

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term One. We hope that you all had an enjoyable break with family and friends. It has been an amazing start to the school year, with all students excited to be back. All classrooms are extremely settled and beginning their learning journey for 2020.

A special welcome to our new Foundation students for 2020 and their families.

This year promises to be a busy and exciting year with the Co-Location of the Echuca Special School.

We hope to open our new buildings in Term Two and the gymnasium later in the year.

I would like to welcome back Leila Campbell from family leave. Leila will be taking PE this year on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Bell Times

This year we have made some slight changes to our bell times to support student learning.

Please see the new bell and eating times below:

8.50am—First bell rings and students move to class

9.00am—Second bell rings to start the school day

11.00am-11.05am—Snack eating time

11.05am—11.30am—Recess

11.30am—End of Recess

1.30pm—Lunch eating time

1.45pm—Start of Lunch recess time

2.15pm—End of Lunch recess time

3.15pm—End of School Day

OHSC

Today we began our Out of Hours School Care program with Schools Out. It was fantastic to see students enrolled this morning.

Supervision Before and After School

As we move back to school it is really important to remind families that students should not arrive at school before 8.30am. If students arrive before 8.30am they will be placed in OSHC and parents will be provided an invoice from the service. The yard is unsupervised until 8.30am. After school students are supervised until 3.30pm. If they have not been picked up by then, they will be waiting in the office where contact will be made with families to organize pick up.

Uniform

It is great to see so many of our students in uniform today. Please ensure that all students have on **navy blue bottoms** when wearing the school polo shirt. If students are not in full school uniform they will be asked to go to the office and will be given the uniform needed from the school to borrow for the day. We appreciate parents/guardians support with this.

Assembly/Newsletter

This year assemblies will take place on a Friday afternoon starting at 2.30pm. This will allow us to celebrate the learning and wellbeing of students at the end of the week. We hope families can join us for assembly during this time.

We are trialing a new newsletter format this year and it will be web based making it easier to read on devices. The first newsletter in this format will be sent out next week.

New Families Afternoon Tea

We would like to invite all new families to join us for afternoon tea next Friday 7th February from 2pm in the Café area. This will give you a chance to meet new families and enjoy a coffee.

WHAT'S COMING UP

2020 FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5th	Prep Rest Day
	School Swimming Sports Gr 3-6
Friday 7th	New families afternoon tea
Tuesday 11th	School Picnic 5pm at ETRS
Wednesday 12th	Prep Rest Day
	3-6 Swimming Carnival
February 17th—19th	Grade 6 Camp
Wednesday 19th	Prep Rest Day
Wednesday 26th	Prep Rest Day

Mobile Phone Policy

From Term 1, 2020 there will be a new mobile phone policy for all government schools. The policy means phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely during the school day.

The aim of this policy is to provide:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.

Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours.

Exceptions to the policy may be applied if certain conditions are met. Exceptions can be granted by the principal, or by a teacher. Exceptions must be documented. Where students bring a mobile phone to school it must be turned off and given directly to the office. Phones will securely stored at the office. This policy relates to all times of the day students are in attendance at school including before and after school.

The new mobile phone policy is available from the office if families would like a copy.

Ambulance Cover

Schools should strongly encourage parents to have up-to-date ambulance cover and should also inform parents that they are responsible for any medical expenses such as ambulance costs incurred if their child is injured or requires an ambulance at school, or whilst participating in a school activity.

School Picnic

The School Picnic will be held on Tuesday 11th February at school commencing at 5pm.

All families are invited to attend and bring their tea and seats. As this is a school function, no alcohol will be permitted.

Lunch Orders

This year Molly's will be supplying students lunch orders on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Information on how to order lunch is attached to this newsletter. We are encouraging families to sign up for online ordering.

We hope that everyone has a great first two days back at school. It is going to be hot tomorrow and we will implement an alternate lunch time if the temperature does hit 35 degrees.

Please ensure your child has a drink bottle and school hat packed.

I look forward to seeing in the school over the coming few days.

Kind regards,

Brea Terris
Principal