Dear St Martin’s families,

Welcome and special greetings to our new students and families. We extend a warm welcome to you all. We also welcome new members of staff to St Martin’s in 2017. To everyone who is returning to St Martin’s, I hope the holidays were a time of renewal. I am very much looking forward to spending this year with the St Martin’s community as Acting Principal of the school. This is my twelfth year in the role of Principal having previously served at St Joseph’s in Tenterfield, NSW and, for the last five years, at St John Vianney’s School, Manly.

The first day and initial week of any school year is always exciting. Yesterday was a very smooth start to the year with the children settling into their new classrooms. The school commences the year with an enrolment of 743 students. Thank you for the way you have prepared your children for the start of the school year. The students look very smart in their uniforms this week so let’s work together to ensure this remains the case all year.

As we commence the new school year, I encourage the establishment of routines now that will optimize your child’s ability to learn. Plenty of sleep, healthy eating, fresh air and arrival at school between 8.15am and
8.30am. I cannot emphasise enough how important being on time at school is in setting up your child for the day.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved in preparing our school’s wonderful facilities for the new year. Our environment impacts how we feel which, in turn, influences our capacity for working and learning. Our aim is to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and respectful interactions between individuals.

During the holiday period a number of staff changes occurred at St Martin’s. Mrs Veronica Tomerini-Smith (Assistant Principal - Religious Education) was appointed as Acting Principal of Star of the Sea School, Cleveland. As a result of Veronica’s appointment, Miss Chloe Adams has stepped into the role of Acting APRE at St Martin’s in Semester One and Miss Amelia Duffy was appointed as the class teacher in Prep G. Important school dates for the 2017 school year can be found on the St Martin’s Parent Portal. We have a number of important events occurring in the next few weeks with the dates listed below. A more extensive newsletter will be published next Wednesday.

Along with the staff of St Martin’s School, I look forward to working very positively with you and your children this year.

Best wishes,

Geoff Sullivan

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

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<th>JAN</th>
<th>Mon 30 - Fri 3</th>
<th>All Preps attend 8.30 – 2.30</th>
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| FEB  | Fri 3         | 9.00am – Opening School Mass |
|      |               | 6.00pm – Prep Welcome Drinks |

| Week 3 | Swimming begins for Years 3, 4C, 4M, 4R (more information next week) |

**TUCKSHOP**

Next week our school tuckshop will once again begin catering student lunches. As the new year begins, we are looking for volunteers to help staff the tuckshop so that we can provide yummy and nutritious meals. Our ‘Carebooking’ system is now operating and we are looking for people to sign up so we can start the year afresh. Please see the instructions below to guide you in signing up. You can help out for a half day or a whole day and any help is appreciated.

We thank you in anticipation of many helpers helping to feed our hungry children. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Lewis at michelle.lewis@bne.catholic.edu.au

**Instructions**

1. Go to the website www.carebookings.com.au
2. Enter the St Martin’s School booking code: 67QDF and click Go.
3. Click on your name or follow the prompts to enter your details.
4. Select a date and time from the roster and click Go.
5. A green highlighted tick will now be showing against the date and time you selected.