

Upcoming Events

28th Jan – 1st Feb	<i>Kinder Best Start Assessments</i>
1st Feb	<i>Canteen opens</i>
2nd Feb	<i>Kinder students start</i>
5th Feb	<i>PSSA Trial notes DUE</i>
5th Feb	<i>School Swimming Carnival 12 – 3pm for students 8yrs and over</i>
12th Feb	<i>Various PSSA Trials</i>

Please note these dates are just to start off our year. More dates will be published on the school planner, which will be available in Week 3.

This year we are endeavouring to advertise all term events on the planner, including all payments due. This will provide families with ample notice of any school event, especially ones that will incur a cost.

Flying Figtree

Thursday January 28, 2016

Quick news for the first week back



Heights of Excellence

Welcome back! What an exciting year we have planned, we can't wait to get started. Today's 'Flying Figtree' is a brief newsletter to provide important details on upcoming events and to share some essential information as we get back into the swing of things.

What do you need to know?

Classing 2016

Hopefully, by the end of our first day all classes will be sorted. As predicted, we have had a number of new enrolments over the holiday period and at time of print, classes had not been finalised due to these new students.

In good news, our staffing and number of classes have been completed. In 2016, I am proud to announce FHPS will have 11 classes. They are as follows:

Kindergarten – Miss Emily Corcoran

Kindergarten – Mrs Linda Jackson

1/2 - Miss Tanja Dejanovic

1/2 - Miss Connie Lysandrou

1/2 - Mrs Brittany Jolliffe

3/4 – Mrs Dayna Fincher

3/4 – Mrs Susan Osborne

3/4 – Mrs Mellanie Pirie

5/6 – Mr Nikolaj Nielsen

5/6 – Miss Rosheen McKell

5/6 – Miss Tegan Davies

RFF – Mr Greg Costello

HIVE – Mrs Sarah Thurston

LaST – Mrs Phyllis Everill

We also welcome a new face to the office, **Mrs Deane Grogan**, who will be replacing Mrs Elizabeth Swinney, our School Administration Manager, whilst she is on leave. Also joining us on a more permanent basis is **Mrs Allanah Smyth**. Allanah has been with us for a little while, but will be here more often as a School Administration Officer.

Your child's class

Your child has been placed in their class for many reasons. It is the place that we feel, as professional educators, that best suits the academic, social and emotional needs of your child. The process of classing has not been a simple or short one, nor should it be.

Your child may not be with all their friends and that is not a terrible thing, making new friends and connections is one of the best parts of school. They will be supported with their needs, especially in these first few weeks as they are finding their feet, in their new class, with their new teacher.

In an academic sense, all student records are rolled over to the new teacher. Assessments are always part of the start of the new year, but that certainly does not mean the new teacher is starting fresh. We are simply determining the movement that has occurred over the holidays.

If you have any new information you believe your child's teacher needs to be aware of, please share it. The more information we have on our children, the better we can cater for all their needs.

It can be a stressful time for parents, even more so than children. However, the new year should be an exciting time, not an anxious one worrying about things that may or may not happen.

Routines, policies and procedures

Over the next two weeks, class teachers will be informing parents about the upcoming parent information evenings. These meetings are essential, no matter how many times you have attended them.

At this meeting all classroom and stage details will be discussed. Teachers will explain routines, expectations and provide parents with the opportunity to ask questions. This is an important time to establish the valuable connection between home and school.

At these meetings teachers will also discuss curriculum content, best contact methods, how to deal with concerns and revisit general school organisation policies and procedures.

Keep an eye out for these information sessions.

Recess and Lunch

At the past few P&C Meetings we have discussed the possibility of swapping recess and lunch. In Term 4, a trial was held to see if it was something that would work at Figtree Heights.

After this week in Term 4, it was decided to extend this trial for all of Term 1 in 2016. This will provide the school with the opportunity to effectively see if it is a change we would like to adopt.

There are several reasons for this swap, these reasons include, but are not limited to: time outside in the hottest part of the day, link with physical activity and learning, welfare issues, nutrition and fueling the body. An overwhelming number of Australian research papers indicate the significant benefits of this swap and therefore the trial will be held in Term 1. It will take many students (and teachers) a little while to adjust and therefore the whole term trial is required.

The canteen will be operational for these new times, with a few slight changes. Please see the information note available tomorrow for more details on how the canteen will run during this trial.

Canteen commences MONDAY 1st February.