Welcome Back

We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing break over the holidays and are looking forward to the 2017 school year! A special welcome to our new families, Chris and Natalie Vorwerk and their son, Lenny. We hope you enjoy being a part of our great school community. We also welcome Jake Lovitt, Bill Morrison, Hunter Brown, McKayla Donnellan and Harry McVicar in their first year of school at Underbool Primary School.

Prep Students normally receive their welcome to school library bags for 2017 during this week, however we are two short so we will send these home when the other two arrive. The bag contains a lot of useful information to support parents, storybooks and activities for prep children.

School Staff and Classes for 2017—28 Students

Senior Room – Mrs. Kate - 10 Students
Middle Room – Mrs. Stone - 10 Students
Junior Room – Mrs. Gloster - 8 Students
Kate Stone (Mrs. Kate) will be working Monday Tuesday and Thursday. Mrs. Penny Peers (Murrayville) will be our relieving teacher on a Wednesday and will take the Senior Room students. Mrs Gloster will be working everyday except Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

We welcome back Francey Brown as our Integration Aid. She will be working Monday, Tuesday morning, Wednesday and Thursday.

School Captains

Congratulations to Caleb, Jack and Thomas who will be our School Captains for 2017. Mrs. Kate will be assisting the boys in organising their inaugurating speeches for next week’s Assembly, so please feel free to stay around and hear what our student leaders have to say.

School Council Meeting

We will be having our first meeting for 2017 on Wednesday 8th February commencing at 8pm.
Thank You Parents
A huge thank you to the parents who have worked hard to have the school grounds looking fantastic for our arrival back at school. It is an absolute credit to you and we have been receiving lots of very favourable comments on how beautiful our school looks. Thank you once again, you should be very proud.

Working with Children Checks
Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to get their Working With Children Checks. There is now a large percentage of parents who have these and it will make it much easier for the school when organising camps, excursions and school programs. If any other parents wish to obtain a WWCC please contact the school.

Cluster Day—Student Free
As advertised at the end of last year, a Mallee Cluster Staff Professional Development Day has been organised for staff on Friday of this week—this is a pupil free day—NO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL—FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3RD.

It’s Not Okay To Be Away
We will be focusing on student attendance in 2017 and strongly encouraging students to be at school at all times, unless they are ill. We have received feedback and an alert from the Department after they received our 2016 attendance data—we had 144 more student absences than in 2015. This is an alarming figure and hopefully we can work together to decrease this number this year. The staff have decided to offer an attendance reward to the student/students with the highest attendance at the end of each term.

Swimming Program
The swimming program will commence on Monday 6th February. We will run 30-40 minute sessions each afternoon from Monday to Thursday. We will require parent helpers for these sessions, so please inform us if you are able to help out on the form provided.

Students will be dismissed from the pool at the end of each lesson. 3.20pm
Mini Swimming Sports with Tempy PS – on the 17th February. UDSSA Swimming Sports to be held at the Ouyen Pool on Friday 24th February
Sunraysia South Swimming Carnival—Friday 3rd March
**Prep Day Off**
All Prep children will be having Wednesdays at home for the month of February - this will be reviewed at the end of the month. Due to the short week this week Preps will come to school each day this week.

**English Online Assessments**
Students in Grades 1-2 will need to be involved with the English Online Assessment during February. Helen will organise Prep students to attend school at an allocated time on their Wednesday off to complete the testing. Parents of prep students will be notified of times and dates.

**Shop Lunches**
We are hoping to continue the shop lunches again this year but we will have to check with the Walpeup Shop this week. We will advertise this in next week’s newsletter.

**Family and Student Records Update**
Over the next few weeks you will receive various forms, policies and notices for you to update or to keep for your information. Rather than send them all at once we will endeavour to send only one each week.

**Buddies**
We are once again having our very successful “Buddies” program and these are listed below for you information:
Lenny / Jack, Harry/Zoe, Hunter/Caleb, Bill/Kate, Jake/Thomas, McKayla/Eleanor, Jazmin/Isobel, Danial/Kasey, Lydia/Frankie, Charli/Aurora, Cassidy/Finn, Deklyn/Millie, Izzie/Cheyenne, Jess/Breanna

**Preliminary Camp & Excursion Notices**
Whole School Camp—Destination Swan Hill
Dates : 19th, 20th, 21st April—(First week back of Term 2)
Accommodation : Camp Hilltop—Swan Hill
Forms and further information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Hattah – Excursion
The school was contacted during the last weeks of term 4, 2016 regarding an excursion to the Hattah Lakes on Monday 20th March. This has been offered by members of the Mallee Catchment Authority and they will be covering lots of interesting topics including threatened Mallee birds. (I’ve booked a seat on the bus!)
Please mark these important dates on your calendar so you don’t make any other appointments for your children on these days.
New Preps 2017—McKayla Donnellan, Harry McVicar, Lenny Vorwerk, Hunter Brown, Jake Lovitt & Bill Morrison

Underbool Primary School Captains
Jack Wisneske, Caleb Farnsworth & Thomas Lovitt