Hi everyone,

Welcome back to Bethanga Primary School. We hope you’ve had a nice beginning to 2016! Our first day went very smoothly yesterday with lots of happy faces and enthusiastic greetings! We welcomed Cooper to our 2/3 class and Callum, Daniel and Jack to foundation. We have 40 students at school this year.

Just some brief reminders until our proper newsletter on Monday.

 Staffing: Ross fulltime in the 4/5/6 class, Bert and Kristen will share the 2/3 class and each work on the alternate Wednesdays. I am obviously here full time and will work in the F/1 class in the mornings and have office time from 2-3.30pm. Jen works Monday and Tuesday. Miriam will teach music on Mondays and Ibu Tuti Indonesian on Thursdays. Bluearth will also occur each fortnight.

 Please remember that we are “nut free,” at Bethanga due to one of our students having a severe allergy to nuts. We will send home a sheet of alternatives to foods containing nuts on Monday.

 A big thanks to those families who took turns watering our gardens over the holidays and in some cases, weeding too! The tomato plants are the largest I have ever seen at Bethanga due to the TLC they have received. Thanks to my husband Glenn who came to school on Australia Day and pressure washed the deck for us.

 Please remember that Book packs are available at the office for $50. These packs contain all the necessary stationary items required for classroom learning. Excursion fees are also due by the end of February. Parents can opt to pay for each individual excursion prior to the excursion occurring but we do need to stress that this is a far more expensive option. If excursion money is not paid then students will be supervised at school.

 Hats must be worn until the end of April as per our uniform policy.

 Student Insurance money needs to be sent to the office by Tuesday of next week so that Jen can fill out the necessary forms. This insurance is an optional extra for our families and costs $15 per child. Please see additional information over the page.

 Classroom helpers will commence at the beginning of March. This will give classes time to settle and also allow me to run a refresher for all our helpers with tips for hearing children and other jobs you may be asked to help out with.

 We will have informal “Lets Meet,” interviews in our fourth full week of school beginning on the 22nd February.

 Foundation students do not come to school on Wednesdays for the month of February.

 Reading diaries have been sent home already. Please make sure that you sign your child’s diary each night. Regular nightly reading is absolutely vital in order for your child to develop to their full reading potential and sets him/her up for future success across all curriculum areas. Each child who has 175 nights of signed reading will choose a free book at the end of the year. Please set up a regular reading time which suits your family’s routines.

 Hot food will commence next Friday!
Parent Payment Policy and Essential/Non essential Items

Fees for 2016 are as follows:

**Book packs** (these provide essential education items eg stationary, reading diary, USB (4/5/6)): $50.00 per child - the book pack money needs to be paid at the start of the year to enable your child to receive their pack.

**Excursion Levy:**

- F - 2: $80.00
- 3 - 6: $160.00

Please note: We have maintained the 2015 cost. All excursion levies must be paid by the end of February.

A detailed list of excursions is as follows: Please note that an excursion may become available during the year (unforeseen) and if so, these additional excursions will incur a cost. We will keep any additional excursions to a minimum e.g zoo trip this year was an example and parents will be given plenty of notice.

**F - 2:**
- Athletic Sports
- Arts Festival
- Swimming
- Tree Planting

**3 - 6:**
- Athletic Sports
- Arts Festival
- Swimming
- Tree Planting
- Winter Sports
- Cross Country
- Science Days x 2
- Environment Day
- Kanga Cricket

Excursions are optional extras but further support our school programs. If you have not paid the excursion levy by the end of February then excursions will need to be paid individually before your child can attend. If you choose not to pay then your child will be supervised at school as our school budget is small and cannot sustain extra costs.

**Student Insurance (optional):** At Bethanga Primary School we offer a Total School Cover Double Benefits Insurance option for all children at a cost of $15.00 per child. Total School Care is a Personal injury & Accident Protection Plan specifically designed for Australian Schools. It offers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week protection for all students, anywhere in the world, and covers all common incidents from broken teeth to broken bones and much more. If you require any further information, please contact Jen on Monday or Tuesday. If you wish to accept this offer, payment will need to be made when you collect your book packs at the beginning of the year.

**Ground Maintenance Levy (optional):** $50.00 per family - this levy helps with the mowing of school grounds.
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| Wednesday 27th January  
Thursday 28th January | Tuesday 16th February  
Wednesday 17th February | **Friday 15th April** | **North East Rural Athletics Carnival** |
| Teachers formally return to school  
First day of school for students | Responsible Pet Owners Program  
North East Rural Swimming Carnival | | |

**Term 1 2016**

**Week one**

- Wednesday 27th January
- Thursday 28th January

- Teachers formally return to school
- First day of school for students

**Week 4**

- Tuesday 16th February
- Wednesday 17th February

- Responsible Pet Owners Program
- North East Rural Swimming Carnival

**Term 2 2016**

- **Friday 15th April**
- **North East Rural Athletics Carnival**