Dear Parents,

On Thursday 31st February Wattle Park Primary School and Foundation teachers welcomed 56 new Foundation students. The children are settling into their new environment happily and are learning school routines easily. They are managing the challenge of full school days with enthusiasm and determination. The children are demonstrating confidence in their surroundings and are comfortably dealing with issues such as meeting new friends and trying new activities. In the first days of school Foundation students have had many new experiences including having met their buddy, made new friends, listened to stories and played with the chickens. The major emphasis of our program in Term 1 is to provide the children with a variety of activities and opportunities to develop the attitudes and skills necessary to make a smooth transition into school and to learn and practise various school routines. The Foundation teachers are excitedly planning a wonderful year with these delightful children. Welcome to all the families.

**CURRICULUM INFORMATION:**

**Literacy**
In Literacy this term we will be focusing on the alphabet and common sounds, common sight words, handwriting, shared and guided reading and diary writing. Detailed information on the Literacy program and ideas as to how to support your child with this program will be available shortly in the Foundation Information booklet. The English online interview, which the children complete during the Wednesday interviews, assists us to form Literacy groups which target individual needs.

**Maths**
This term we will be introducing and focusing on the numbers 1 to 10, 2D shapes, Length, Space and Location, and Ordinal Number. The children will be completing a variety of 'hands on' activities in order to support the introduced concepts. The Mathematics online interview, which the children complete during the Wednesday interviews, assists us to plan for individual Mathematical needs.
Integrated Unit
The children are working very hard at developing the social skills of sharing, taking turns and displaying tolerance towards others. Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening are all interlinked in a whole language approach this term. The children are practising effective and considerate listening behaviours and carrying out a variety of instructions. We are enjoying learning new rhymes, listening to stories and having discussions. We will be completing a variety of number and measurement activities which are linked to our focus ‘All about me’. These skills are providing the foundations of good social and learning attitudes and sound work habits for the future.

Developmental Curriculum
In Foundation, our classroom program includes Developmental Curriculum which focuses on the emotional, social, cognitive, language and physical development of each individual child. This approach places the children at the centre of the curriculum and provides experiences and opportunities for them to engage in a more ‘hands-on approach’ to learning. This is achieved through projects and experiences that are of interest to the children and provides opportunities for exploration and enquiry.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Each child must bring a Library bag, Art smock and Green Notice Pouch (purchased from the uniform shop $5) to school. The library bag comes to school weekly and the smock remains at school for the term. The green notice pouch must come to school each day. Please remind your child to put the green pouch in the correct tub each morning ready for notices to be put inside. This really does help to avoid missing notices and important information.

Term 1 and term 4 are Sun smart terms, meaning No Hat, No Play, please ensure that your child has a wide brimmed green school hat. Please ensure all your child’s belongings are named to assist with their return if they are lost. We are asking each family to please bring a box of tissues for use in the classroom.

To support classroom programs, in particular our Developmental Program which requires “construction material”, we ask families to donate a range of household items throughout the year. These include magazines (suitable for children’s browsing), egg cartons, old wrapping papers, birthday and Christmas cards, ice-cream containers and large yoghurt containers. Unfortunately we are unable to accept toilet rolls due to hygiene reasons however glad wrap rolls or the like are great.

We have a number of children at Wattle Park with severe allergies. PLEASE DO NOT SEND your child to school with peanut butter sandwiches and/or whole peanut or nuts/ nut related products. We know that you will support this whole school decision. We have also spoken to the children about not sharing their food with their friends.
Classroom teachers are in the classroom from 8:50am. Children can put their bags away then head outside ready to line up at the 9:00am bell. It is important to remember that on days where a teacher has yard duty before school 8:45am - 9:00am, students must line up outside and their teacher will collect them when the bell rings. Our classroom programs start promptly at 9am and therefore students arriving late to school are a disruption. If you are late, please go to the school office and sign your child in. You will be given a late slip, which your child must give to their classroom teacher.

Whole school assemblies are on Monday afternoons at 3pm in the gymnasium. Please come along and enjoy student music displays, awards and school information. Each week children are given awards in assembly when they have shown outstanding behaviour. These awards reflect our school norms of Care, Value, Respect, Challenge and Encourage.

A reminder of specialist classes.

Art/Miss Chadwick:  
Physical Education/Miss Clusker  
Library/Mrs.Wheatley  
Music/Mrs.Caulfield-Lloyd  
Lote/Mrs.Peszynski

Thank you for your assistance and support,

Drew Baxter, Tracy McPhee Lam and Julie Gledhill                  Gayle Cope
FB                                    FM                                    FG                                   Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

TERM 1
Thursday January 31st                  Term 1 begins at 9.00am
Friday February 8th                    Foundation Welcome BBQ 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday February 6th                School entry interviews.
Wednesday February 13th               School entry interviews.
Wednesday February 20th               School entry interviews.
Wednesday February 27th               School entry interviews.
Monday 11th March                      First full week
Tuesday 19th March                     Chinese Lunch orders (money due Friday 15th)
Thursday 28th March                    End of Term 1 - School finishes at 2.30pm- casual clothes.