Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1! I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and hopefully found some time to wind down and relax before beginning to think about the new year. Myself and Mel (Year 1S) have spent the last couple of weeks planning and organizing the year and we are looking forward to what 2013 has in store for the Year 1s. It is shaping into being a very exciting year!

As with any new year, there is lots of new routines and expectations so please take the time to read this newsletter carefully and if you have any other questions please don’t hesitate to ask. This will also be discussed during our Parent Information Night in Week 2 (Tuesday 5th Feb 7pm).

Parent Information Forms
For those of you who were unable to make the ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon last week, a green form was completed regarding basic student information and afternoon pick up. This green note has been sent home this afternoon for you to complete. Can you please return this to me ASAP.

No Nuts
Please be aware that the junior primary area is a nut free zone and there are students in our classroom with nut allergies. Please do not pack any nuts or products containing nuts for your child to eat at school. Thank you for your understanding.

Tissue Boxes
To help keep our runny noses under control (particularly during the colder months) it would be greatly appreciated if each child could bring in a box of tissues for the class to use throughout the year. I will store these in the classroom until required.

Specialist Lessons
This year the students will be participating in Creative Arts and PE lessons on Wednesdays and German on Thursdays. However, in weeks 2 - 6 to cater for Reception Home Visits, our German lesson will also be on Wednesdays. PE clothes are to be worn Wednesdays and Fridays.

Diary Dates
Please pop these important dates in your diary.
More information will come over the next few weeks:
- Tues 7th Feb (Wk 2): Parent Information Night
- Fri 15th Feb (Wk 3): Cultural Infusion Day
- Fri 15th March (Wk 7): Sports Day
- Sun 24th March (End of Wk 8): 1B Family Service

What’s happening this fortnight?

Week 1:    Tues: First Day of School, Opening Chapel
           Wed: Creative Arts, P.E., Sports Uniform
           Thurs: German
           Fri: Library Borrowing, Sports Uniform

Week 2:    Mon: Assembly
           Tues: Parent Information Night
           Wed: Creative Arts, German P.E., Sports Uniform
           Fri: Chapel, Library Borrowing
Library Borrowing
Library borrowing is once again on Fridays, please make sure your child has their library bag in their tray at school.

Fruit Time
Each morning the children are given the opportunity to have a healthy snack before recess. Please pack a fresh piece of fruit or some veggies for your child each day. Their fruit can be put in the labelled containers on the bench by the green wall each morning.

Whiteboard sock
Can each child please bring an old sock to school that can be used as a whiteboard duster this year. This will be kept in their tray.

Morning Routine
When your child arrives at school each day they will need to put their fruit in the fruit containers and their blue bags in their tray. Once this is done children can either read and draw quietly until the first bell when it is time for them to come sit on the floor.

Toys
At St Michael’s we discourage that toys be brought from home to play with at school. Many toys children want to bring can be quite special to them and we do not want to see them lost or broken. If any toys come to school I will be asking for them to kept on my desk until the end of the day.

Classroom Volunteering
If you would like to volunteer in the classroom or on excursions you will need to supply Robyn with a current police check as well as attend the Principal’s mandatory notification sessions, which he will run in Term 2. If you completed this last year you do not need to complete the training and police check again.

Sharing
Each week children will have the opportunity to share with the class about a given topic. Attached to this newsletter is the sharing topics for the term and their sharing days. Sharing will begin in Week 2.

Have a great week and God bless,
Laura

Lesson Overview:
Literacy: Sentence Structure

Spelling: Phonological Awareness (Hearing, identifying and changing sounds in words)

Maths: Sorting and Classifying

UOI: Everyone has been created to be unique, special and important.

Christian Studies: Showing love and care

School Books
This year the students have the following work books:
- Maths
- Writing
- Language
- Handwriting
- Spelling Test
- Word Study
- Unit of Inquiry
- German
- Christian Studies
- Creative Arts
- Home Book
- Reading Log

Curriculum
Self Management Skills
This term one of our focuses will be on our self management skills. This means that in the classroom you will see us working on things like:
- Keeping our desks and work spaces tidy
- Using our time wisely
- Setting up and packing up quickly during lessons and at the beginning and end of the day
- Working independently and with others.

Developing these skills help us to be organized and help us to develop our independence.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Acts 20:35
From the specialists...

**Creative Arts:**
During Creative Arts this term we will start the year off with drama activities to encourage the students to share their holiday experiences and to build classroom relationships. This is a great way to break the ice and create a supportive and fun classroom environment where students become confident risk takers.

Through a series of role plays and improvisation activities the students will re-familiarise themselves with IB Learner Profile and attitudes.

From Mrs Sugars

**Physical Education:**
Welcome kids to another school year at St Michael’s. I hope you are all well rested because the sporting calendar is looking to be extremely busy in Term 1. This year Mrs Glynn will be taking the Reception and Year 1 classes with Mr Phillips taking the year 2 classes. We welcome Mrs Glynn back to the school after a year of maternity leave.

In weeks 1 and 2 students will be given the opportunity to participate in class activities that promote athletic ability and cooperative team play. Fun and whole class participation are the focus of these activities.

Weeks 3-7 will see the students practicing for sports day in the different tabloid events they will be participating in on the day. The central idea for this unit is: The development of fundamental motor skills at a young age provides us with the skills to participate in a large range of games, sports and activities.

In weeks 8-11 students will continue to develop their fundamental motor skills (kicking, hitting, catching, throwing, ball control and locomotion) through station work and a variety of class games and activities.

So buckle up and enjoy the ride because term 1 is going to be a ripper!!

From Mr Phillips and Mrs Glynn

**German:**
Guten Tag! I’m Mrs Westermann, and I’m the new German Teacher at St Michael’s. For the last 12 years I’ve been teaching German and Japanese at Unity College. Before that I taught at various schools in Japan, at Mt Barker High, Cornerstone College and Scotch College, where I was Head of German and taught for 15 years.

I’m really looking forward to helping your children learn more German and explore the culture of the many countries where German is spoken. The three classes I met last year all seemed very capable and enthusiastic, so I’m hoping to build on the students’ current skills as much as possible.

The main focus in the first few weeks will be on helping the students talk about themselves and their interests in German and it would be really helpful if all students from Foundation up to and including the Year 5s could bring in a standard sized colour photo of themselves - either just a head and shoulders shot, or if they prefer it could also be a picture of them with their favourite toy or pet.

Towards Easter we will be looking at making “Fensterbilder” (decorative paper cut-outs for windows) and Easter egg decorations. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the school, either by phone or email (hwestermann@stmichaels.sa.edu.au). I would also love to hear from any German speaking visitors or people in the St Michael’s community who might be interested in coming into classes sometimes to speak with our students and share their experiences.

From Mrs Westermann