Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to school for 2016! I have had a lovely time visiting all classes and speaking to the children throughout the day today. Many of you, it seems, have travelled far and wide over the Christmas break whilst others have had some exciting day trips. All classes have been very settled including our newest Foundation students who all looked very grown up in their crisp new uniforms. I would like to welcome all new families who are attending Nar Nar Goon for the first time this year – I have no doubt that you will love your time at our school. Our staff are extremely welcoming, highly professional and very dedicated to ensure the children in their care achieve to the best of their abilities at all times.

NEW PLAYGROUND
You will have noticed this morning that over the holiday break we have had a brand new playground installed at the back of the school. This playground has been made possible due to the fundraising efforts of PAFA and the Fundraising Committee last year. The “Pirate Ship” will be a designated Foundation to Grade 2 playground (Junior playground) allowing the smaller children to play safely as the heights are designed specifically for 5-8 year olds. The added benefit will be that the congestion on the larger playgrounds will be reduced and the older children can play without “bowling over” our little ones.

Due to the installation of this new playground we have had to fence off the back entrance to the school primarily for the safety of the children. This high fence will eliminate the danger of possible intruders during the day while the children are playing, but will also ensure no children leave the school grounds through the small gate that used to be there. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for supporting these hardworking committees in their fundraising efforts last year - I am sure you will agree that once again, your money has been put to good use!

TRAFFIC SAFETY
As we start the new year, I would like to remind everyone about the Nar Nar Goon Primary School Traffic Management Plan that exists on Spencer Street during pick up and drop off times. The procedure in place when collecting your children from school, is to drive and park in Spencer Street (keeping in mind there are designated “No Standing” Zones in specific areas) and to then drive to the second driveway that leads to the football ground, turn right into this carpark and exit from the top driveway back into Spencer Street. If everyone follows this plan, the traffic (including buses) will move smoothly in a loop. The carpark across the road at the football ground is a designated parent parking space which you are welcome to use, as all staff park in the Scout Hall carpark. Please be patient and remember to look out for all children as they move in and around traffic.

Please be aware that if children are required to wait for their parents at the end of the day, they must go to the Multi Purpose Room where they will be supervised by the Bus Duty teacher along with the bus travellers. The children will not be allowed to play on the playgrounds unsupervised.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
In the next few days, information will be going home with the children asking for nominations from parents to be a part of the 2016 School Council. This year we have a number of vacancies and we would invite anyone interested to nominate for a position. School Council meets once a month on a Monday evening at 7:00pm. Meetings usually take approximately an hour and a half and focus on the School’s Finances, Policies and Facilities. If you would like more information please speak to either myself or Wayne Tymensen who is our current School Council president.

THE YEAR AHEAD
Our dedicated staff have all been into school during the holidays, planning for the year ahead to ensure we have a very rewarding 2016. During these first two weeks, the focus in classes will be on setting strong boundaries, including rules and expectations. Our language is based around the Play is the Way program with “Treat Others as you Would Like to be Treated” as our Golden Rule. You might like to use this language at home with the children as well so that they receive a consistent message from both you as parents and their teachers at school. Our school values: Respect, Persistence, Honesty, Responsibility and Excellence will be covered in great detail over the next few weeks. If you would like more information about our programs please feel free to speak to the teachers.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW
We will be giving parents the opportunity to have a one on one meeting with their child’s classroom teacher on Tuesday 16th February. This will be a time for you to impart any knowledge that you feel your child’s teacher needs to know for the year ahead. More information will be going home shortly in regards to these meetings.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Fran Van Lambaart

A reminder that Foundation children do not attend school on Wednesdays during February.
School Uniform

It is our School’s policy that all students wear school uniform.

Our school uniform is:

Summer  Girls: Blue check frock, navy blue shorts, pale blue or navy blue polo shirt.
Boys: Navy blue shorts, pale blue or navy blue polo shirt.

Winter  Girls: Navy blue track suits, navy blue windcheater with pale blue or navy blue polo shirt or skivvy
Boys: Navy blue track suits, navy blue windcheater with pale blue or navy blue polo shirt or skivvy.

Our uniform is available from Beleza, John Street, Pakenham 5941 4989.
As a cheaper alternative we have iron on school logos in blue or white available for purchase ($1.00 each) from the office, if required.

Denim jeans and other coloured tops are not acceptable.
Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times—toeless shoes are not permitted.

DIARY DATES

JANUARY

Thursday 28th  Welcome Back!

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 2nd  Twilight Carnival Meeting
Thursday 11th  Y5-6 Swimming Sports – info to follow
Friday 12th  CURRICULUM DAY
Tuesday 16th  Parent Teacher Interviews – info to follow
Thursday 18th  Wheels Day – info to follow
Friday 19th  Y5/6 Interschool Sport @ home
Monday 22nd  School Council 7pm
Wednesday 24th  District Swimming
Friday 26th  Y5/6 Interschool Sports @ away

MARCH

Friday 4th  Y5/6 Interschool Sports @ home
Wednesday 9th  Division Swimming
Thursday 10th  School Photos
Friday 11th  Y5/6 Interschool Sports
Monday 14th  LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday 15th–Friday 18th  Y6 Rubicon Camp
Friday 18th  Twilight Carnival 4pm–8pm
Monday 21st  School Council
Thursday 24th  Last Day Term 1
Friday 25th  Good Friday

STUDENT DETAIL FORMS

Student Detail forms have been sent home today to every family. These also include important Occupation Code Forms, both of which must be returned to the school whether or not there are any changes.

Please check all details carefully and return to the office as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

TERM DATES 2016

Term 1
Thursday 28 January to Thursday 24 March
(teachers 27 Jan)
Labour Day Monday 14 March
Good Friday 25 March

Term 2
Monday 11 April to Friday 24 June
ANZAC Day Monday 25 April
Queen’s Birthday Monday 13 June

Term 3
Monday 11 July to Friday 16 September

Term 4
Monday 3 October to Tuesday 20 December
Melbourne Cup Tuesday 1 November

An Arty thought……

We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it long enough.  Helen Keller
**MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL**

If a child requires medication at school we need a signed note from parent/guardian. It must state child’s name, the medication name and dose, time to be administered, and the duration it is to be taken (not just the current date). Eg if it is to be taken for a week then all dates must be listed. Medications must be clearly labelled with the child’s name and instructions and handed to the classroom teacher.

A proforma note is available at the office or you can write your own. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

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**STUDENT ABSENCES**

We have recently added a new facility through our website to enable you to report your child’s absence. It is a proforma that prompts you to provide all the required information and then when complete, you are able to press “submit” which will send a notification through to the Nar Nar Goon Primary School email address. This proforma is available from the front page of the website under “Quick Links” - “Report an Absence”. This method of reporting your child’s absence can be used as an alternative to a written note for your child’s teacher, so please free to use this as a more user friendly and efficient method. Of course, if you prefer, a hand written note is still accepted

**It is the Department and our School’s policy that when a child is absent we must receive an explanation either verbal, a note or a phone call either on their return or at the time of absence. **

We hope this new option is helpful to you

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**BUS TRAVELLERS**

If your child is not travelling home on the bus please remember to sign the bus book OR let us know in the office. This will save us valuable time looking for children at the end of the day.

Please note: It is mandatory that where a bus is fitted with seat belts that children must wear them or fines could be incurred.

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**SUNSMART POLICY**

Our School’s Sunsmart Policy for wearing hats was amended to be in line with the Cancer Council’s regulations.

Hats must now be worn from September 1st until May 1st.

Sunscreen is also available for children who request it.

Hats must be either wide brimmed or the ‘bucket’ type for proper protection.

Baseball caps are not permitted.

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**CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA**

A reminder that it is now a requirement that if children need the use of a spacer when using asthma medications that it must be supplied from home.

Please supply us with your child’s named spacer if you have not done so.

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**NOT STANDING ZONE**

Please note that Longwarry Road is a “NO PARKING” zone. This also applies to selected areas of Spencer Street during drop of and pick up times, both AM and PM. Signs to that effect have been erected.

Please be aware that police do patrol these areas and fines will be incurred.

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**MONEY AND NOTES TO THE OFFICE**

When returning money to the office please make sure that it is securely enclosed in an envelope that is clearly marked with name, grade and what it is for.

Please try to include correct money wherever possible. If you have a large note and require change you may come directly to the office to make your payment.

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**MISSING PROPERTY**

Lost property is located in the shared area between the Y1/2 and Y3 rooms.

Please make sure ALL belongings (including lunch boxes and drink bottles) are clearly named and WE WILL RETURN them to your children.

Please note that we only keep lost property for one month.

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**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Please note that term 4 will finish at the end of the week on Wednesday 18th December.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Every child who arrives late to school must be signed in at the office. Every child who leaves early must also be signed out at the office, including the bus book.

This is particularly important in case of an emergency.

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**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Drivers are asked to take extra care when driving along Spencer Street.

Spencer Street should not be crossed immediately in front of or behind school buses. Pedestrian traffic should walk along the school fence line and cross where lines.

The bus drop-off and pick-up can be completed as indicated on the map below.

The following procedures should be noted by parents who drop off and pick up their children along Spencer Street.

Traffic Management Procedures

Na Na Noon Primary School

To keep up to date with all information and activities related to our school.

Please ensure that you have subscribed to our newsletter via our school website: [www.nananoonprimaryschool.school.au](http://www.nananoonprimaryschool.school.au)

Dear Parents/Careers: