

Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 3 already and works continue on our terrific new learning spaces. The electricians have been through and now the painters are working their way through. We have gone for a grey palate for a bit more of a modern look and feel to the place and are looking forward to the first of the pin-board installations going in next week. Our carpet is due in the middle of March as we have to wait for the colour we want and I am meeting with our project managers next week to look at furniture, storage and additional works we will be undertaking as a school. We have applications in for new electronic signs and additional school signage so are aiming to have completed those works by the end of Term 1 as well.

We have an issue with parking at the school. I know, I know, it is not immediately obvious but if you have been at the school around 9:00am and 3:00pm you will know it is there. We are taking further steps to rectify it as much as we can but our main focus is on correct use of the “kiss and drop” zone and keeping people moving through as much as we can. Now that Kinder are settled in, hopefully we will start to lessen the amount of people who need to come into the school with their children and stay but a reminder: if you park in the “kiss and drop” and leave your vehicle by more than three (3) metres, the ranger will soon catch up with you. You do have a short amount of time you can stop in the area but the idea is that you park, stay in the car, watch your child enter the school gates and then drive away. If you need to come inside, please park somewhere else. A second reminder: the staff car park is the STAFF car park. Just as you would never think to drive your car through the school playground, the car park is another place in which cars and children CANNOT mix. Turnings circles are tight and sight lines are limited and it is not a parent facility. It is school grounds and will be managed as such. Please do not park there.

I must finish by saying what a pleasure it is to be around the school at the minute. Whilst we have much happening around the place, our classrooms, playground and other spaces are just beautiful – smiling and happy children working in a terrific learning environment (under development). There is a reason we lock the gates each day – we provide here a safe and secure place for children in which they know and uphold the standards that we want our school to operate by. It is usually only outside influences that upset this balance but, inside the gates, it is an absolute joy to be here. We are extending our security measures this term with an application in for additional doors and entry systems that will enable us to manage all visitors in and out of the school. From next week, gates will be locked at 9:15am and reopened at 2:55pm. Please keep this in mind when you are dropping off and picking up your children. For parents who are dropping Kinder children, we have added an additional staff member to our duty roster and ask that you begin to assist in developing their independence (and yours) by dropping them at the gate and leaving the McKenzie area open for children to play rather than adults to talk.

Have a great week and remember to look after each other.

*Kevin Greaves*

Kevin Greaves (Principal)

Maitland Public School

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