Welcome back to the 2016 school year. We hope that all families had a lovely holiday break and are feeling energised for a great year ahead. Both students and staff have started the year very productively working hard to maximise all learning opportunities in our 2016 classes. We have also welcomed our new Kinder children and quite a few new students and families to Guise PS.

The school calendar is shaping up to be an extremely busy one, with many events already scheduled and at this stage one of our most important events is the ‘Meet the Teacher afternoon / Community BBQ’, which is occurring next Tuesday afternoon (9 February) from 3:15pm.

On this afternoon we are looking forward to having the opportunity to continue to build those important partnerships between home and school, and the staff and I look forward to seeing you there.
School Leaders 2016
Our school leaders for 2016 will be presented with their leadership badges at the assembly on Wednesday 10 February. I am sure these students will do a wonderful job in their new positions. Just a reminder that our school leaders are:

School Captains – Frank M and Alyah P
School Vice Captains – Alex T and Serina F
Prefects – Zac L and Payal S

Skoolbag App is coming to Guise
Our school will be conducting a 30 day trial using the ‘Skoolbag’ iPhone App to help us communicate more effectively with our parent/carer community. We are trialling the iPhone version for 30 days and if we continue with the App after the trial we will then get the Android version in the Google Play Store.

The app will be available to download within the next few weeks. Once available, we are asking parents/carers to install our Skoolbag App. To install it, just look for our school name “Guise Public School” in the Apple App Store, and install it on your iPhone.

Once downloaded please let the rest of the school community know or if they are currently not iPhone users, please take the time to show them what it looks like.

As this is a trial for the school we ask that you are patient with us as we learn how to update Information in Skoolbag when it arrives.

Please let the school know how you find it and whether you think it is worthwhile.

Some Reminders:

- **Uniforms**
It has been very pleasing to see so many students start the year in full school uniform and the children in black school shoes look wonderful!! Just a reminder that we added a standard short and skort in navy blue to match our shirts, so all students are wearing the same uniform bottom. If you need uniform items please contact the office to place an order. When buying socks the colour is white for girls and navy blue for boys.

We ask that when new items are needed that you purchase these in navy from the school office.

School Procedures
At Guise PS the safety and security of your children is paramount and the school has procedures in place that have been implemented for parents/carers and any visitors who come in to school grounds during the course of the day. If at any time you need to come into school grounds for any reason, visitors and parents/carers must go to the front office. There you can be signed in as a special visitor if need be or have your child paged to the office if leaving school early. At no time should any parent/carer go directly to a classroom or to the playground if at school. If there are things that you need delivered to the classroom please bring it to the front office and we will see that it gets there by lunchtime. Messages can also be passed on via the office. Your assistance with following these school procedures is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to 2016 being a very rewarding year for our students and school community. If at any time you need to discuss any issues please speak firstly to your child’s classroom teacher and then if needed with the Team Supervisor (Mr Neilson for K-6 or Mrs Davies for Support Unit classes), or make an appointment through the front office.

Have a wonderful week!

Megan Predl
Compulsory School Attendance in NSW Schools

Under the Education Act (1990) all children from six years to 17 years of age are legally required to attend school every day. Recent changes to attendance requirements place obligations on schools to more closely monitor attendance and to take appropriate action if students are either not attending or are absent for reasons not justified by the school.

At Guise Public School, we value good attendance from all students. Regular attendance is important because it helps your child:

- Maximise their learning opportunities
- Develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- To learn the importance of punctuality
- Maintain healthy social relationships with their friends
- Develop a good working relationship with their teachers

Unfortunately habits of non-attendance tend to develop quickly and it is concerning that if a child misses just 8 days a term, they would miss more than one year of schooling by the end of primary school which then presents problems as they begin high school.

The law requires that if your child is absent from school, you must inform the school as soon as possible and provide a legitimate reason for your child’s absence. This can be done by:

- Sending a note on your child’s return to school
- Contacting through email /fax
- Visiting the school

Parents / Caregivers should note that schools are required to record absences that are unexplained or unjustified and may also be required to report these to various welfare agencies, who may choose to follow this up with parents.

Your child’s education is important. Please contact the school if there are problems in getting your children to school or if there are concerns you have about them at school. A positive partnership between home and school in this area is of great value to the school but most importantly to the success and quality of your child’s education

Tom Pastor
Home School Liaison Officer
Guise Public School