Hi everyone,

We have had a fantastic first week and everyone seems to have settled in really well. We are already quite organised and have labelled our books. I will send home a note this week for anyone who is missing any equipment.

I look forward to seeing most of you at our information evening on Wednesday night and it will be a good chance for you to find out in more detail about how our class will function this year. You will have read in the school newsletter about all volunteers needing to attend a session prior to helping out; if you would like to help out at all during the year (excursions, in the classroom, etc) you must have completed the session which runs at 7pm (immediately before our classroom session), or be able to provide documentation to the school proving you have completed the course elsewhere. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday evening, please let me know and I will organise an information sheet for you.

We are working on ensuring all students are holding their pencils correctly to reduce fatigue, and also to prepare them for writing more in cursive next year. In the past we have used the “Grotto” grips – if you have one already (ie. If your child used one last year), please send it in. If not, I will organise for children who require them to have one and will charge the amount to your account (around $4).

Our Christian Studies unit has begun and we are investigating the person and work of Jesus Christ and how he is central to Christianity. Students are excited to use their Bibles and we have already discovered different names and titles Jesus was given, by looking up a range of Bible passages. If you know your child does not have a Bible, please see Robyn in the front office and she can arrange to order one for you. It is very helpful for all students to have the same version in the classroom.
We have had some minor issues this week with regard to **Pokemon** cards. While I realise there are students who enjoy playing with and trading their cards, if they continue to be a problem I will have to think about banning them from our class. It would be a shame for something like this to distract us from learning and getting along!

Our first **unit of inquiry** has begun in controversial fashion! Our central idea is: **Many animals are becoming endangered and without protection will become extinct.**

Our lines of inquiry are:
- what causes animals to become endangered
- animals facing extinction
- preventing endangered animals from becoming extinct.

We began by looking at some images of animals that are in danger of becoming extinct (endangered) and immediately there were a few students who became a little upset at the prospect. These emotions are beneficial as they help students gain a sense of responsibility and a desire to do something about the problem. We are excited about this and our unit looks like it will be very motivating. If you have any pictures, videos or information that you think may be helpful, we would love to borrow it. (We will take good care of it!). Also, we are planning some excursions so stay tuned for more details!

As a prelude to times tables we have been **skip counting** by 2s, 5s and 10s. Some students would benefit from some extra practise with you at home so please ask your child to show you if they can confidently perform this skill. For those who have already mastered them, perhaps practising the 3s or 4s would be useful at this point.

It has been great to meet so many of you and I look forward to being able to remember all of your names! It is a gradual process for me but I will eventually work out who you all belong to! Thanks for your warm welcome and I look forward to working with you closely this year.

Kind regards,

*Daniel Eckermann*