Dear Families,
Welcome back to a new school year. We have had a very good start to 2017 with the children participating in many activities during CELEBRATION WEEK. We now know a lot more about each other and our school community. Your Year 1 team for this year is Ms Adair (1A) and Miss Caitlin Liels (1L). We look forward to a bright and eventful term ahead of us!

Important Dates

Wed 7th Feb  Parent information evening
Fri 10th Feb  Beginning School Mass
Tues 14th Feb  Meet the Teacher 2.15pm - 5.15
               (Children dismissed at 1:50pm)
Thur 16th Feb  Meet the teacher 2.15 - 4.45
               (Children dismissed at 1:50pm)
Tues 28th Feb  Shrove Tuesday Breakfast from 7.30
Wed 1st Mar  Ash Wed Mass 9.00am
Mon 13th Mar  Labour day Holiday
Tues 14th Mar  School Closure day
Wed 15th Mar  Year 1 Family Prayer Night
Sun 19th Mar  Year 1 Class Mass 5pm
Fri 24th Mar  Aths Carnival 9am
Fri 31st Mar  End of Term Mass 9.15 Children dismissed at 1:50pm
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Full sport uniform to be worn on TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

**Literacy**

We will be sending home ‘Take home books’ this week. The children will select two books to start and will be able to swap and change these on a need be basis. Please read every night and record your child’s reading in their reading journal. It is still important to read a variety of stories to your child often, as well as the children reading themselves. This will help to promote confidence and fluency when reading.

HOWEVER, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE READER BAG IS SENT TO SCHOOL EACH DAY! We ask that the ‘Reading Diary’ is filled in with your child each time you read.

Please continue to use the reading strategies provided from Foundation Year.

- Look at the picture
- Does it make sense?
- Get your mouth ready
- Does it look right?
- Re-read
- Does it sound right?
- Look for chunks (Breaking up words)

If you are unsure how to use these at home, please feel free to ask your child’s teacher. We are more than happy to help you and your child reading at home.
CAFE Reading
This year we will continue to use CAFE Reading strategies. The C.A.F.E acronym stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expand Vocabulary. Each of these four areas has many strategies that will assist the children to become better readers. One example of a Comprehension strategy is ‘retell the story’.

Examples of strategies that we teach in class include:

- **Comprehension:** “Retell the story in the correct order”
- **Accuracy:** “Skip the word then come back” and “Blend sounds together”.
- **Fluency:** “Re-read familiar books”
- **Expand Vocabulary:** “Ask someone to define the word for you.”

Writing
We will practise our letter formation, using upper and lower case letters correctly, correct pencil grip and using lines during writing. Please encourage your child to practise and use these skills at home.

The use of rubbers/erasers is discouraged and the children are taught to ‘have a go’ at unfamiliar words. The children should understand that it is okay to make mistakes when writing and it is better to attempt an interesting or unfamiliar word, rather than sticking with ‘safe’ words.

Our phonics program is based on the ‘Letters and Sounds” program which comes from the United Kingdom. The students are taught the many sounds that letter combinations can make (such as oa, ow, ai, igh) and are given many opportunities to blend sounds together (to assist with reading) and to stretch sounds out (to assist with spelling).

Faith Life
In Term 1, we will be learning about and exploring the different relationships we have in our lives, both inside and outside of school. This includes looking at:

- Our Relationship with God - Making Jesus Real.
- Our place in our class/school.
• Our Families - Who I am in my family?, who are the other members of my family?, Where does my family come from?

We will also be celebrating these relationships as we prepare for our Year 1 prayer night and class Mass this Term. We look forward to sharing these special occasions with all Year 1 families.

MATHS

The main focus of our Maths program this term will be on addition and subtraction, with a particular focus on solving problems mentally and being able to articulate the strategies used to solve a problem. These can include ‘count on’, ‘count back’, ‘build to ten’.

Here are some topics we will be focusing on this term:

Number
• Counting forwards, backwards and skip counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s.
• Identifying, making and recording two digit numbers.
• Addition – Making & counting the total, counting on
• Making and breaking 10
• Exploring number patterns

Measurement & Geometry
• Days of the week, months of the year
• Birthdays, special events
• Collecting information to classify and record
• Making patterns
• 2D Shapes
• Compare & describe shapes
• Using language of location

SEL

This term our Social and Emotional Learning will relate to the concepts of Relationships and being a good friend. The children will describe ways of making and keeping friends, including how their actions and words can help or hurt others, and the effects of modifying their behaviour.
As a whole school we will be focusing on our 9 school values that we strive to live by at St Finbar’s School. We continue to focus on the importance of a bully-free school and provide the students with strategies that they can draw upon to combat any difficulties that they may experience. We will examine how making positive choices can build positive relationships with others.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

**SCHOOL UNIFORM:** Full summer school uniform is to be worn each day. Correct sport uniform is to be worn on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Please remember that plain white socks are to be worn with the sport uniform.

**LATE NOTICES/ ABSENCES:** Parents are required to sign a late notice in the school office if your child is late to school. A note/email is required to explain any absences.

**BIRTHDAYS:** If your child is celebrating a birthday and you would like to provide treats for the children in your child’s class, we suggest lemonade icy poles or a fruit platter. No lollipops or lolly bags are to be handed out. Birthday invitations should be emailed or handed directly to parents to avoid disappointment.

**LUNCHES:** As there are children who have specific food allergies in our classrooms, it is necessary to note that our classrooms are **Nut Free and Seafood Free Zones**. It is important that no nut products are brought to school including peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches and no type of fish, tuna, or shellfish.

**Communication**

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to email or make an appointment with us if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Each teacher is also available via email:

Shelley Adair:
sadair@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au

Caitlin Liels -
ciels@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au