Term 1 Week 1 – Week Ending 29th January 2016

Welcome back!
Welcome back to all students, staff and parents to what is sure to be another exciting and very busy school year at Holmwood PS! I trust that everyone had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. We had 58 happy, enthusiastic and excited students return to school this week and 2016 is shaping up to be another fantastic year!

I would like to say a very special welcome to our new Kindergarten students – Mia, Ruby, Fiona, Angel, Anabelle, Jack B, Jack L, Riley and Daniel as well as new students Bethany Anthony and the Cameron family – James and Hayley. We are delighted to have our new families join the HPS school community!

Staffing – 2016
We are very excited to have again increased our student numbers for 2016. Similar to last year, the Department of Education has allocated our school three full-time teaching positions – this is based on total student numbers. This year we have decided to utilise a significant portion of our RAM funding to staff a fourth class for 3 days per week in order to keep our numbers in each class down and provide for more individualised learning. The class structure for 2016 will be a Kindergarten class, a Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) class, a Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) class and a Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) class.

Ms Heidi Edgerton will move up to Stage 3 this year. After many years on K/1 Ms Edgerton is excited to teach the ‘big kids’ and has lots of fantastic units planned for Term 1.

Mrs Fiona Skene will continue to teach Stage 2 and is looking forward to working with her students again this year.

We are very excited to welcome Mrs Amylee Knight to the HPS team and know that she will bring lots of great ideas and expertise to the Stage 1 classroom. Mrs Knight will teach Year 1 and 2 students on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, the Stage 1 class will join with the Kindergarten class and will be taught by me. We will be having Theme Days every Thursday which will incorporate all learning areas (English, Maths, Art, etc) and be lots of fun!

I will be teaching the Kindergarten class and am looking forward to welcoming lots of new faces to Holmwood Public School!

Ms Cheri Mayo will continue to work as our School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) and will be working Mondays to Fridays.

Mrs Deirdre Kiely will resume the Library/RFF teaching role and will be taking Stage 2 and 3 for Library on Thursdays and the Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 students on Fridays while I have my Principal Administration day.

Mrs Joy Webster returns in her role as our Learning Support teacher and will be at school every Tuesday.

Our Office will be attended every day with Mrs Anthea Hubbard working every second Monday and every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Julie Bayl working every Thursday and every second Monday.

Class teachers will again take on a specialist KLA teaching role in 2016. This means that all children K-6 will be taught by all teachers in one subject. These are as follows:

Science - Ms Edgerton
PD/Health – Mrs Skene
HSIE – Mrs Lewis and Mrs Knight
We are all looking forward to teaching all students K-6 again in 2016.

School Improvements
If you drove past the school during the holidays you will have noticed the work that has been done! We now have new widened concrete paths to all buildings in our school to enable disabled access, with the exception of the path to the Stage 3 classroom. This will be completed during the school term. A huge thanks to our GA Dave Kiss. Dave has spent many hours during the school holidays overseeing much of the building work going on in the school and has been diligently watering our grounds so that they are beautifully lush and green for when the children returned this week.

Over the holidays the teachers have been busy moving furniture and setting up new classrooms. The old multi-purpose room is now the new Kindergarten classroom and a new interactive whiteboard has been installed ready for the Kinder class to use next week!

Bec has also been busy during the last week of the holidays giving the school a thorough clean and freshen up and it was lovely to walk into our shiny, spotless classrooms this week!

Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival
This year’s Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 12th February, with the alternate date (in case of bad weather) being Monday 15th February. This year Rye Park PS will be running the carnival and it will be held at Boorowa pool. It is expected that all children K-6 will attend the carnival. Please note that parents will be required to transport their children to and from Boorowa Pool. We will have the large Holmwood PS shade tent set up for families to sit under and cheer on our students as they compete. There will be events and activities for children of all swimming abilities, including plenty of games for our non-swimmers. Please find a permission note for the Carnival attached to this week’s newsletter.

School Newsletters
Please ensure you check your child’s backpack for the clear plastic Newsletter folders every Thursday – these need to be returned to the school office (preferably by the following Monday) with any permission notes and payments enclosed. Newsletter Folders will go home with the eldest child in each family. If your child is away and misses receiving their weekly newsletter, please check the Holmwood PS Website – all Newsletters are uploaded weekly.

Class Newsletters
Ms Edgerton, Mrs Skene, Mrs Knight and I have written our own Class Newsletter for this week, which you will find in your Newsletter Folder today. These detail some of the essential information specific to your child’s classroom. Please take the time to read these and if you have any concerns or questions, either bring them to the Parent/Teacher Information Session or speak with Heidi, Fiona, Amylee or myself.

Library
Could parents please ensure their child/children have a Library Bag for borrowing. Library day for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 will be every Thursday with Mrs Kiely. K/1/2 will have Library on Fridays.

School Fees
Voluntary School Fees are an essential source of funds for our school. School fees directly cover the costs of student Text Books (Maths, and Handwriting) which the school purchases at the beginning of the year so that we are ready to go from Day 1. As you can appreciate, this is a substantial outlay (around $2,000), which we need to recoup as soon as possible.

The cost of school fees is $35 per child for the year.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could arrange for school fees to be paid to the Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Best Start
This week our new Kindergarten students will have a letter in their Newsletter Folders outlining the Best Start Assessments. These are given to all Kindergarten
students in the first few weeks of school and give us valuable information on the current literacy and Numeracy skills our Kinder students possess, so that appropriate learning activities can be tailored to their needs. I will be administering these Assessments next **Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd February**. Parents will receive a follow up letter once the data has been collated. If you have any concerns regarding Best Start Assessments, please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

**“Fruit Break”**

Each day we have a short 5 minute break during our morning English sessions for Fruit Break. “Fruit Break” is a set break to eat fruit (or salad vegetables) in the classroom. Students “re-fuel” with fruit or vegetables during the morning - assisting physical and mental performance and concentration. Food suitable for Fruit Break would include fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit, or fruit in snack packs (no juice, yoghurt or roll-ups). Children will eat their fruit at their desks, before continuing on with their morning lessons. As this is a short break, could parents please ensure that if their child has fruit that needs to be peeled or cut up, that this is done at home. Your support of this is appreciated.

**Water Bottles & Hats**

Due to the hot weather in Term 1, I would encourage all children to bring in a water bottle to sit on their desk during class. An ice brick is also recommended to put in your child’s lunch boxes particularly during the warmer months. All children need to wear their school hats every day as we will be strictly enforcing our school’s ‘No Hat, Play In The Shade’ policy.

**Nut Allergies**

We kindly ask parents NOT to send any nut products to school, due to the severe anaphylactic shock that some of our students may experience. Your assistance with this is vital for their safety. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Staff.

**Student Emergency Contacts**

Attached to this Newsletter is a Student Emergency Contact Sheet. Could all parents please complete these details as soon as possible, and return to the Office. It is extremely important that we have current, up-to-date contact details about your child. Thank you.

**Media Permission Notes**

Also attached to the newsletter is a Media Permission Note. Could these be returned to the school as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Student Computer and Internet User Agreement**

Attached to this week’s Newsletter is a Student Computer and Internet User Agreement which must be read, signed and returned to school by both STUDENT and PARENT. Students must sign their Agreements individually which is why you may have several sheets if you have more than one child attending HPS.

**Contacting the School**

If parents need to contact the School during school hours when the office is unattended, please phone and leave a message. Messages will be checked during the day by a Staff member. I will not have a phone in the classroom when I am teaching as this is extremely disruptive to the children’s learning. I also cannot check emails during the school day, so for urgent matters (e.g after school pick-up arrangements), please ensure you leave a voice message on the answering machine. Thank you.

**School Website**

Be sure to check out our school website!

http://www.holmwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Our weekly Newsletters are uploaded each week and our photo gallery is always great to have a click through!

**Going Home Arrangements**

Just a reminder that if your child has a change to their normal going home arrangements, the school needs to be notified. This can be via a note from home or a phone call. Without parent’s consent, Staff cannot allow students to alter their normal arrangements. Your assistance with this is appreciated.
School Photos

Cliff Dykes Photography will be taking School Photos on Tuesday 9th February. An order form will be sent home on Monday 1st February. Please note all orders and payments are due on Photo Day. If you have any questions or concerns regarding school photos, please contact Cliff Dykes directly on 6342 3070.

Canteen

We are very fortunate again this year, to have the services of Samantha Boatwood as our Canteen Manager. Sam will run canteen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first day for Canteen in 2016 will be Monday 15th February.

If your child is ordering recess or lunch from the Canteen there are a few things to remember;
1. Please write your child’s name and class clearly on the paper bag.
2. Please use a separate bag for recess and lunch orders.
3. Please do not “order” iceblocks. These will be sold during lunch time and students will need to pay for these themselves.
4. Students need to put their lunch orders in the lunch boxes provided during morning assembly.
We thank Sam for her continued support of our school!

Calendar

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<th>Term 1 Week 2</th>
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<td>Mon 1st Feb</td>
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<td>All emergency contact information</td>
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<td>and other notes due to school please.</td>
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<td>Tues 2nd Feb</td>
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<td>Best Start Testing for new Kinder students</td>
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<td>Wed 3rd Feb</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Information Night @ School</td>
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<td>5:30-7:30pm. Best Start Testing for new</td>
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<td>Kinder students (Mrs Webster - Kinder)</td>
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<th>Term 1 Week 3</th>
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<td>Tues 9th Feb</td>
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<td>School Photos!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12th Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cowra Small Schools Swimming Carnival –</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boorowa Pool</td>
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<td>Sun 14th Feb</td>
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<td>Valentine’s Day!</td>
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<th>Term 1 Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15th Feb</td>
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<td>Alternate date for Swimming Carnival</td>
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News from Mrs Kiely

It is exciting to be back at school and to be welcomed by refreshed, friendly and happy children. The first day is always really special as we share our holiday happenings and easily settle back into our familiar routines and commence new learning units.

This year there will be three classes for Library, PE and Sport - K/1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. Each child will be required to bring a Library Bag next week to commence library borrowing and the book must be returned the following week please. We are aiming for 100% borrowing and return records for each class! Reading forms the basis for learning which is a lifelong journey, and enjoyable when the skills are developed at a young age with school and home support. Library Days are - Thursday for Years 3-6 and Friday for K-2. If K-2 would like to return their books on Thursday it would greatly appreciated in preparation for Friday borrowing.

Each child will need to wear joggers for PE/Sport to provide the necessary flexibility needed for safety and full participation. Children will also need a water bottle, hat and sunscreen please, to be sun safe. PE will be on Thursdays for Year 3-6 and K-2 will have PE on Fridays. All classes will have Sport on Friday and during the hotter months this will be held during the cooler parts of the day.

Early in Term 1 a new Student Council Committee will be elected for the term and their major event is our ever popular Swimathon, to be held at the end of March. Our 2016 Sports Monitors and Library Monitors are very enthusiastic and quickly learning how to perform the roles and responsibilities of these tasks.

Thank you for your wonderful support and I look forward to a very exciting 2016.
Mrs Deirdre Kiely
RFF/Library Teacher

Attachments

- Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival Permission note
- Mrs Lewis’s Kindergarten Class Newsletter
- Mrs Knight’s Year 1/2 Class Newsletter
- Mrs Skene’s Year 3/4 Class Newsletter
- Ms Edgerton’s Year 5/6 Class Newsletter
- Parent Information Evening Note-RSVP please!
- Student Emergency Contact Details Form
- Media Consent Form
- Student Computer and Internet User Agreement notes
- Best Start Information Note (Kinder only)