Dear Parents,
Welcome to Year 1. We have been extremely pleased with how the children have settled into the new school year. They are all so happy and eager to learn!

**READING**
We encourage the children to develop regular reading habits and would appreciate your support and encouragement in listening to them read anything – take home books, newspaper articles, TV guides, magazines, etc. Your invaluable support will assist your child in developing an understanding of the importance of reading and hopefully develop a lifelong love of reading as a pleasurable pastime.

We are trying to develop confident, expressive readers who read in a fluent, phrased manner (so it sounds the same as when you are talking). To develop this skill, children need continued practice on both familiar books and those that are at just the right level. We aim to send home books that your child can read independently. By doing this, your child experiences success and is able to practise their fluency, phrasing and expression. Also, you can help to develop comprehension skills by asking your child questions about the book they have read.

Please remember the importance of reading to your child and above all make reading together an enjoyable experience.

The Year 1 team are fortunate to have the support of Cath Buckland (one of our leading teachers) who will work with small groups of students as extra assistance during Literacy sessions. Children will be assessed to determine their suitability for this program.

**MATHEMATICS**
The children will be involved in many hands on and written tasks in Mathematics. The main concepts covered this term will be: counting patterns, addition, graphs, time, 2D and 3D shapes. The children will use Mathletics on the computer which can also be accessed at home.

**STUDENT WELLBEING**
We will be using the Student Engagement and Wellbeing resource “Challenges and Choices”. The focus area for Term 1 will be promoting resilience which will be covered in the topics of Making Friends, Rules, Learning about Feelings and Staying in Control. We have all begun the TLC (Teacher Learner Conversations) Feature Student program. Please see our website for more information.

**INTEGRATED STUDIES**
We have started the year with ‘A valued Beginning’ focus, involving getting to know classmates, establishing class agreements and understanding the uniqueness of each individual, including their strengths & weaknesses. Our next topic will be ‘My Local Community’ where we will look at the history of Mooroolbark from the past to the present and the people who help us as volunteers or emergency workers. We will also visit our local shops and services.
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- **TISSUES** - It would be appreciated if the children could please bring along a box of tissues to be stored for the coming winter months and shared with the grade. Thank you to those children who have already done this.

- **WATER/FRUIT** - To help ensure that children drink enough water in the hot weather, they may bring a drink bottle of water to sip throughout the day. The children may also bring along a small piece of fruit or some vegetables, eg, carrots or celery sticks, to eat at 10 am. We encourage you to support this as children often feel ‘left out’ if they do not have the appropriate fresh food.

- **HATS** - School hats MUST be worn in Terms 1 and 4. Without a hat, students sit on the steps near the office for the duration of recess or lunch. Please name hats with marking that won’t fade.

- **PLAYLUNCHES** - The children do not take any rubbish outside into the yard, so it will be easier for them if their playlunches are either ‘rubbish free’, or easily unwrapped. Please try plastic containers or zip locked bags.

- **ATTENDANCE** - Please send a note to explain any school absences. If your child arrives at school late, please sign her/him in at the office. Likewise, if your child leaves school early, please sign her/him out at the office before classroom collection.

- **MEDICATION** - If your child is well enough to attend school, but still requires medication, a signed letter of authorisation with written instructions must be given to the office.

- **SPORT** - The Year 1 children are participating in Sport on Tuesday afternoons and we need parent helpers to assist. Please let us know as soon as possible if you’re able to help. A WWCC is required.

  1LN, 1GB & 1AS 2.45 - 3.30

- **IMPORTANT DATES**
  - Monday 20th February - Information Night
  - Monday 27th February - STARS
  - Wednesday 1st March - Parent Helpers Course
  - Friday 10th March - Gelati Day (recess)
  - Monday 13th March - Labour Day holiday
  - Monday 20th March - STARS
  - Friday 24th March - Portfolios go home.
  - Tuesday 28th March - Return Portfolios to school
  - Friday 31st March Last Day Term 1

We would like to thank the parents who have offered to help in the classrooms and look forward to their support. If you would like to assist in the classroom a WWCC is required and also completion of the Parent Helpers Course.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if at any time you have concerns or questions via email, phone or an appointment at school.

We look forward to a very rewarding year.

**Year One Team**
Liz Nicholson, Katie Borzuch, Virginia Gardner, Annika Smith and Cath Buckland (Literacy Support)