Welcome to 1M. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you throughout the year.

My aim is:

1. To provide a stimulating classroom environment that permits all children to feel secure, happy and accepted.
2. To develop a love of learning and to establish a firm foundation on which future learning can be built.
3. To develop, to the full, the potential of every child in my care.

Class Organisation and General Routines

KEY LEARNING AREAS
We work towards children achieving outcomes in the 'Six Key Learning Areas'. We program work according to these outcomes, teach to these outcomes and report your child’s progress to you in terms of these outcomes.

For a comprehensive list of outcomes for all Key Learning Areas, go to the following Board of Studies (BOS) website:

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Syllabus documents have been written in terms of stages. Stage One covers children in Years One and Two and therefore the children in Year 1 will be working towards achieving Stage One outcomes.

ENGLISH

With the full implementation of the NSW Syllabus for English K-6 this year, the focus in classroom teaching reaches beyond learning about and learning how to use English. Through the new syllabus we are planning, teaching and reviewing strategies that encourage our students to build upon their learning to also think imaginatively and creatively; express themselves; and reflect upon their own learning.

READING

Students are exposed to a balanced reading program which includes shared/modelled, guided and independent reading components.

In modelled/shared reading, I demonstrate reading strategies by sharing the reading process with students.

In guided reading, the children have been grouped according to their reading ability. Students will be reading and learning about texts at their appropriate level. Students are carefully matched to text at their instructional reading level and level of comprehension. This year all of our staff will be undertaking in-depth professional learning on comprehension strategies to strengthen our students’ learning. As part of the ‘Focus On Reading’ program, the school will also continue to offer parental information workshops.

In independent reading, I give the students the opportunity to read, explore and respond to text independently, at their appropriate reading level.

Home Reading is an important component of the reading program and I encourage all students to read every night, to an adult, if possible. Children should try to remember to change their Home Reader as soon as they have finished reading it. Home Reading should be regarded as practice only. It should be easy enough that the children can read the book independently. This year we have included a range of Higher Order Questions on the Home Reading record to assist you and your child in leading a discussion that can add greater depth and understanding to what has been read.

WRITING

Before every writing session, children are exposed to a modelled/shared writing experience where emphasis is placed on the purpose of writing. Our students will read and view a wide range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. Knowledge of text structures, context, grammar and punctuation is explicitly taught to enable our students to apply these skills to create their own writing. Text structures to be taught this year will be: Recounts; Procedures; Narratives; Descriptions; Information Reports; Expositions; Explanations; Discussions.
SPELLING
Children have been assessed using placement tests as well as from recording spelling mastery from their independent writing. Students will be given spelling lists according to their spelling level. The lists contain a combination of words that support learning of targeted phonemes, phonics and high frequency words. ‘Family’ words, theme words and a spelling rule will be studied each week as a whole class. Spelling activities will also include activities using the student’s ‘My Desktop Dictionary’, putting words in sentences, finding small words in words, alphabetical order, rhyming words, and syllables.

Children will be tested on their words every Friday.

HANDWRITING
Two formal handwriting lessons are given each week where children practise correct posture, pencil grip and letter formation. Textbook – Handwriting for New South Wales 1.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING
Children will have one news day per week in Term 1 and also participate in class discussions. Children will be asked to give simple, prepared speeches in Terms 2 & 3 and will practise impromptu speeches. There is a Public Speaking Competition which runs throughout in Semester 2. The importance of listening when others are speaking is continually emphasised.

MATHEMATICS
Maths concentrates on practical ‘hands-on’ experiences to develop basic understanding in Number, Patterns and Algebra, Measurement and Data and Space and Geometry. ‘Count Me in Too’ activities will be incorporated as well as the learning of selected ‘Times Tables’.

Children in Year 1 have been placed into Maths groups for Number and Patterns and Algebra, to cater for the different levels of ability. These groups are based on the strategies your child is using to solve problems.

Supplementary activities for extension or remediation will be incorporated throughout the year.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)
HSIE is taught using the enquiry approach and covers personal, social and environmental areas. This will be taught by Mr M. Wylie.

Units of work to be covered:
- Why Do We Need Transport?
- How Does Our Community Meet Our Needs

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
The children are given the opportunity to learn about the world through their own discoveries from first hand experiences. This will be taught by Mr M. Wylie.

Units of work to be covered:
- Products and Services
- Where Does Water Come From

Children will visit the computer room every week as well as use the computer in our room. A variety of English and Maths programs are available along with the opportunity for the children to further develop their general computer and word processing skills.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT / HEALTH / P.E.
The children will be taught skills to develop fundamental movement skills and good nutrition. The Premiers Sporting Challenge will be completed in school and complements the above program. Through physical activity, we aim to develop the skills of body movement and balance, hand eye co-ordination and to improve fitness levels. These activities also help to develop the interpersonal skills of co-operation, sharing, teamwork and consideration.
The children are involved in K-2 sport on Fridays, which covers a wide range of activities throughout the year. The children will also complete lessons in Road Safety, Peer Support, Child Protection and Drug Education.

CREATIVE ARTS

In this area, we aim to allow children to develop artistic expression, skills and knowledge, in Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Drama.

The children will learn songs for Assembly and other special occasions. In class, as well as singing, music sessions will involve rhythm, beat, pitch and the use of percussion instruments.

The children will use a variety of media, tools and techniques to create work in Visual Arts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

STRUCTURE OF THE CLASSES
The Year 1 classes for 2014 are; 1CJ (Mrs L. Cattley & Mrs J. Jessup), 1L (Miss Lovell); 1M (Mrs G. McLachlan & Mrs C. McCarthy) and K/1T (Mrs T. Mar). In forming classes this year, teachers considered the childrens' range of maturity, ability levels and social and learning needs. 1M is a parallel class with 22 children (10 girls and 12 boys).

CLASS RULES
1. Always listen carefully to others
2. Work quietly and let others do their work
3. Put your hand up if you have something to say
4. Follow directions carefully
5. Be kind with your words and actions
6. Look after school and personal property
7. Work and play safely

SPECIAL TIMES AND LINKS WITH OTHER CLASSES

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<td>Maths groups</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<td>Learning Support Teacher’s Group Maths groups Scripture</td>
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OTHER TEACHERS WORKING WITH 1M IN 2014:

Mrs Crouch   (Learning Support Teacher’s Group)  Mrs G. Anderson   (ESL teacher)
Mr M. Wylie  (RFF: HSIE and Science; Measurement)  Dr McKirdy  (Library)

HOMEWORK

Homework includes completing spelling activities on the weekly Spelling sheet, completing Mathematics activities from the Number Log and the computer program ‘Mathletics’; as well as Home Reading. Homework is given out every Monday and should be returned on Friday. Children should only be spending 20 minutes a night on homework, including reading. If children are unable to do their homework in a particular week due to other commitments, please write a brief note on their Spelling sheet. Also, if children are having any problems with the homework, please let me know ASAP.
MEETING WITH TEACHERS / NOTES
If you need to see me at any time, please make an appointment at the office and I will make every effort to see you at a suitable time.

All notes and money should be placed in the note basket in the room. It would be extremely helpful if all absent notes and money be returned as promptly as possible.

PARENT HELP PROGRAM
The Parent Help Program runs throughout Terms 2 and 3. I look forward to working with the parents who have the time to help in the classroom and/or with ‘one to one’ reading. Details will be provided at a later date. I am also hoping to have some parents volunteer to assist with checking out and returning Home Reading books. If you are available to help for a short while in the morning or afternoon, please let me know. Please be mindful that volunteers in public schools need to have completed the ‘Working with Children’ compliance training. This can be completed at your local RTA office.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Tissues
- Pump soap

I look forward to a happy, productive and successful year with 1M. I believe we are in a partnership with the same goals for the children. Your interest and support in all areas throughout the year will greatly benefit the children and is very much appreciated.

Thank you
Mrs G. McLachlan & Mrs C. McCarthy