Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. As you are aware, Grade 1A is a two teacher class. Mrs Prue Dawson is in the classroom Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Belinda Hollands is in the classroom Thursday and Friday. Both teachers will meet and communicate regularly and, as with all year levels; the program is planned in conjunction with the other Year 1 teachers. We look forward to working with you and your child over the next four terms. Each term you will receive a newsletter informing you of the work we intend to cover in each of the curriculum areas and other important information regarding Year 1.

ENGLISH
Throughout the term the students will be involved in a variety of activities to further develop their reading and writing skills. Our focus will be on further developing a love of reading and writing. As a class we will be providing students with opportunities to explore a range of different text types during our Literacy sessions.

MATHEMATICS
The students will further explore and consolidate their knowledge of numbers, shape and measurement, mainly through the use of concrete materials and number games. At home you could practise counting forward and backwards by 1s to 100 and learning the 2s, 5s and 10s counting patterns.

INQUIRY LEARNING
Our Term 1 Unit is “I’m healthy, I’m safe”. The students will look at health and safety playing a significant role in one's daily life. They will also recognise the need for rules, their connection to safety and personal responsibility in following rules.

As part of our unit, we are requesting that each student bring in a photo of themselves with their family. Please ensure you send this to school by Friday 6th February. Photos will be used as a speaking and writing activity and will also be put on display in the classroom. The photos will be returned at the end of the term. We promise to look after your photos!!

SPECIALIST TIMETABLE
The specialist program will begin next week. Please see the attached timetable for your specific class.

READING HELPERS
Our Literacy program will commence on Monday 9th February and we would like to hear from any parents who are available to assist our students select Just Right books and listen to them read. We do realise that many people have other commitments and understand if you are unable to assist with this program. If, however, you are able to help out, please let us know as we would greatly appreciate any time you can give us.

HOMEWORK
On Monday, your child will be bringing home his/her first home reading book for the year. Reading is a vital part of your child’s ongoing literacy development and daily home reading comprises a very important part of home study. We ask for your co-operation by supporting your child in this activity.

Soon your child will also bring home a spelling homework book. A note inside the book will explain the expectations. Our Spelling program is individually based and follows on from work done in the classroom each week.
BRAIN FOOD
The students are asked to have a named water bottle and two lots of brain food at school each day as they work during the two hour long Literacy and Numeracy blocks. Students will be given time to have brain food each day at 10am and 12.30pm. Brain food consists of a healthy snack such as fresh fruit or vegetables to keep their brain ‘switched on’. Brain food is NOT processed food.

ALLERGIES
In order to provide a safe environment at school for all children, particularly those at risk from severe food allergies, it is important for all students to understand that they are not allowed to share food with anyone. We are requesting that you avoid sending nuts (e.g. Nutella and Peanut Butter) to school as there is a danger for anaphylactic students.

HOUSEKEEPING
- A note basket is located on the teacher’s desk. Students are encouraged to put any notes/money from home in this basket first thing in the morning.
- Some mornings the teacher may be on yard duty or in meetings. In this instance your child’s bag should be left outside the classroom door until the room is unlocked. Please remember that the school grounds are only supervised by a teacher from 8.40am and until 3.45pm.
- Please encourage your child to be organised before the school bell rings at 8.55am. e.g. take home books in tubs, lunch orders, drink bottle and brain food on the tables and notes in the basket etc. We are expecting the students to organise their belongings in the classroom and then go outside for a play with their friends; coming inside when the bell rings.
- Please ensure ALL clothing items are named.
- As we are a ‘Sunsmart’ school and this is a ‘Sunsmart’ term please ensure your child has a named ‘Sunsmart’ hat to wear outside. The school rule is: NO HAT, NO PLAY! You may also wish to have sunglasses and sunscreen in your child’s bag during 1st term.
- Bank books are brought to school on Wednesdays.
- Your child’s ‘Show and Tell’ day is ___________________. Please find attached a ‘Share Topic’ timetable.

SWIMMING
A reminder that the Year 1 swimming program begins on Wednesday 18th February and concludes on Friday 27th February. The venue is the Gisborne Aquatic Centre and we would appreciate any parent helpers to assist the students in the change rooms before and after their lessons. Please send a pair of thongs to school with your child. Students will change into these at school to save time tying shoelaces at the pool. The swimming times for each of the classes are as follows:
Grade 1A: 12.30pm - 1.15pm
Grade 1B: 1.15pm - 2pm
Grade 1C: 2.00pm - 2.45pm

MEET AND GREET
Meet and Greet Parent sessions will take place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th February after school. These sessions give us an opportunity to learn more about your child. Please keep a look out for more information regarding these sessions.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or your child has any concerns so that we may work towards solving them. It is important your child’s time at school is a happy one, as this impacts on their learning and achievement. We are looking forward to a happy, positive and fun filled time with the students this year and feel sure that the three way partnership of children, teachers and parents will mean success for the children and their development.

Kind regards,

Prue Dawson and Belinda Hollands