Dear Year 1 and 2 Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 1 with the Year 1/2 Team - Lee, Sarah, Clare, Paul, Tammi, Amy and Leisha. We hope you had a fantastic break and we now look forward to a great year of learning ahead.

**School starting time**
The grade 1/2 children line up near the breezeway and wait for their teachers to come and collect them. Children who arrive late will be asked to collect a late notice from the office and they will be marked as a late arrival on the roll.

*We ask that children do not come inside to hang their bags up before school starts.*

**Morning Routine**
The children will hang their bags up and take out drink bottles and any notes for their teacher. *It is very important that the blue book bags with take home books, poetry books and reading log is brought to school every day.* The reading log will be checked regularly by the teacher.

**Classroom Helpers**
Children and teachers are very appreciative of the time that our parent helpers spend within our classrooms. The Parent Helpers Induction program will take place next Tuesday and Thursday in the library at 9:00am. To be a parent helper you must have completed the induction session with Janet and have a valid Working with Children check. The timetable for parents helping in the grade will commence in week 5. Please email your child's teacher if you would like to be part of this program. Don't forget to sign in at the office and pick up a lanyard. Thank you for your continued support of our school!

**Reading Journals and Blue Book Bags**
Students have received their reading log and this should be kept in your child's blue book bag. Students must continue to bring their blue book bags and their reading logs to school each day. Please ensure that the books are being listed and record any details about your child's reading in the section provided.

**Library**
We encourage children to borrow up to 2 books per week from our school library. Each class has a weekly library time where children can browse and borrow. These books are chosen by the children and they may or may not be suitable for independent reading. They may be more suited to shared reading with your child.

**Assembly**
We will continue to conduct assemblies on Friday afternoons at 3.00 pm. Weekly student/class awards are given out and parents are welcome to attend. Children will return to their classrooms at the end of assembly and will be dismissed from there at 3.30pm.
Hats
It is compulsory that Newport Lakes Primary School sun hats be worn in Terms 1 and 4. It is optional in Terms 2 and 3.

Tissues
We ask that each child please bring in a box of tissues for use in the classroom.

Curriculum Overview Term 1

LITERACY
In Term 1 the students will continue to practise comprehension strategies to enable them to gain a deeper understanding of the texts they are reading. They will be encouraged to independently choose books that are of an appropriate level. We will introduce the students to the features and uses of different text types and they will be given plenty of opportunity to produce their own pieces of writing.

Daily Reading Hour
We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate reading strategies by reading aloud to students, reading together with students (big books, songs, rhymes, chants and poems), reading in small groups and reading independently.

Students will continue to focus on how to choose 'Just Right' books for both school and take home reading. We will also focus on the structure of an independent reading session - that it is quiet independent reading with an explicit comprehension focus. Students will read each day at school and your child should continue to be encouraged to read at home daily. Your child will benefit from you asking questions about the book both before the reading, during the reading and after they've finished reading to you.
We will continue to focus on strategies to help children read and understand new or unfamiliar words and to improve their fluency and phrasing when reading.

Students will have regular conferences with their teacher throughout the term. During these times reading goals will be established for students to practise at school and at home.

Daily Writing Hour
We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate writing strategies. Writing processes will be explicitly demonstrated to the students and they will then have the opportunity to write in small groups and independently. Students will have regular individual conferences with the teacher to determine new individual writing goals. Students will work on various aspects of the writing process including: planning, composing, recording, revising and publishing. Spelling, sound and punctuation investigations (both whole class or small group) will further assist with each student’s writing.

Writer’s Notebook
Twice a week students write in their writer’s notebooks. Our writer’s notebooks are used as a place to collect ideas and note down thoughts and observations about life. Sometimes we use published authors books to study the devices they use in their writing. Writer's Notebooks are personal and the teachers do not correct this writing. From time to time students will reread their entries and choose 'gems' that they would like to develop further into a draft. Last Friday we sent home
exercise books for students to decorate, which will be used as their writer's notebooks. Please ensure this is returned to school as soon as possible.

**Speaking and Listening**  
Each day opportunities are given for students to share their ideas with the class or with a partner (turn and talk), listen to others during discussions and offer feedback. Our All About Me bags provide a wonderful opportunity to share a little bit about each student and have formed a large part of our speaking and listening program this term. We have taken photos of the contents of the bags and these will be in our Writer's Notebooks for us to write about.

**NUMERACY**  

**Daily Numeracy Hour**  
We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate numeracy strategies by providing warm-up games to begin each lesson and differentiated learning tasks for each student depending on the individual learning needs. Our focus in Numeracy this term will be on counting, patterns, writing and reading numbers, place value, making and modeling numbers, 2D shapes and 3D objects, time, addition, subtraction and collecting and displaying data.

**Inquiry Unit**  
Our Inquiry Topic for this term is Learning How to Learn. We are looking at setting up our classrooms to create the ideal space for learning. We will look out how different people learn, what makes a good learner and what makes a good teacher. We will cover the School Values and establish classroom agreements for each grade.

**Elearning**  
We believe that the use of technology is an integral part of our classroom programs. This term we will be working with children to establish CyberSafe behaviours so that students are behaving positively online and using technology in a respectful way. Each 1/2 grade will have daily access to 4 iPads; all of our five classrooms have either an Interactive Whiteboard or a Smart TV, so we are definitely well equipped with technology in our corridor!

We use the PM eCollection on a daily basis in the reading hour, as well as the Sunshine Online website. These resources allow students to read eBooks and hear stories being read to them. There are a number of other apps to which we will be exposing the children, such as apps that support writing and mathematical warm up games. Please keep an eye out for a list of recommended educational apps for home use, which will be made available in the coming weeks.

All classrooms are blogging in 2015, so stay tuned for information on your classroom's blog address. Newport Lakes PS also has a Twitter account (@nlpstweets), which is used regularly to keep you informed about school news and events. Please follow this account to keep 'in the loop' and if you would like to learn more about Twitter and/or about parental restrictions on iPads, please come along to our information session on Wednesday 18th February at 6:30pm.

**Circle Time**  
Students in 1/2 will participate in weekly Circle Time sessions. These sessions aim to develop students' social interaction, emotional vocabulary, problem solving and conflict resolution skills. There are agreements in the
circle such as the right to pass, speaking only with the talking stick, attentive listening and sitting at the same level to demonstrate that everyone is equal. Please speak regularly with your child about what was discussed during Circle Time each week.

If you have any questions big or small, please don’t hesitate to drop in and see us or send us an email.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and rewarding Term 1 - we are all having a ball already!

Kind Regards,
Lee, Sarah, Tammi, Amy, Leisha, Paul and Clare.

**SPECIALIST CURRICULUM**

**Year 1/2 Term 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>1/2O</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>1/2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td>1/2R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2O</td>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>1/2O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>1/2O</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the specialist timetable may change throughout the year due to whole school timetable changes and updates.