Welcome to Year 1. This overview provides information about the teaching and learning programs for this term. Additional information will be shared through the newsletter, website and Facebook page throughout the term. Sharron Wynn will be working with the class each Tuesday.

I look forward to getting to know you and your child further during our ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews in week 3.

Investigations
Investigations are a core part of our program where students engage in activities that allow them to practise skills and knowledge gained during explicit teaching sessions. Students’ interests in areas such as science, geography and the arts are used to guide activities that also draw on skills in English and mathematics. Investigations provide an authentic opportunity to focus on social skills, problem solving, creative thinking, and self-regulation. Over the course of the term each child will have several opportunities to take on the role of reporter and focus child.

Literacy
During literacy students are explicitly taught reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through:

- **Daily 5** - Students are explicitly taught and engage in reading to self, reading to someone, listening to reading, working on writing and working with words. During this time **guided reading** takes place to target students’ specific needs in reading through individual, small group and whole class work. Areas of focus include decoding strategies, comprehension, reading with fluency and expanding vocabulary.

Writing - This term we will focus on recount writing and information texts (reports). Students will have opportunities to examine the features of these texts as they work with samples, jointly create pieces and work on producing their own written texts.

Handwriting - Explicit instruction in handwriting will be balanced with fine motor activities to develop finger/hand strength and co-ordination.

Oral Language - Oral language development is supported through sharing ideas during classroom discussions, reflecting on learning and working within cooperative learning groups. Focus skills include taking turns, active listening and speaking clearly.

Numeracy
Mathematics lessons are structured to incorporate explicit teaching and give opportunities to implement new learning. During lessons, the students work independently as well as in small groups, using a range of different materials in order to build an understanding of a range of concepts. Students will be encouraged to make connections through their learning and reflect on their work. This term we will focus on the following:

- **Number and place value**
  - Recognising, modelling and ordering numbers to 100
  - Place value
  - Counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s
  - Addition and subtraction strategies
  - Patterns formed by skip counting and patterns with objects

- **Measurement and Geometry**
  - Measuring and comparing the lengths and capacities of objects
  - Naming and ordering days of the week and months of the year. Using a classroom calendar to identify relevant dates and days in our school schedule

- **Location and Transformation**
  - Giving and following directions to familiar objects
Science  
**Biological Sciences - Schoolyard Safari**  
In Science this term Sharron Wynn will help the students to find out about small animals in their schoolyard environment. Students will be observing the features of snails, earthworms and ants and describing the similarities and differences between small animals and their habitats. Through investigation students will learn how some small animals move, feed and protect themselves. Students will become familiar with predicting, observing, recording, and reporting back to their peers.

**Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Geography**  
In geography we will focus on building a sense of place and belonging by exploring places that are significant to our students; starting with our homes and then exploring our school and local community. Geographical concepts and skills embedded within the program include the manner in which place may be defined on a variety of scales, collection of geographical data and information, and representation of geographical features and locations using maps, tables and reports.

**Health and Physical Education**  
**P.E Sessions** - Development of fundamental movement skills is achieved through whole class and small group games and activities. Students will be encouraged to play fairly, accept game consequences, cooperate and persist with challenging experiences. This term we will focus on running, throwing and catching.  
**Bluearth** - Ross Dennis from Bluearth will join us on Wednesdays to work on different forms of movement with a focus on mindfulness, linking physical, social and emotional learning.

**The Arts**  
**Visual Arts** - Students will have regular opportunities to explore and experiment with a variety of art techniques and materials. We will experiment with mediums such as pencils, paints, charcoal and watercolours to produce landscapes, linking to geography to produce a class picture book about our school.

**Music**  
Year 1 will have music lessons with Grace Cornejo from the ACT Instrumental Music Program on Wednesday each week. This is in addition to community singing each Friday afternoon.

**Technologies**  
Students will have opportunities to use iPads during investigations and numeracy. They will also be explicitly used for research purposes to navigate Google to find out about topics of interest. Laptop computers are available for students to use for word processing and publishing pieces of work.

**Reading at home**  
I encourage you to read with your child at home on a daily basis. Try to establish a fun and relaxed routine to share this special time with your child. Reading with someone, reading to someone and being read to are important to students’ reading development. It is beneficial for students to talk about what they read, ask questions, clarify meaning and make links to other texts and experiences.

**Days to remember**  
**Science** with Sharron – Tuesday  
**Assembly** – Wednesday even weeks (Year 1 to host Week 6 – 9th March)  
**IMP with Grace** – Wednesday  
**Bluearth with Ross** - Wednesday  
**Library** – Wednesday  
**Important Term 1 dates**  
Tue 9 Feb – Year 1 and 2 reading information session  
Tue 16 & Wed 17 Feb – ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews  
Wed 6 March – Year 1 assembly  
Tue 15 March – Grand friends morning