



I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. This is just a very quick newsletter for parents with some information that you need to be mindful of for the first week back. School newsletters will again be fortnightly and in 2017 will be **sent via email on odd weeks of the term**. There will be a full newsletter this Friday, February 3rd and then every odd week Friday from then.

Students arriving before 8:30am

Students should not be arriving at school before 8:30am unless they are participating in an organised school activity. OSHClub will be providing before and after school care for students starting this term if you require this service. Staff are not required to supervise students before 8:30am. If students are at school with their parents before class doors open at 8:30am they need to be sitting with their parents out the front of their classroom. They are not to be running through the school or on the school play equipment.

Birthday cakes, lollies etc. at school

As outlined in the last email we will not be having students birthdays 'celebrated' at school. Please do not send in any cakes, lollies, cupcakes, ice-creams or the like as they will not be given out and will be sent home at the end of the day. Below is an outline of reasons why:

- Parents have the right to know what their child is eating at school. Many parents have certain foods they do not wish their child to eat for many different reasons.
- Parents may feel pressured to provide these foods for their child at school which they may not wish to do. I do not expect parents to be put into this position.
- There are students that have allergies or reactions to certain foods or additives. If these foods are given out to students at school, our staff and the school would be held responsible for any consequences. I will not have staff or student at the school put into this position.

- There are students that can have an anaphylactic reaction to certain foods. Staff cannot control what is in some food but would be held accountable if a student had an adverse reaction. Again, I will not have staff or students at the school put into this position.
- There are students that must take certain medications that different foods or additives could interfere with. This may lead to behavioural disruptions in the classroom or around the school. Again, I will not have staff or students at the school put into this position.
- The Department of Education has a Healthy Food and Drink policy that Principals **must** follow and put in place. Allowing the bringing in of party foods, cakes, ice-cream etc. contravenes this policy. I will not place myself in a position where I break Department policy.

Starting classes

It is important that we get into a normal school routine as quickly as possible. If you wish to settle your child, especially the younger students, it is done as quickly and as with little fuss as possible. Classrooms will open their doors at 8:30am (Kindy 8:40am) for students to enter. When the siren goes at 8:50am we request that parents leave so teachers can start the day on time. If you require to speak to your child's teacher about something important please make an appointment for a later date when they can give you their undivided attention, not while they are settling students on their first day.

Year 1 – 2 swimming lessons

A note for these will be sent out in Week 1 as they will occur during weeks 3 and 4. Please return the forms and money required as quickly as possible.

George Craig
Principal