Welcome to Term 1, 2016! It is wonderful to see all children coming to school with a bright and positive attitude towards their learning. We are all very excited to begin the year with such a buzz around the Year 1 community! This newsletter contains information on the content of classroom programs and what the focus is for each curriculum area:

**Reading:**
This term children will continue to develop the habits of independent readers. Children are reading for increasing amounts of times and continuing to practise decoding skills including sounding out, looking for chunks and sliding through a word. We will also be developing our comprehension of the books we read. It is important for all children to establish the routine of reading at least 20 minutes every night. Children’s Take Home Books need to be brought back to school daily to use in our reading program. Students will be changing their Take Home Books on different days, please have a look on their Bookmark for their day.

**Writing and Spelling:**
We are exploring our *Writer’s Notebook* this term. These are very special books writers use in order to gain inspiration for their writing pieces. If you have any photos, tickets or mementos, please collect these and send them to school throughout the year for our Writer’s Notebook, these memories make great stories! This term we will also be focusing on retelling stories and events in sequence. This will include the correct use of full stops, capital letters and spacing in our writing. During writing sessions children will participate in weekly sound investigations, using sounds, letter blends and spelling patterns to assist them when spelling unfamiliar words.

**Mathematics:**
During Maths sessions we will explore real life mathematical problems using a range of efficient strategies to solve these. Counting patterns, place value and addition are all areas we will be looking into this term as well as time, shape, location and data graphs.

**Inquiry Topic:**
The Year 1 Learning Community is exploring what it means to follow our KEFAR values in our Inquiry unit, ‘Our Friend KEFAR’. The students will participate in activities to develop the following understandings:

- I understand kindness is a value and how to be kind to others
- I understand encouragement is a value and how to encourage others
- I understand fairness is a value and how to be fair
- I understand acceptance is a value and how to be accepting of others
- I understand respect is a value and how to be respectful of others
- I can work co-operatively in a team and within our community

**Student Wellbeing - Bounce Back and Friendly Schools Plus:**
This term we are developing Circle Time in our classrooms. Circle Time is an opportunity for children to share their thoughts and feelings; and learn how to listen to and respect their classmate’s opinions and ideas on various social topics. This term we will be exploring Self and Emotional Awareness. In particular we will look at how we can be similar/different, our feelings and helpful and rational thinking when making choices.

**Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden:**
We are excited to have our first time together in the garden this term. We will learn safety around the garden, including the use of the garden tools and where we can find the different types of plants.