

Parent Bulletin

Welcome Back to 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what promises to be another very exciting year at Essex Heights PS. I trust everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing holiday with family and friends.

We welcome new staff to the teaching team at Essex Heights PS; Nikki Olsen – 2O, Nicole Batten – 2B and Chris Cavill – 3C. It is also great to welcome back Felicity O’Flynn (0.4) Literacy Support and Lauren Braithwaite -5/6B.

We also have a number of new children across the school in various classes and it was great to be able to welcome them at our Assembly this morning. A special greeting to all the new children and their families who have started their association with Essex Heights - we are delighted that you have joined our school community. We hope your time with us will be enjoyable, productive and worthwhile. If you have been at the school for some time and see a new face in the yard, please make everyone feel welcome, extend a hand of friendship and try to ensure all in our community feel included in all aspects of school life.

Once again we will begin the year with our **Starting Up – Starting Out** program. The purpose of this program is to engage students in a range of activities that help build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, and to establish clear expectations for the 2016 school year. This is a crucial part of the curriculum as it paves the path for a happy and successful year of learning for all students. We know that relationships are at the core of all learning. Having spent the time to form a relationship based on trust and respect and getting to know each other beyond the roles of ‘teacher’ and ‘student’ (interests, family members, friends, experiences, hopes, fears etc), we are able to truly begin personalizing the learning experience for the children we teach.



We are also looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework activities given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of their school life

Hats:

A reminder that, in accordance with our Sun Smart Policy, the children are required to wear hats throughout Term 1. These should be in the school uniform dark green, legionnaire style or wide brimmed for maximum sun protection. I would ask parents to ensure that children are bringing the appropriate headwear to school each day.



School Newsletter - 'Contact':

As has been the case in recent times, our school newsletter **Contact** will only be available in electronic form. This will be included in an email to families on Thursday each week, and is also available on the school website.

www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au

Please remember that the Essex Heights PS website has a great deal of information for parents and families, in addition to the newsletter.

School Bank – Change of Day: Now Monday, beginning February 1st. No Banking on Friday

Parent/Teacher Discussions: February 15th & 16th (Booking Details published shortly)

Pupil Free Days for 2016 – February 29th, May 30th & July 29th

See you around the school in 2016,

Andrew Crossett
Principal