Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014. All the students have settled happily into their new classes and we are having lots of fun getting to know each other.

**Important Dates for Term 1 & other information**

**Swimming:** Year 2 will commence their intensive swimming program at the Kew Recreation Centre, which will run from Tuesday 18th February to Friday 21st February and Tuesday 25th February til Friday 28th February.
Year 1 will have their intensive swimming program from Tuesday 3rd March to Friday 7th March and Tuesday 11th March to Friday 14th March.
Please note that the children will be swimming every day, excluding Mondays, for two weeks.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:** You can contact your class teacher to make an appointment.

**Birthdays:** We would appreciate your discretion when handing out invitations to children’s parties. If the whole class is invited we can hand them out at the end of the day, otherwise please distribute them after school or by post.

**Starting Time for school:** 8.50am is when the first bell goes, which is the signal for children to come inside for a prompt 9.00am start. Please try to make sure your child is on time in the mornings.

**Absentees:** Please write or email us when your child is away for an appointment, illness etc (a legal requirement).

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**Inquiry Unit:** Our inquiry unit is focussed around how we grow, change and learn. The students will look at learning how to be the best they can be, what help them to learn, and about learning communities. They will explore how they are part of a community at home, in school and the wider world. English and Maths is integrated into this unit whenever possible.

**English:** The main focus for English this term is

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<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Speaking and listening</th>
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<td><strong>Year 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;• focussing on sentence structure, nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs&lt;br&gt;• reading high frequency words&lt;br&gt;• recalling, retelling and recounting from a variety of texts</td>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Use punctuation correctly&lt;br&gt;• Write legibly&lt;br&gt;<strong>Year 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Explore recount and journal writing&lt;br&gt;• Spell words correctly using knowledge of various strategies</td>
<td>• Explore a variety of formal and informal ways oral language is used to convey and receive meaning&lt;br&gt;• Develop active listening strategies</td>
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**Year 2**<br>• focussing on text structure of recounts and recalls<br>• focussing on fluency and phrasing when reading aloud<br>• using comprehension strategies to build up literal and inferred meaning

**Maths** The main focus for Maths

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<tr>
<th>Number and Algebra</th>
<th>Measurement and Geometry</th>
<th>Statistics and Probability</th>
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<td>• Counting, skip counting and place value forwards and backwards&lt;br&gt;• Number facts and strategies, addition and subtraction</td>
<td>• 2D Shapes&lt;br&gt;• Mapping and Location&lt;br&gt;• Calendar and Time</td>
<td>• Pictographs</td>
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**Investigating and learning:** In Year 1 the children will continue to develop their interpersonal and personal skills during Investigating and Learning. They will be provided with opportunities to engage in projects and investigations of interest to them. We will carefully plan or direct aspects of these projects with the children and while it may look like they are doing anything they choose, their work is purposeful and linked to literacy and numeracy. We use lots of large and small boxes for various activities. Please send empty shoe boxes and cardboard containers, (no egg cartons or cereal cartons) to the Year One classrooms.

Regards,

Year 1 Teachers: Penny Doery, Mary Whitehouse, Melissa Hayes and Elizabeth Murray

Year 2 Teachers: Gayle Bennett, Lee-Ann Butchart, Natalie Ryan and Bit McLean