Dear Parents,

Welcome to week 3! What a great start to the school year we have had so far! I am very pleased with how the students have settled into the daily routines of Year 1. They have attempted tasks with confidence, enthusiasm and are willing to try new activities. They love sharing their thoughts and ideas and have been able to act fairly and responsibly with their new jobs and our classroom expectations. It is wonderful to see what principled learners they are.

This Friday is our Cultural Infusion Day. Throughout the day students will be immersed in some of the cultures from around the world, depicting elements of history, languages and society.

Students will:
- experience the dances, stories and instruments of West Africa
- watch the fusion of dance, martial arts, acrobatics, music and song into an exciting high energy African-Brazilian art form Capoeira
- learn about Japanese festival traditions, hear captivating folk tales and be invited to try their hand on the Taikos
- learn a fun belly dance routine and the traditional meaning behind some of its movements.
- learn a fun and energetic Bollywood routine and the traditional meanings.

To embrace this special day, students will be able to dress in traditional cultural clothing. It does not need to be from these areas, remember that the students will be need to be able to participate in all of the activities so appropriate clothing and footwear is essential. The canteen is supporting this day by offering meals from these regions. The order forms went home last week. Please return these ASAP.

Chapel will NOT be on Friday due to our Cultural Infusion day. Instead it will be on Wednesday morning. This will correlate with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. After the service students will be receiving ashes on their heads in their classrooms.

Shrove Tuesday
This Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday. The Year 1 students will be making pancakes on this day. Toppings will include strawberry jam, lemon juice, sugar, maple syrup and butter. If you don’t want your child to participate in eating pancakes could you please let me know as soon as possible.

May God bless you this week,

Mel Southren
Don't let the dots stick!

Last week I read the students a story by Max Lucado called ‘You are Special’ (I highly recommend his books to add to your child’s collection). The story talks about how each of us have been created to be unique, special and important through the use of characters called ‘Wemmicks’. The problem that the Wemmicks face is that they are very judgmental. They give stars to people who have particular talents, gifts or looks and grey dots to those without these characteristics. One Wemmick, although she is given stars and dots, they simply do not stick to her.

This idea led to an important discussion in our classroom and the students came to following conclusions:

- It doesn’t matter what other people think of us. It only matters what Jesus thinks.
- People shouldn’t say or do hurtful things but when they do its our choice whether we believe it or let it bother us.
- When we are given grey dots we can ‘brush them off our shoulders’ or ‘put the dot in a bubble and blow it away’. The dots don’t need to get us down.

Reading, Spelling and Sight Words

This week is a big week for the Year 1 students as homework will be coming home for the first time.

Reading

As discussed at our information night, the students are required to read each night (please record the book read in their yellow reading log)

Spelling

Spelling words will be sent home this week. In class the students will complete many activities to support their understanding of the sound being taught. Please help your child practice their spelling words. Some ideas for spelling practise will be sent home in your child’s home books.

Sight Words

Sight words are to be practised as much as possible but I understand that three tasks together can become a lot to do every night. Once your child can read each word 3 times without hesitation please let me know so they can be tested and moved onto the next list.

Labelled Clothing

There have been a few incidents where clothing has been found and we are unsure of who it belongs to. Could you please check your child’s clothing to ensure everything is labelled clearly with their name on it.

What are the Year 1’s learning this fortnight?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Maths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentence structure</td>
<td>Sorting and classifying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recount writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling Sounds</td>
<td>UOI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘sh’ and ‘ch’</td>
<td>Relationships in our lives, recognizing ours and other’s feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘th’ and ‘thr’</td>
<td>Christian Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How people can show love and care to others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>