Welcome to the 2017 school year. We’re hoping you all had a restful and relaxing summer break. We would like to share with you the classroom focus for the following curriculum areas for Term 1.

**LITERACY**

This term our focus will be on learning the letters of the alphabet and the sound that each letter represents. Each week the focus letters/sounds that we are learning in class will be sent home as part of homework. It would be beneficial if you could discuss these letters and sounds at home with your child to help improve their understanding.

When reading, we encourage children to point to each word as they read. You may also wish to demonstrate this when reading with your child each night, as it may improve their understanding. We will begin using reading strategies such as Eagle Eye (using picture cues) and Lips the Fish (using the first sound) to solve unknown words during reading groups. When they bring books home, encourage them to use these strategies.

Another major focus for Term 1 is to learn all our ‘Gold Words’. These are the 12 most frequently used words in books that we will be reading. Learning these gold words will greatly enhance your child’s ability to read this year. If everyone reaches the goal of learning all 12 gold words, we get to celebrate by having a Gold Party!

We will work towards all children in Prep gaining independence in recognising and writing their names by the end of Term 1!

**NUMERACY**

This term our focus will be on number concepts. We will be using a variety of hands on materials to engage students in their learning.

Term 1 concepts:
- numerals, number names and words to 10
- formation of numbers
- knowing ‘how many’ objects there are altogether
- sorting & classifying (grouping objects based on length, colour & size)
- location (positional language; such as, between, near, next to, forward, toward, behind, in front of)
- time (days of the week, language of time; such as, today, yesterday, tomorrow)

At home you can help by asking your child to collect a number of items (eg. 6 bananas when at the shop), practise counting to 10 (eg. how many steps to…) or playing board games (eg. moving spaces, reading dice). You may also wish to discuss the days of the school week and weekends and using language to explain where objects are positioned (next to, behind etc).

**How Parents can help us!**

**Attendance** - Ensuring your children arrives on time at 8:30am and prepared for EACH school day is of enormous value to their schooling. Attendance is important, as every day counts!

**Homework** - Homework will begin in week 3, it goes home on Monday and is to be returned Friday. Homework includes practising the weeks focus sounds, the Magic Words (starting with Gold Words) and reading a book. In the beginning, you may read the book to your child and have them hold the book, turn pages and point to the words as you read.

**Lunch** - We encourage the children to always eat their healthy food first. It would greatly assist us, if you could please pack a sandwich and piece of fruit for their lunch every day.

**At home** – Encourage children to be independent by allowing them to get their bag organised for school by packing their lunch box and their hat.

Mrs Burstow, Miss Henry, Miss Castles  
Prep Teachers

Steve Kanowski - Principal

**Key Days for Music & PE**

| PMB | Music Tues 12-1  
| PE Thurs 1:30-2:30 |
|-----|----------------|
| PTH | Music Thurs 1:30-2:30  
| PE Mon 12-1 |
| PAC | Music Mon 12-1  
| PE Tues 12-1 |

**Celebrations!**

It’s great to see how well everyone has settled in to the school year. We are already doing a great job of walking in two lines and whole body listening!

**Reminders:** Children need a broad brimmed hat to play outside!