A Great Start to 2016!
What a fantastic first week of school we have had! Our new students are settling in extremely well to HPS life and it is wonderful to see such enthusiastic learners in the classrooms and happy and helpful children in our playground! Our Kindergarten students are all settled in to their new classroom and it is like they have been at school for months instead of just a week! Thank you to all the HPS parents who ensured that their children’s school uniforms, book and stationery supplies were organised, covered and fully stocked, ready for a big Term of learning!

School Improvements
This week the school has seen a steady stream of workers coming and going as our major building works continue. The final concrete paths are in the process of being poured and Stage 1 students will be able to use their bag area next week. The Kinder room received a new Smartboard on Wednesday afternoon and we are very excited about using this new technology.

Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival
This year’s Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held NEXT 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 ensure permission notes are returned before next Friday.

Parent/Teacher Information Evening
Mrs Knight, Mrs Skene, Ms Edgerton and I would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who turned up last night to our Parent/Teacher Information Evening. We greatly value our home-school partnerships and are grateful to have so many interested and supportive parents! If you have any concerns or questions about any aspect of your child’s learning, please ring the school and arrange an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher. Copies of any handouts from the information night can be sent home at parent’s request.

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 were assessed in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy using the Best Start Program. Once all the results are collated, parents will receive a letter from the school informing them of their child’s strengths and areas that they may be able to assist them with at home. The data gained from the Best Start Assessments enables us to find out what prior knowledge and skills
students have before they enter school, so that we are best able to plan for their future learning needs. If you have any questions about your child’s Best Start Assessments, please call the school to speak with Mrs Lewis.

**Paint Shirts**
All students K-6 are asked to have a paint shirt for art activities this year. All paint shirts were sent home at the end of 2015 for washing so at the moment we have none. An oversized shirt works best as it covers school shirts AND shorts/skorts and keeps everything protected. Paint shirts need to have your child’s name clearly written on the collar and are to be handed in to class teachers. Your assistance with this is appreciated.

**Book Club**
Attached to this week’s newsletter is this month’s Book Club catalogue from Scholastic. All orders are due with payment to the office by Wednesday 17th February.

**Uniforms**
We have received our latest batch of new school uniforms and school hats ready for pick up and purchase! We also have a large amount of second hand uniforms in for sale. Items from the clothing pool are available for just $2.00. Please see Anthea in the office for all your uniform supplies.

**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 Council**
Student Council elections were held this week. This will be a very busy term for them with the organisation of our major fundraiser for the year, our Annual Swimathon, to be held Thursday, 24th March. The Student Council Committee for Term 1 are

- **President** - Harry Beaumont
- **Vice President** - Thomas Seears
- **Secretary** - Annaliese Cameron
- **Vice President** - William Skinner
- **Treasurer** - Akiko Beatty
- **Vice Treasurer** - Matthew Russell

**School Photos**
Cliff Dykes Photography will be taking School Photos NEXT **Tuesday 9th February**. Please ensure students are wearing full summer uniform (red shirts, black shorts/skorts). All students received their order forms on Monday. 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**
The first day for Canteen in 2016 will be **Monday 21st March** and will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from then on. We wish Samantha a speedy recovery and look forward to her return.

**Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 3</th>
<th>Term 1 Week 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 8th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff Anaphylaxis Training 3pm at School</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 9th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Photos!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 12th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cowra Small Schools Swimming Carnival – Boorowa Pool</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun 14th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Valentine’s Day! ❤️</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 15th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alternate date for Swimming Carnival</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 17th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Book Club orders with payment due Bus Safety Talks with Cowra Bus and NRMA – Kinder 9:30-10am; Year 1, 2, 3 – 10 – 10:30 am; Year 4, 5, 6-10:30-11:00am.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fri 19th Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cowra PSSA District Swimming Carnival - Cowra</strong></td>
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## Term 1 Week 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Mrs Lewis and Ms Edgerton – STEM Conference in Sydney; Mrs Webster (Kinder), Mrs Kiely (Stage 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24th Feb</td>
<td>Mrs Lewis and Ms Edgerton – STEM Conference in Sydney; Mrs Webster (Kinder), Mrs Kiely (Stage 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 25th Feb</td>
<td>Mrs Lewis – Principal’s Meeting – Orange (Mrs Knight K/1/2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26th Feb</td>
<td>Scripture Swimming for Sport K-6</td>
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### Kindergarten Teacher

**Attachments**
- Scholastic Book Club Catalogue
- Canteen Menu - Small Schools Swimming Carnival

### Kinder News

What a great first week of school in the Kinder classroom! All students have settled into school routines like ducks to water and we are already well on the way to learning our first three sounds in our Jolly Phonics lessons – “s”, “a” and “t”! Thank you to all Kinder parents for ensuring our Jolly Phonics Sounds Books are returned to school every day!

In Maths this week we have learned how to count, write and recognise our numbers to 3 and have enjoyed completing lots of fun craft activities to support our number learning. We have loved joining the Stage 1 children in the afternoons for HSIE, Science and PD/Health and are looking forward to our first “Under the Sea” Theme Day on Thursday.

Pictured are the Kinder class and Mrs Lewis with their special hats they made after reading the book “Mrs Honey’s Hat” last Friday.

With our new Smartboard installed on Wednesday afternoon we are super excited about using this in our daily learning! Don’t forget Homework books are due back to school tomorrow!

Kind Regards,
Mrs Jenny Lewis
Kindergarten Teacher

### Stage 1 News

Wow! The term is already a week old. The students have settled in beautifully to the Stage 1 class and they have already developed great working skills.

Year 1 and 2 have started Spelling homework this week. Spelling is based on the Reading Eggs Program. The students also participate in the Reading Eggs interactive web based site. We are all ready to have a ‘crack’ at this starting next week! Home Readers will also start next week. If your child has not already brought in a Home Reader bag or large pencil case, please have one ready for Monday. Home readers will be changed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

L3 Rotations have also started. I am still setting up groups so all students have the best chance of success and achievement. In Mathematics, we have been looking at place value and whole numbers. The children are thoroughly enjoying the game, “Buzz Off, Please!”

I am looking forward to a happy, productive year with the Stage 1 students.
Mrs Amylee Knight
Stage 1 Teacher

### Stage 2 News

What a terrific start to 2016 we have had in the 3/4 classroom. Everyone has settled in beautifully and I can notice the maturity that everyone is showing now we are in Year 3 and Year 4. All students are enthusiastic and excited about our year of learning together. We ALL love our beautiful faces on our Welcome to the 3/4 Class door! I have attached a picture for your enjoyment!
This week we started reading our class book 'Flat Stanley' which is already a huge hit! We can't wait to keep reading it to see what happens next. Our first job was to make our very own Flat Stanley, and once this was done, he was packed away with his journal to go to Liam's house to be a part of Liam's family until Thursday. Flat Stanley and his journal will then spend the weekend with Charlotte for her to record his adventures with her.

Thank you to the parents that came to our class information evening on Wednesday, it was lovely to see you and I thank you for your support throughout the year. A friendly reminder that homework is due on Fridays. Every student that returns their completed homework on Friday receives 2 Class Dojo points. News topic next week is free choice.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mrs Fiona Skene
Stage 2 Class Teacher

Reading Eggs. We had a few minor glitches but everything seems to be working now! Please remember that Reading Eggs can be done at home as part of the student's homework. As a class group we have started our Comprehension strategies based around our novel 'James and the Giant Peach'.

In Maths this week we have been learning about place value and working with some very large numbers up to the tens of millions. We are all understanding it very well.

In Science we started our rotation groups and across all stages we are learning about living things, cycles in our world and the biological make up of plants and animals for the older students. We have tadpole eggs and tadpoles in the class room and even an escaped frog on Wednesday which we are yet to find. We hope to hatch some chickens and ducklings during the term and grow bean and sunflower plants.

Have a great weekend
Regards
Ms Heidi Edgerton
Stage 3 Class Teacher

News from Mrs Kiely
Wow! How time flies when you are having fun... as it is Week 2 already. In just this short time there has been a lot of exciting learning happening in all classes from K-6, in the Library and in PE/Sport.

Our Library Unit for Term 1 is “One World, Many Stories” and this is especially relevant today and links in with our Cowra Festival of Understanding and HPS Harmony Day. The new Kinders, as do all the children, love coming to the Library, so please encourage your child to read each night and to develop a love of reading. Children of all ages enjoy hearing an adult read them a story too! Please ensure all Library books are returned in a Library bag each Thursday.

In PE the children are being assessed on a class basis, as to their development of the necessary Fundamental Movement Skills which are needed to be able to play all sports effectively and with confidence. These skills increase sport participation in childhood, teenage and adult life, resulting in a desire to be active and to keep as fit as possible, for good health and friendship development.

Stage 3 News
Welcome back and what a great start to the year we are having. All students have settled in well to their new classes and the teachers are settling in well to their new classrooms.

This week has been a busy one finding our feet and establishing routines. We started our week with Spelling and all students were excited to explore
In Sport, these skills are being utilised in a variety of team games within each class group during weeks 1-4. The exception is week 3, which is the Cowra Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival. All children are encouraged to attend as there will be wonderful events for all ages.

Playing sport is a great way to meet new people and make new friends whilst being involved in the community. This will especially help your child to adjust to new situations eg high school, moving towns, leaving home for Tertiary education and employment. This may seem a long time off but children who play sport have a distinct advantage...so your time is well spent at each afternoon training session and Saturday sports session both now, and for your child’s future.

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

**Community News**
**OOSH Flier**

*Let’s Bring Healthy Back to Cowra*
As part of the ‘Let’s bring Healthy Back’ initiative, two of the group organisers - Tabitha Jones and Bron Johnson would like to make some short videos to upload on the “Let’s Bring Healthy Back to Cowra” Facebook page and also to play through the TV at the Doctors surgery.

They are hoping to interview some school students from a variety of schools asking these students about which sports they play in Cowra and which clubs they are involved with.

It is their intention to get a cross section of students and clubs to showcase what is available, and what people can get involved in the Cowra District.

If parents are interested in their child being a part of this, please let the school know by phoning 63422172 and we will pass on the details to Tabitha and Bron. From there permission notes can be organised and the filming/interviewing date can be set up.