Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the new school year. We have returned refreshed and reinvigorated, ready for a great year ahead. We especially welcome all new students and their families. As well as the 38 Kindergarten students who have just started, we have another 13 new students in Years 1 – 6. Smithfield West is a wonderful place to work, learn and play and we encourage all new and existing families to become involved in the life of the school.

In staffing news a warm welcome is extended to Mrs Watkins who will be working every Thursday and Friday as the classroom teacher on 1R. All the new classes for 2016 have now been formed. We have proceeded slowly and monitored numbers daily. This year we have 13 classes which is an increase of one from 2015.

Please support us in discussions with your child about their class and teacher for this year. We have used our professional judgment and have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to get the classes just right. Early anxieties about class placement usually disappear very quickly. I know you will respect our decisions and I thank you for your patience over the past week.

We look forward to a great year ahead.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

I have been very pleased with the large number of students who have begun the year wearing full school uniform it shows that they take great pride in being part of our school and I am looking forward to this continuing throughout the year. Please note that if a polo shirt is worn it should be the green one with white side panels. The all bottle green polo and old grey button up shirts are no longer correct uniform and should not be worn. Black shoes, either the traditional style or sporting variety should be worn each day as coloured shoes are not part of our school uniform.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

We welcome information from parents/carers about their child’s health even if specific support is not being requested by our school. Medical information is requested when you enrol your child, however, it is important to let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops. This information is vital in enabling us to effectively support your child’s health and wellbeing.

CONTACT DETAILS

If there have been any changes to your contact details, or those nominated as emergency contacts, please notify the school office staff as soon as possible. Again, this information is necessary so that in the case of emergency we can best support your child.
MOBILE PHONES
I understand that some parents like their children to have a mobile phone in case of emergencies. Such emergencies would relate to before and after school NOT during the time the school is open. Any parent communication during school time must be through the school office.
If it is necessary for your child to have a mobile phone at school it must be handed into the office before 8:55am and collected after 3:00pm each day.

PARKING
At the beginning of each year it is necessary to remind parents about safe and appropriate places to drop off and pick up children from school. Parents should not drive into the school grounds under any circumstances.
It seems some parents are of the understanding that the school car parks can be used to pick up and drop off students. This is not the case and I request that everyone respects this decision and abides by the rule.

SCHOOL HOURS
Please note that classes commence each day at 8:55am and conclude at 3:00pm. In the morning, direct supervision begins on the playground at 8:30am and children should not be at school before this time. As stipulated by the department, any child arriving after 9:00am must report to the office with their parent/carer for a late note.
We look forward to a great year ahead.

Stephen Gray
Principal

2016 SCHOOL STAFF
Mr Gray Principal

CLASSES & TEACHERS

KA  Mrs Alkan
KS  Mrs Sargent
1R  Mrs Romeo (Mon, Tues, Wed)
    Mrs Watkins (Thurs, Fri)
1S  Mrs Smith  Assistant Principal
2C  Mrs Cahill
2M  Mrs Menna
3B  Mrs Bodnar
3/4G Mrs Georgilas  Assistant Principal
4A  Mr Kirby
4L  Mrs Licciardello
5S  Ms Stadler
5/6R Ms Rowlings  Assistant Principal
6P  Mrs Papadatos

SUPPORT TEACHERS

Mrs Wilson  Instructional Leader
Mrs Wallace  Reading Recovery
Ms Reddy  K-2 Maths Support
Mrs Morris (Mon, Tues, Wed)  Learning & Support
Mrs Gee (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri)  Learning & Support
Mrs Campion (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  EALD
Mrs Leano (Tues, Wed, Thurs)  EALD
Mr Howitt  RFF Computers
Ms Palmer (Thurs, Fri)  RFF/Learning & Support
Ms Adams (Mon, Tues, Wed)  RFF Library
Mrs Cordukes (Wed)  School Counsellor
OFFICE & SUPPORT STAFF

Ms Pilgrim  School Administration Manager
Mrs Bennett  School Administration Officer
Mrs Sinclair  School Administration Officer
Mrs Fuentealba  School Learning Support Officer
Mrs Morabito  School Learning Support Officer
Mrs Biviano  School Learning Support Officer
Mrs Yegorgorji  School Learning Support Officer
Ms I’Anson  School Learning Support Officer
Mr Waller  General Assistant
Mrs Madek (Mon)  Speech Pathologist

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The School Photographer will be taking our school photographs on Monday 29 February 2016. Envelopes have been sent home today.

Please send your child along in their summer school uniform on this day. If a child is not in school uniform an attempt will be made to fit them out as best we can, but there is no guarantee.

Note that all money is handled by the photograph company, NOT by the school. Money needs to be exact and cheques made out to ‘The School Photographer’. Cost of the different packages ranges from $7.00 to $42.00. To ensure smooth running on the day, please note that all orders are to be pre-paid and envelopes are to be handed to the school by FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2016 in the locked box at the front office.

NB: All students need to have their own envelope and hand this into the office once completed.

Family photos will also be taken on this day. These are only for brothers and sisters enrolled at Smithfield West Public School. Envelopes for family photos may be collected from the school office and returned with payment by Friday 26 February.

M. Bennett

School Swimming and Water Safety Program

The School Swimming and Water Safety Program for Years 2-6 is planned for Monday 14 March to Thursday 24 March 2016. Students from Years 2 to 6 will receive a note later this month about this important initiative. The School Swimming and Water Safety Program is a fantastic program which teaches children to swim and further develop their water confidence skills. We are limited to only 120 positions. Should you have any queries please see Ms Rowlings.

S. Rowlings

LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this year for borrowing. Borrowing will start next week and your child’s teacher will let you know which day. To borrow your child needs a library bag to protect the book from damage.

All school students will be taking part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC). Students in K-2 read 30 books while students in Years 3-6 read 20 books.

There are some changes to the Scholastic Book Club this year with parents being able to order online through the LOOP system. There will be a note sent home with the brochure explaining the system but if you have any problems, please come and see me or you can still order through the school. There will also only be 1 brochure with lots of great choices.

Ms Adams Teacher Librarian
UKULELE LESSONS
Ms Adams will again be offering free Ukulele lessons after school on a Tuesday afternoon for students in Years 3-6. Students will need to purchase their own ukulele (no more than $40). There will be an information meeting held at 3.15pm – 3.30pm on Tuesday 9th for parents wishing to know more about this activity.  

Ms Adams

STUDENT BANKING
Student banking will commence on Thursday 3rd March, and will be processed here at school by a team of volunteer parents.

Kindergarten students will bring home an information pack today, explaining Student Banking and informing you of the process required to set up an account. For students in Years 1-6 who wish to open an account, application forms are available from the office.

One of the options will be for the account to be opened here at Smithfield West, by a Commonwealth Bank representative on a date to be advised.

While the staff at our school support Student Banking there is no obligation to set up an account and bank through Smithfield West Public School. Please call in at the office or phone the school on 9604 3161 if you would like any further information.

S. Pilgrim