Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy start to the year and I know that all of our students have been working very hard over the past 2 weeks. In English, the Lower group is exploring emotions in picture books and will be completing an oral presentation, while the Upper group has been reading ‘The Twits’ and will be writing an exciting new chapter for the book. In Maths, we have all explored patterns and numbers, in Science the upper group has begun investigating the Solar System and the Lower Group is investigating changes over time.

On 14-15 March, Week 9 this term, our school is scheduled for a school review. The Department of Education and Training has introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools will have a review at least every four years. A final report is made available to parents and the community on the school's website. The review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say.

It is likely that during the review process, the review team will contact you to ask your opinion about our school. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. I have attached an information sheet about the review process, however, if you would like more information about the review process, please contact the office.

Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at: www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/school-performance-assessment-framework

The review will be a fantastic opportunity to improve on our already great school and the staff and I are looking forward to the process. We will send out further information, including a schedule for the review days in the near future.

Once again, it is great to be back and I look forward to working with you all throughout the year,

Have a great week everyone!

Hayley Laidlow
Principal
Book Bundles
Today, each child has been given a bundle of books. These are old books which have been culled from our collection but are still in good condition. Even though some of them may be too difficult for your child at this stage, they will be a great resource for helping your child learn to read. Some of the activities you could do with them are:

- Ask your child to find and circle their sight words in the text.
- Use their reading strategies to work out unknown words.
- Look at the pictures and make up their own story.
- Cut out words and make up sentences.
- Look for beginning, middle and end sounds.

Please encourage your child to use these books and have fun reading them together!

P&C News
Thanks to everyone who came along to our P&C Meeting this week, it was great to have you all there. We have some exciting events planned for 2016, so please add these to your calendar:

- Trivia Under the Stars – 30 July
- Cent Sale – date TBA
- Rumball and Sugar-coated Peanut Drive – Term 4

Active P&C membership is vitally important to the success of our school so I would encourage you all to come along to our meetings and see how you can help. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend. Our annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 March 2016.

Student Resource Scheme 2016
During 2016, we will be continuing with the school Resource Scheme. In this system the family pays a fixed amount which is subsidised by the school and the school purchases all of the materials / equipment required for school less tax and supplies them to the children. All covering and naming of books etc will be taken care of by the school. The current levy is $60 per child per year. This levy will cover ALL stationery items for the 2015 school year. Items that are not covered under this levy are: school bags, hats, lunch boxes, lunches and school excursions. If you choose not to participate in the Resource Scheme, you will be required to provide all of your child’s stationary and books throughout the school year. If you wish to participate in the Resource Scheme, please return the attached agreement to the school. Full payment will be required by Week 5, Term 1, 2016.

Payments to the Office
Our school office is open from 9:30am – 3:00pm on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Sartori is able to process payments during these times. There are still some families who have outstanding debts from 2015, can these please be settled as soon as possible.

When making a payment to school, we would appreciate if you could bring the correct change as we do not keep large amounts of change on hand. Thank you 😊

Your trash is our treasure!
We are in need of the following items for school: old newspapers, small clean cardboard boxes (e.g. toothpaste boxes), clean bottle caps and any other small items which could be used for construction activities. We would also appreciate old towels as they are great for art clean ups and old shirts which could be used as paint smocks. If you have any of these sorts of materials, please send them to school.
Reading Strategy of the Week
This week’s reading strategy is “Stretchy Snake”. Stretchy Snake says – Stretch the words out, say the sound slowly. When children come across an unknown word they can stretch the sounds out, looking for familiar letters and sounds. For example ‘food’ becomes f-oo-d. Remind them to look for sounds they know and take notice of the initial sound. So when you are stuck ‘stretch out the word like Stretchy Snake.’

NRL Community Carnival
Last week, the NRL Community Carnival came to visit our school. The team talked with the children about nutrition, sleep and how important these things are for succeeding at school. They also talked about fair play and shared some interesting facts about the North Queensland Cowboys. We look forward to having the team visit us again soon.
Wonderful Work from Osborne this week...

Maths Mania

We have all been working very hard this past fortnight, but having fun too! We have begun our ‘Hands-on Maths’ lessons where we are learning how Maths applies in our everyday lives.
School reviews: What a review looks like

The School Improvement Unit (SIU) reviews are designed to support a school’s ongoing improvement agenda.

The reviews do not rank a school’s performance, or that of the principal or school staff, but are an opportunity for all school community members — from staff to parents and students — to provide feedback on how the school is helping students achieve quality outcomes.

Review teams

School reviews are conducted in a professional manner by review teams trained and appointed by the SIU.

Generally, each team consist of one or two internal reviewers from the SIU, an external reviewer from outside the department, and a principal peer reviewer for full school reviews.

Reviews are chaired by an internal reviewer. The reviewer contacts the principal well before the review starts to discuss details of the review, including a proposed schedule of interviews and classroom visits.

Pre-review

Before visiting a school, the review team reviews the school’s data profile, headline indicators and other school information, including the school’s website.

The review chair also makes contact with the school’s assistant regional director (ARD) or principal supervisor to discuss the school’s context and review in more detail.

During the review

Review teams spend time looking at a school’s performance data and other school information to gain a deeper understanding of the school, its performance and context. This may include annual implementation plans, pedagogical frameworks and curriculum plans, school budgets, OneSchool data and Great Results Guarantee information.

The review team will also conduct interviews with staff, students, parents and other school community members.

The principal is kept informed by the review chair of any preliminary findings as the review progresses.

Interviews and classroom visits

Interviews and classroom visits are an important part of the review process and provide a general information-gathering opportunity for reviewers.

Interviews are conducted in an open and friendly manner, and provide an opportunity for teachers and the school community to give feedback on the school. Interviews are not mandatory and teachers and other school community members can decline to be interviewed if they wish.

Post review

At the completion of the review, the review team present its findings to the school’s principal and leadership team.

At the principal’s discretion, the review team may also brief staff.

The ARD or principal supervisor is invited by the principal to attend these exit interviews. This is a mandatory requirement for priority support reviews.

Following the completion of the review, the review team prepares a report which details key findings and improvement strategies. This is quality assured by the SIU before it is sent to the school, their ARD or principal supervisor and regional director (RD).
**Follow-up support**
The ARD or principal supervisor is expected to work closely with the school to respond to the review’s findings. For full school reviews, this includes incorporating any improvement strategies into the school’s four-year plan.

For priority support reviews, the ARD or principal supervisor helps the school develop and implement a detailed action plan in response to review findings. An action plan template is available from OnePortal.

The SIU continues to monitor a school after a review. For priority support reviews, the SIU checks back in with the school and region at 3, 6, 9 (if necessary) and 12 months to monitor progress.

**More information**
For more information please email the SIU or visit OnePortal.