as well as Physical Development, Health and Physical Education.

This term our unit is called ‘People in our Community’. In this unit we will explore the many groups that have different roles in our lives, including family groups, special interest groups and community groups. We can better understand others by understanding what is similar and unique about our families and groups to
which we belong. We will discuss our needs and wants as well as roles and responsibilities that we each have as members of a community.

The school continues to represent our core values with the owl as our mascot to help the children remember those values. 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.

In our class we have five rules. They are:
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Look after our property
- Be kind and sensible
- Listen to your teachers and your classmates
- Show your classmates and teachers your best manners

Positive incentives
In order to support our productive and fulfilling learning environment we have various encouragement awards.
- 1T take home soft toy (Patch)
- 1T sticker chart
- 1T marble jar
- Regular school merit awards
- Hoot points according to school policy

In our class we have some very important days:
- 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 23–26 March - Parent teacher interviews

Monday - Every Monday your child will have news and talk about what they did on the weekend. This helps them to write their journal. If you have anything special that happens, please write it down and send it to school in the communication folder before Monday morning.

Julia Smallwood, relief teacher visits our classroom to work with us. This happens Monday afternoons. During these class sessions we focus on our social skills and getting along with others. We encourage students to continue developing their individual social and emotional wellbeing throughout the year.

We get our homework for the week on Mondays. It will begin in week 5. Our homework usually consists of home reading and spelling. We will get a small amount of mathematics and talking activities as well. Our main focus is our spelling. These are important words that we need to know and learn. Please follow the strategy of ‘Look, Say, Sound, Cover, Write, Check’ every day. This strategy will assist your child with learning how to spell their spelling words. Homework should take no longer than 20 minutes. If your child is experiencing difficulties please let me know.
Home reading will begin in week 5 and ideally should be done every night. It is essential that you listen to your child read regularly and encourage them to read. It is also important that you ask your child what the book was about, as comprehension is an essential part of their receptive and expressive language. If time permits it is valuable if you can also read to your child.

Students are to return and change their home reading books on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This allows students two nights to practise and become confident with their book.

On Tuesday afternoon, Year One has scripture. The children will go to their nominated religion for half an hour.

Our Library day is Wednesday. Ms Bowring is the Teacher Librarian. We read a story and get a chance to borrow from the libraries wide range of books. Library bags are essential to borrow and need to be brought each week. They can be purchased from Mrs Bowring for $4.

On Thursday afternoon Year 1 have Music Groups. The children will be given the opportunity to be involved in some drama, dance and visual arts as well as singing and performing at assembly sometime during the semester.

On Friday, we wear our sports uniform because Year 1 students participate in a variety of sporting activities.

We also have to remember to return our homework, change our home reading books and take our weekly spelling test.

On Friday afternoons during week 3, 6 and 9, we have our whole school Assembly.

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:

1. Attendance at school is compulsory. If your child is absent from school or is late or has to leave early, please provide a written note to explain their absence, as this is a legal requirement.
2. School begins at 9.10am and our day finishes at 3.10pm. Children should be brought to lines in the morning when the first bell rings at 9.05am, ready to commence school. If your child is late in the morning they are to come straight to class. If you wish to bring your child to class you will need to sign in as a visitor at the office. 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.
3. 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 chips, lollies, cakes, biscuits, chocolates etc for home.
4. For a classroom to run efficiently we need some extra basic hygiene products. If you are able to donate boxes of tissues, rolls of paper towel or dishcloths or sponges at any stage throughout the year it would be much appreciated.

5. At the end of each day a teacher will bring 1T outside on the steps near the library. Please meet your child on the silver seats. For the safety of our students it is essential that the teacher in charge sees you collect your child. Each child must tell the teacher before he/she goes off to his/her parent/caregiver. If your child attends after school care, they will be directed there.

6. If you need to take your child from school early, please ensure that you see the office staff who will notify the class teacher to send your child to the front office.

7. Please ensure that all of your child’s possessions are labelled clearly with their names.

8. Students are not to bring any toys to school for news or play time. This will ensure the safety of valuable items.

If at any time you have any concerns or questions always come and arrange an appropriate time to see me. Most things can be sorted out quickly and with little difficulty. This can be done in person or via a note in your child’s clear communication folder. The communication folder is designed to be a two way communication system between home and school, a central place where notes can be found by both parent and teacher. It is very important that each child brings his/her communication folder be to school every day.

We are already having a great time in 1T and we are looking forward to a fantastic year where we will share many exciting learning experiences and try our best. Let’s all enjoy it together!
1T Class Timetable Term1 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is on today?</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homework due to school</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Bring your library bag)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sport – at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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 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>
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<td>1pm Assembly K-6 Weeks 3, 6, 9</td>
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<td>2.35-3.05</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Today I need my...</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Reading</td>
<td>Home Reading</td>
<td>Crunch+Sip</td>
<td>Home Reading, Crunch+Sip and Library Bag</td>
<td>Crunch+Sip</td>
<td>Home Reading, Crunch+Sip and I need to wear my sports uniform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crunch+Sip</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Crunch+Sip and Library Bag</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)