Welcome back to our final term for the year. It is amazing to think that your child has almost completed kindergarten or year one of primary school. They are doing brilliant and amazing work, you should be very proud!

Themes
This term we are studying HSIE and we will be focusing on Celebrations around the world. I have lots of exciting festivals that we will be discovering more about. Some of them will involve cooking special foods associated with the country, with most of them involving exciting craft activities. It is going to be lots of fun and will help the children to better understand and appreciate other cultures in our world. We will be covering such traditional customs as Pancake day (or Shrove Tuesday), Diwali, Italian Festivale, Mexican piñata and eventually celebrate Christmas!

Literacy.
All of the children are working really hard on their literacy this year. Everyone’s spelling is improving, as well as their reading and writing. This term we are doing more writing units that will be focusing around a specific theme. This week we are looking at Pirates. There is lots of rich and exciting story writing coming from our literacy sessions which is amazing to see in children so young! All of the students are progressing rapidly in their reading groups, which is greatly helped by home reading. Please remember to write your child’s reading sessions in your home reading journal, as I keep a record and reward the children as they reach important milestones in their reading. Sight word practise is also vital to improving your child’s reading and spelling, so keep up the great work!

PD Health
This term the students will be learning about basic personal awareness and safety rules. Developed by ‘Bravehearts’ this unit provides opportunities for students to be exposed to and engage in activities that will promote their health, safety and well being. Activities are introduced in a non-threatening way that is aimed at their level of awareness at this age. You will hear a lot about ‘Ditto’, who is a friendly lion assisting the children in keeping safe. We will also be continuing our amazing BEE Program, which promotes the three core rules of our school: Be Safe, Be respectful and Be a learner. All students following these rules will be able to come along to our fantastic Bee party held at the end of the term.
More events this term include...

The Murwillumbah show - Every year our school has an excursion to visit the Murwillumbah Show. We are able to catch a bus to the show grounds at a very low cost. This will be happening on **Friday 1st November**. Remember to bring in your entry forms if you are planning to enter one of the competitions!

**Banora Point Pool party** - Finally, we will be enjoying a fun pool day planned for our end of year break-up party at Banora Point pool. This will happen during the last weeks of term, with a date to be advised soon in our newsletter.

**Talking and listening** - This term as part of our ‘talking and listening’ program everyone will have the opportunity to take home our class bear. Charlie bear can go for a ONE NIGHT sleepover with your child, please write about his adventures in his book and return him to class the next day. Then, your child will be able to share the journal entry and explain how the special event went.

Please note- THIS FRIDAY all of K–2 students will be asked to come to school dressed as a PIRATE to celebrate our theme of pirates this term. The children will enjoy a variety of outdoor activities celebrating pirates!

**Equipment** - I would appreciate it, if everyone could please bring in a glue stick for our busy craft activities in class. We no longer have glue sticks available and our glue pots are very messy! Thankyou.

**HUGE SHORTAGE OF PARENT VOLUNTEERS – HELP!!**

I am eternally grateful for the help I receive in the classroom. It makes a big difference to the learning activities children can undertake. Even if you may not have time to volunteer for regular hours, practicing sight words - you can just offer a short session whenever it is convenient for you. We have reading groups every morning from 9.30-10.30. This is the best time to volunteer your help. If interested, please come and see me. At the moment, we have a huge shortage of volunteers, so any time you can spare would be much appreciated.

Thank you for supporting your child’s education. I look forward to us working together again in this exciting and very busy term four! Should there be any enquiries or problems arise, please don’t hesitate to see me.

You know where I’ll be!

Helen Morlock  K/1M Classroom teacher