Welcome Back!
Welcome back to 2016! It has been great to see everyone’s smiling faces and hear about the wonderful things they have done over the holidays.
We begin the year with 20 students which means we are in the same position as last year. We have been able to form two classes and will regularly combine for a variety of activities and often in the afternoon sessions. There are also a few new faces and names that you might hear about.
We welcome Mrs Whiting who will take Mrs Murray’s class to provide Principal office time and Mrs Lancaster and Mrs Gorman who will work in the classroom on Fridays to cover Mrs Reeves who will be at the high school.
This year due to timetabling changes and to ease workload on staff we will be alternating our newsletters and assemblies each week. Assemblies will begin next Tuesday, 9th February from 2:15pm - 2:50pm and then every second Tuesday afternoon after that. Newsletters will be sent out on the Tuesday when there is no assembly and notes will go home as needed.

Kindergarten
We are very happy to see our new Kinders settling quickly into a routine. This year we welcome Joe, Stephanie and Cooper to our school. A Photographer from the Dungog Chronicle will visit the school tomorrow, 3rd February, to take a photo of our new kindy students and school leaders for the paper.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival
The Small Schools Swimming Carnival will be held at Beresfield Pool on Friday 12th February from 9:30am-2:20pm for students in Years 3-6. A permission note is attached to this newsletter for those students. On the day, K-2 will come to school as normal and will work with Mrs Hanrahan.

Sport
This term we will again be taking part in the Sporting Schools program. We are currently working with providers for Athletics and Basketball but do not have days set yet. A note will be sent
out as soon as we are able to confirm which days students will be required to wear sport uniform.

Annual Permission Notes
Annual permission notes including walking, media/photo/video footage and Internet/Video Conferences are attached to this week’s newsletter. Could you please complete these and return to school as soon as possible. New parents who would like to volunteer at school in any capacity including canteen helper, assisting in the classroom or with other school activities are required to complete the attached Working with Children Declaration and supply 100 points proof of identity check. Any new volunteers will need to complete our school induction. Please see the ladies the office. Medical/personal details extracts are also being sent home today. We have included any relevant information we have and ask parents if you could please update the information as necessary and return it to the office. If the information is correct, please sign the form and return it to the office as confirmation.

Fruit Orders
For the past 3 years we have participated in a Fruit Box Fundraiser through Sally and Patrick’s Handpicked Fruit and Veg. The quality of the produce is always high. Orders are placed fortnightly on a Monday and fruit boxes are delivered to the school on a Tuesday which will coincide with our assemblies.
If there is any fruit or veg your family does not eat, just let us know and an alternative will be provided. This is a year 6 fundraiser, with funds raised throughout the year through the sale of fruit boxes and other fundraisers going towards the purchase of a Year 6 gift to the school.

P&C News
The next meeting for the P & C is Monday, 8th Feb with the AGM at 1:30pm - 2pm and the General meeting 2pm-2:50pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. They are informal, friendly, and a great way to find out what is happening at school. No one is pressured to do anything at meetings - feel free to just sit and listen.

Canteen
Our first canteen will be held on Friday, 12th February. If you would like to help out in the canteen, please fill out the attached form with your preferred dates and hand it into the office so that we can make a roster. Alternatively, you can contact Chris Ness on 0468529383. We have some lovely seasoned canteen champions around so if you’ve never done a canteen before they will be more than happy to team up with you for a great Canteen day!

News from the office
Don’t forget that school payments can be made through our school website. This is a secure payment portal provided by the Westpac bank. It is user friendly and recent improvements for mobile devices have made it even more so. A full instruction booklet is available from the office.

Library -
Remember your Library Bag on Thursdays to protect the books you borrow.

The next P & C meeting:
Monday, 8th February at 1:30pm in the Library
Everyone welcome!