A big welcome back to everyone! Hope your break through Christmas and New Year was filled with happy events and memories.

It was lovely to see all the happy, smiling faces of the students (although some seemed a bit taller) on the first day back.

This year our class structures are slightly different from last year. I will be taking the year two class as well as the five primary students and Mrs Hughes will be teaching kinder and year one. The classes will be separated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then the whole school comes together on Thursday and Friday, same as last year. We will both have a time table in the next newsletter to inform you of when and what is going on in each classroom.

There are two new faces on staff this year. Rebecca Harding and Wendy Burton. Both will be providing additional support to targeted students in the infants class and Mrs Burton will also be employed as a casual teacher from time to time. So please make yourself known to them when you next visit. Trish and Mrs Creek will be still be running the Quicksmart program as well as providing support for students in the primary class.

Just a few house keeping reminders -

**Homework**— Home work has started this week. It is handed out at the beginning of the week and is expected to be back by the end of the week. Younger students will also have home readers (from next week) and these should be completed each night. Stickers and encouragement awards are handed out to those children regularly complete their home on time. Sitting down and talking to your child about their homework is an excellent way of knowing what is being taught at school, what your child knows as well as what they may need help with. Also children who read out loud each night to an attentive audience tend to learn to comprehend and read quicker and easier than those who don’t. Educating children is a two way street.

Starting and finishing times—School commences at 9.00am and usually finishes at 3.00pm with the exception of AASC sporting days when the day ends at 3.30pm. Children who catch the bus are the only students who should be on school grounds before 8.30am and after 3.00pm each day. Children who are driven or live in the village, are not to be on school grounds before 8.30am or after 3.00pm (except on AASC sporting days). If you are going to be late please ensure you ring and let us know. If you are going to be later than 3.15 pm you will need to arrange for someone else to pick up your child.

**Absences**— If your child is ill and has to stay home from school, please ensure you fill in one of the attached absentee notes when your child returns.

**Hats**— All students need to bring a bucket or broad brim hat to school with them each day. Caps are no longer acceptable as they do not provide enough protection around the ears or the neck.

The P&C will be acquiring more broad brim hats shortly. During the last P&C meeting it was decided that the school will no longer be having bucket hats and that new wide brim hats will be for sale. Price TBA. Also the P&C will be purchasing a number of school shirts with the new emblem in the near future. The next P&C meeting will be on Thursday 21st February at 3.45pm, please try to come along.

Parent Information Session- In two to three weeks we will be running an information night for parents. This information session is the result of some feedback we received from last year’s surveys. It was apparent that the school needed to inform parents of some aspects of how the school was managed and also how some subjects were taught e.g. subtraction trading, long multiplication etc. If you have a concern that you feel that could be addressed during this night please let us know so we can include it on the agenda.

**Have a good weekend**

Jo Boland
Welcome
A huge welcome back to our returning students and to all of our new enrolments. I hope you all had a great Christmas (it seems such a long time ago already) and really enjoyed the break from school routines. I must say I really enjoyed the sleep-ins, but I am excited to begin a new year here at Stratford and hope you all are also. I know we will miss our senior students as they have moved off to High School, but look forward to seeing our new leaders grow and develop.

Permission Notes
As you will see attached to the first newsletter of 2013 there are various permission notes for you to fill out. These include; general walking excursions, publicity and media and senior lunch pick-up. These notes will cover the whole of 2013. Please advise the office at any time throughout the year if anything needs to be changed regarding these notes. Please return to school ASAP.
Thank you for your support in this administration housekeeping. If you have not already done so, please return your Student Emergency Contact Report that was sent home last week with any changes to be made.

AASC
A permission note was sent home to you on Wednesday for the first of our AASC activities for Term 1 and 2013. This will be Soccer Skills with Sam as our coach. As soon as our second activity is confirmed another permission note will come home. At this time we are hoping that we can acquire a coach for Golf.
Remember that these activities go for 7 weeks each and that school finishes at 3.30pm on these days.

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