Welcome Back
Welcome back to all of our families. I hope you all had a restful holiday period and your children are ready for a new year of learning. We welcome a number of new families to our school for the start of 2017. We hope you and your children enjoy your time at our school.
The main educational focus of this school is Reading. It is the school’s philosophy that reading is the basis for success in all facets of life. I encourage all parents to read with their children every day.
I cannot over emphasise the importance of this.

**Staffing**
As of today our enrolment numbers stand at 96. Mrs Stewart will be teaching our Prep/1 class. Mrs McGettigan and Mr Sweeper will be teaching the 1, 2, 3 class this year. Miss Pershouse will be teaching the 3/4 class and Miss Domrow will be the teacher for the 5/6 class. Mrs Pitkin, Mrs Campbell & Taz Crabbe will continue to provide our excellent teacher aide service and Charlotte will be our friendly face in the office.

New procedures for 2017
We ask that **students are not dropped at school before 8:15am and are collected from school by 3:20pm**. The only exception to this is with prior permission from the Principal. **In the event of arrival at school before 8:15am or that the collection of your child occurs after 3:20pm, we now require that a parent enters the school grounds and signs a specific sign in/out book which will be located with the duty teacher in the mornings and the duty staff member in the afternoons.**
Communication Books
Every student of our school will be given a Communication Book today. The idea behind the Communication Book is for the school, teacher and parent to remain in contact and share information regarding their child. This may include notes from parents about days off, issues with homework or thank you notes. The school or teacher may write to you as parent about your child’s progress, an incident that occurred at school; or may include a general school note. The Communication Book should be transported by every student each day to and from school so at any stage either home or school can use the book as required.

Thinking Room
During 2016, the school introduced a Thinking Room at first lunch play time for students who required time out of play for their choices in behaviour or not completing set tasks in class in an appropriate time frame. This year the Thinking Room will continue to be used as a time out and reflecting space for these students. If a student has chosen to make poor behaviour choices or not complete
set tasks they will required to attend Thinking Room as requested by the staff member. Thinking room is fully supervised and students are required to complete tasks as requested by the teacher. A slip of paper is also sent home to the parents in the Communication Book explaining the reasoning behind the time out. Parents are to initial the slip as evidence that they have acknowledged that their child has attended Thinking Room and that they will have a discussion about their choices of behaviour or work completion.

Students will need to have no more than 3 Thinking Room incidents for behaviour each term if they are to be invited to either classroom Rewards Day in Terms 1, 2 and 3 or whole school Rewards Day in Term 4.

P&C Meeting
The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 21st February. This meeting will be the AGM followed by a General Meeting. All parents are invited to become active members of the P&C and attend meetings. Meetings are held in the school library from 6pm.
No hat- no play
All students require a sun safe hat (bucket or broad brimmed) for all outside activities including lunchbreaks and PE lessons. Sunscreen is available in all classrooms at any time of the day but is not a substitute for a hat. The school bucket hats are available for purchase at a reasonable price of $10. Any student that doesn’t have a suitable hat will be unable to participate in these activities due to the associated sun risks.

Healthy Lunches
It is great to see most of our students bring healthy lunches to school with sandwiches, yoghurts, and fruit making up the majority of a child’s lunchbox. Please ensure students DO NOT BRING LOLLIES/CHOCOLATE to school as sugar rushes tend to affect the student’s ability to focus on their learning after breaks. Fruit Ropes and Roll-Ups are full of sugar and are not appropriate for school lunches. This year we are continuing with Snack Break before school starting at 8.50am. Students are not required to eat at this time if they do not wish to. Examples of food consumed during this
eating time could be any of the following: yoghurt, cheese stick, piece of fruit or half a sandwich. We have found that the students have performed better in class during the first session of the day when they have had a snack at this time.

**Please ensure that your child has enough food packed for their 3 eating breaks and that food is sent to school in a lunch box.** Sharing of food between students is not tolerated due to the high risk of food allergies. The only exception to this rule is between siblings.

**Medications**
Today all families will receive a letter about the rules around the administration of medication at school. Please read this letter in full and complete and return the relevant forms tomorrow.

**School banking**
Our school has a school banking program facilitated by Ms Holly Slade. School banking will commence next week. Bank books are normally collected on Wednesday and returned promptly to the students. Application forms are available from the school office if any
parent is interested in having their child join the school banking program.

Parking
When collecting your child from school in the afternoon please remember some basic road rules, including speed limits, parking legally and remembering not to perform illegal U-turns at the intersection or into parking spaces. Police often patrol our school and enforce road rules. Also, please take into consideration our neighbours across the road and do not park across their driveway blocking entry to their property. Parking inside the school grounds is strictly for **staff only** unless prior approval has been granted by the Principal.

**Entering & Exiting the school grounds**
In the interests of all our students’ safety parents need to ensure they use the smaller personal gate at the front of the school near the crossing rather than the driveway access, **AT ALL TIMES**, when walking into and out of the school grounds. Please help us model this behaviour for our students, to help us keep everyone safe.
Newsletters
Newsletters are published every second Monday of the school year. Every newsletter is also uploaded to our website on the same day as they are distributed to families and through our school App for mobile devices called Skoolbag. We are also able to email the newsletter to any person who so wishes. If you would like to have the school newsletter emailed directly to you please provide your email address to Charlotte in the office. The P&C also distribute newsletters on an alternate fortnightly basis to the school newsletter.

Procedures when arriving at school
Upon arrival at school, students will be supervised by a staff member until the start of the school day. All students are required to place their bag in their designated class area and take themselves directly to the classroom of the teacher on duty upon arrival for supervision. Below is a table showing which staff member and which room morning supervision will be taking place.
Monday:
Mrs McGettigan
(1,2,3 classroom)

Tuesday:
Miss Domrow
(5,6 classroom)

Wednesday:
Mr Sweeper
(1,2, 3 classroom)

Thursday:
Mrs Stewart
(P,1 classroom)

Friday:
Miss Pershouse
(3,4 classroom)

Procedures when collecting students at the end of the school day
Please be aware that all classes are escorted to the grassed area at the front of the school or under the office building in wet weather at the conclusion of the school day. We ask the parents collect their child/ren from this area and not wait outside the classroom as this tends to distract the children at the end of the day when the teacher is completing their lesson or giving instructions to the class.

Procedures when students arrive late or are collected early from school
It is requirement of Education Queensland that students are formally signed in if they
are late to school or signed out if being collected from school early. This book is kept in the office area for your convenience.

Parade
Parades at Blenheim State School are held every Friday from 2.45pm to 3.00pm on the under covered area between the upper classrooms. Students are addressed by the Principal, sing the National Anthem and are recognised for achievements through certificates. Parents are more than welcome to attend parades and are encouraged to do so.

Our School Values
Today each classroom has discussed the 4 Positive Values that our school culture and behaviour are based upon. These 4 Positive Values are outlined below and rewarded through the PATs (Positive Action Tickets) which go into weekly prize draws. A running tally of the PATs given to students each week is published in the fortnightly newsletter.

Positive Language – This value focuses on students speaking in an appropriate manner, tone and volume to other students, staff and visitors to the school at all times. Blenheim
State School has a zero tolerance to swearing. Positive Actions – This value focuses on students acting in a physically appropriate and safe manner at all times, such as keeping one’s hands and feet to themselves, being in the right place at the right time, walking on the concrete paths, and respecting each other’s personal space. 

Blenheim State School has a zero tolerance to fighting. Positive Relationships – This value focuses on students relating to other members of the school community with respect and courtesy and demonstrating tolerance of difference including beliefs, cultures, and opinions. Positive Place – This value focuses on students’ attitude towards their learning and the learning of others. Students are encouraged to focus on achievement in their own work and to set goals for the future. All of our teachers have high expectations for each student for academic progress and behaviour. These Values are further explored in Blenheim’s RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN which all families should have a copy of.
### Blenheim SS Calendar of Events 2017, Term 1

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GATTON HAWKS
Junior Rugby League
Children born 2001 - 2011
Proud of our Past, Present and Future!

EXPERIENCED COACHES - 2017 HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

CLUB REGO FEES - 1 CHILD: $120, 2 CHILDREN: $220, 3 CHILDREN OR MORE: $300

WE GIVE YOU VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY:
- Best Facilities in the Competition
- Saturday Game Days ONLY
- Free End of Year Theme Park Trip
- 2017 High Performance Program
- Associated with Strong Senior Club

$60 FEES FOR THOSE BORN 2001, 2002 & 2003!

SIGN ON DAY
Meet your Coaches over a BBQ
from 11am-2pm on 5 Feb 2017 at
Cahill Park.

REGISTER NOW
Visit www.playnrl.com/register,
click Players, search Gatton JRL
and follow the prompts

ALL NEW CLUB PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE SHIRT & SHORTS

For more info: www.gattonhawks.teamapp.com

Authorised by G.Pavey, 110 Woodlands Road, Gatton QLD 4343