The P.I.P.
Parent Information Paper

WELCOME BACK

- Welcome and welcome back to everyone. We have lots of new families this year across our school as well as in Prep. So we would like to welcome you all into our school and hope you enjoy being a part of this wonderful community.

- As you can see our newsletter is changing as is the day you will receive it. From now on, it will come out on Tuesday. We plan to alter the look of it more and how it is available to you. Any suggestions you may have would be most welcome.

- We have received lots of payments from parents already. Thank you to those families. Please make sure that you take advantage of the early bird discount of $20 per child by paying before the end of the month.

- EMA is no longer available to families due to changes made by the previous government, however the school will be supporting those families who received it previously by providing them with $100 credit against school costs. In order to receive this you must produce a valid health care card before 27\textsuperscript{th} February.

- Please make sure you return all the paper work as soon as possible as we need to update all our records.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

As in previous years, we are running our “Building Our Learning Community” program for the next two weeks. We have a range of activities which you will be aware of from the notes you received last Friday, but just to recap.

| Wednesday  | No Preps            |
|           | House Swimming Sports afternoon at Harcourt Pool |
| Thursday  | House activities morning at school     |
|           | Family BBQ from 6-8pm includes Cricket Match (Principal’s XI v Parents) BYO food and drinks |
| Friday    | Harcourt Walk (if the weather is not too hot!)  |
| Monday 9th| Staff Planning Day, Relief Teachers in classrooms |
| Tuesday 10th | Pancake Day—parent helpers welcome! |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5/2 Family BBQ at School 6pm
- 11/2 Trip to Tangled Maze at Creswick
- 12/2 Parent Teacher Information Exchange
- 27/2 School Accounts to be paid to earn early bird discount
- 9/3 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 12/3 Grade 3-6 Cross Country
- 27/3 Last Day Term 1
EVERY DAY COUNTS

Why It’s Important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting it Early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What We Can Do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

Day off – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts. ”

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

GASTRO ALERT.....

Quick reminder that we have a 48 hour gastro policy. If your child has had vomiting or diarrhoea, then they are not accepted back at school until 48 hours AFTER the last “event”.

This policy has helped to stem the spread of these horrible bugs, so it is important for parents to remember.