Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to a brand new year. Staff have enjoyed spending a lot of time and thought planning a great start to the year, where children and families feel welcome, safe, happy and like they belong. Enjoy getting to know your child’s teachers, SSO educators and the classrooms that they will be working in. The relationships built between home and school have proven to be so valuable. Each teacher will have a diary or communication book that you can write notes to each other if needed. They may also have a class Facebook page, text possibility or of course the ability to meet before or after school at an agreed time for a chat about anything that may benefit your children while at school.

**Family Night**
Next week on Tuesday, 9th February we would like to invite you into the school to assist with early relationship building and involvement in the school. Teachers will host a group chat, but rooms can be toured and enjoyed between 4-6pm. We will have a sausage sizzle running over the time so you can also enjoy a chat around the BBQ between classroom visits.

**Preschool** – 4pm
**Junior Primary** – 4:30
**Middle Primary** – 5:00
**Upper Primary** – 5:30

**Sports Days** – (Mount Burr to host Pine Sports Day in 2016)
Important Diary dates are always our Sports Days. We will host our own school day at Nangwarry on **Friday March 11th.** At this stage we have set the interschool Pine Sports Day for **Wednesday March 23rd,** just before Easter. Please remember Sports Days are weather permitting, but we have only had to postpone to the following day once in my 12 years here, and this is avoided at all costs due to parent leave arrangements.
For new parents, we meet over at the Pine Sports Day event at 8:30am. Children with Championship events like Long Jump and Discus need to be there by 8:20am.
Parents are responsible for transporting of children, they can car pool, or we can look at hiring a 12 seater mini bus for working parents at a cost of $100, to be shared by those booking on. Notes will be sent home for you to indicate your needs.
Nangwarry PS has its own tent where students can relax, watch events and have a safe meeting place. All students are involved in the tabloid section of the day where they can earn points for the school. Championship events have entrants based on students who win at our Sports Day held earlier in the term here. Both Sports Days are celebrated events and traditionally have a fabulous turnout of parents at both.

**Governing Council**
The first meeting for the year is set for **Wednesday 17/2/16** at the school. The current council meet over in the room next to the Art Room, straight after school.
The date suggested for the AGM and second meeting of the term is **Wednesday 30/3/16.** Council will confirm this in the next newsletter.
All parents/carers are welcome to attend the AGM and we will advertise vacancies for nomination in case you would like to join our Governing Council. It is a fabulous way to be involved in the school.
**PRESCHOOL**
In the first term of Kindy, we spend a lot of time getting to know each other, learning about the world and establishing ourselves in a new environment. It is a busy and exciting time. How we set up the play space can have a big impact on the way we interact and play with each other. This year we have set up our Kindy to be a calm and open space with learning areas clearly defined. Establishing routines is vital to the smooth running of the day and helps prevent a lot of anxiety as children quickly learn how the day progresses in a calm and safe way. Changes to routine, where possible are discussed at the beginning of each day at meeting time. We are looking forward to lots of fun and learning this year.

**Wayne’s World**
I am looking forward to teaching in the Junior and Middle Primary classes on Thursdays and alternate Fridays. I will be concentrating on Science and the first topics we are looking at will be JP- Earth Sciences, “Up Down and Around”, MP- “Day and Night” and UP- “Light”. Also looking forward to working for half a day every fortnight in the Junior Primary Class, which is my original area of training and expertise.

**Junior Primary**
For some of you it’s a big welcome to the primary section of the site. I am sending home a newsletter outlining some helpful housekeeping information, reading request to listen to children every day, and some general school reminders such as hats to be worn, no parking on the crossing side of the school and bike safety for everyone. Mr Pratt, Mrs Lowe and Andi all have teaching time in our Junior class as well, and we are very excited about our shared programming and planning for the students already. See you Tuesday at 4:30pm!

**Middle Primary**
On Tuesday 9th Feb, not only is it Mr K’s birthday it also the NPS Family Night. The middle primary class will host a chat at 5 pm. Mr K will talk about Class Dojo, movie nights and helping out in the classrooms. If you have any questions for Mr K this is a great time to ask, as many parents may have similar questions. Topics we are starting to look at will include: “Time” in Maths, “Our place in time” in History and Geography and getting to know each other, rules for living in the classroom and general settling in activities. More information is on its way in our separate class newsletter too.

**Upper Primary**
The Upper Primary classroom has had a bit of a revamp. The new theme for the classroom this year is “The Sixties”. The whole class is really excited about it. I have chosen the theme for the message of PEACE as well as an opportunity to add more colour to the classroom. The decade that was the 1960s was an important decade for equality and peace and I believe it is important in our classroom. Please enjoy the separate class newsletter as well.

**Choir**
Mr Kilsby will be taking choir this year. He is soon to attend a training in Adelaide to learn about the songs and music that will be enjoyed to perform in the Limestone Coast Music Festival in October. Choir will learn the stories behind the chosen pieces and then practice each Thursday from 12:10-1:10 starting later in the term. There is a small cost for the CD and music book, and for travel to cluster practices in Penola a few times over the year. Those choosing to join choir must be committed to attending the performance in Mount Gambier. That is the part that the children love and remember forever.