Dear Parent/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2015 school year. We hope you had a happy and relaxed holiday and are ready for a fantastic new year of school. We are looking forward to working closely with you and your child throughout the year.

During the first few weeks of school our program will focus on Working Cooperatively, Responsibilities, Routines and the School Values of Care, Honesty, Effort, Respect, Resilience and You. We will continue to revisit these areas throughout the year.

We want Room 13.8 to be a calm and happy place where everyone is kind and show respect to others. Children will come to school every day on time, persevere and try their best to achieve their goals. They will keep their classroom and school tidy and will look after equipment and share it sensibly. They will welcome new pupils and visitors with a smile and follow the school rules at all times.

Please help your child to follow daily school/classroom routines by arriving at school on time. We remind you that children are not to be in the yard unsupervised before 8:30am. When the classroom teacher is in the room, the children place their bags in lockers, put lunch orders in the box provided, put chairs down, put Green Folders on their work-place, change their readers and ensure they have everything on their work table to start the day smoothly. They may go and play if time permits or engage in a quiet activity before the bell rings at 8:50am.

Swimming lessons commence weeks 2 and three. More information will follow shortly regarding swimming.

Children have a Communication Book to assist with communication between the home and the school. We’ll use this book to send messages and inform you of up-coming events. Please ask your child when they return home if they have any notes in their Communication Book. We ask that you initial any notes placed in the Communication Book, so we know they have been sighted.

Please use this book for notes regarding absences, appointments and other information. You may wish to use a sealed envelope for confidential messages. Please let your child know when there is a message in the book so it can be placed on the teacher’s desk or handed promptly to us on arriving at school in the morning. The Communication Book is to be kept in your child’s Green Reader Bag.

Children will continue to use their Green Reader Bag for sending home notices and holding their Communication book, Homework books and Reading books. It is also a great place for your child to put a small wallet containing money for canteen and school lunch orders. A money box is provided in the classroom to store spending money for children who prefer this alternative. During the day the children’s’ Green Bags are kept in a box within the classroom for easy access. If your child’s bag is in poor condition you are able to purchase a new one from the office.

There will be a number of school forms and consent notices to be filled in, signed and returned throughout the year. A box is provided in the classroom for returned notices. School fees and
money go to the finance window at the front office. Please enclose money in a sealed envelope, which is clearly labelled with the student's name, the amount, purpose/event and room number.

You can assist us to maintain accurate records of attendance and absenteeism by:

- Using your child's Communication Book to inform us of your child's absence. If your child is away for the day due to family reasons or holidays (not illness), you are required to fill in a form available at Reception.
- Making a phone call to the school in the morning
- Seeing us personally in the morning or after school
- Providing a medical certificate by your doctor.

As part of our Listening/Speaking program in English the children will prepare a speech once a fortnight on a given topic. Children will have an oral language book. This will be sent home on the first day. Your child's day and his/her list of topics will be sent home this week. Children can use their oral language book to plan and write their talks. Children will be assessed on each talk and feedback forms will be stuck into their books for them to bring home.

Each child needs to wear a hat during play-time from 31 August until 31 May. Children without a hat receive restricted play in shaded areas provided in the yard.

The children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to keep on their work table. Having water on hand assists with their learning and concentration. (No frozen drinks - they leak onto the table: No cordial - it makes a sticky mess: a pop top bottle is best - it stops spills.) Please ensure that your child's bottle is clearly named.

Children can bring fresh/dried fruit or vegetables for Snack Time each day. Any cut fruit or vegetable needs to be placed in a sealed bag or named container. No biscuits, bars, cakes or chips!

We have a few children in the school with allergies to certain foods, such as peanuts and peanut paste. Our school is a Nut Aware School, which seeks to help children with nut allergies. No nuts or peanut paste in the classroom please!

Any prescribed medication must be:

- Clearly labelled with the child's name and instructions for use
- Stored in the package dispensed from the chemist

All medications will be kept in the Front Office for easy access.

Each family is encouraged to donate a box of tissues for use in our classroom.

Please remember there will be no canteen this year due to lack of volunteers. However on days when the temperature reaches 30 degrees or higher, our S.S.Os or teachers will sell iceblocks.

Library Borrowing is on Monday. Could children please bring a bag to help them store and carry books. It also stops books from getting damaged in the school bag.

Homework will be given weekly. More information will come home shortly about this.
DAIRY DATES TERM 1

Acquaintance Night: R-2 will be in the evening of Week 3, Feb 10th

Sports Day: A twilight sports day in week 7 Friday March 13th starting about 1 p.m.

Banking: Tuesday

Assembly: School assemblies are now fortnightly Friday even weeks at 2:30 pm

Harmony Day: Friday 20th March

Parent Teacher Interviews: Week 9 March 23-26th

Please do not hesitate to visit us or discuss any matters as they arise, either personally or via notes in the Communication Book.

Kindest Regards,

Tina Bridgland and Jane Finlayson