Welcome to our students, staff, parents and the wider Morwell community to the 2016 school year. It has been a very positive start and we look forward to working together to provide engaging learning opportunities for all students.

A very warm welcome to our eighteen new Preps and their families. Starting school for the first time is very exciting and also tiring, especially towards the end of the week. All Prep students have Wednesday home in February, unless your child has their “Prep Interview” scheduled with Miss Webber. This is a lovely opportunity for Miss Webber to get to know each student one on one with a family member present. Please be aware of your interview date and time.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club opened for the first time this week and was an instant success. Thank you to the many students who have arrived every morning for a healthy breakfast before beginning learning at school. Breakfast Club is available for all students who attend our school. It’s free, fun and healthy! Michael and Mrs Turner would love to see the same and new faces at Breakfast Club next week. Breakfast is available between 8:00am and 8:30am.

SCHOOL LEADERS

Our 2016 school leadership positions will be selected soon. Our school captains and sports captains will be announced to our school community in an upcoming newsletter and assembly.

Junior School Council will also be selected in the month of February. Nomination forms will be available at the school office next week.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our School Council has endorsed our uniform policy as compulsory. We do expect that every student is in full uniform every day. Please remember wide brimmed hats are also compulsory from September through to the end of April every year. These months are when the UV rays are at their strongest, even on days with heavy cloud cover. Any student without a hat must play in a designated under cover area.

This year our Grade 6 students also have the opportunity of wearing a commemorative polo shirt and jumper with class member names printed on the back. Our Grade 6 students chose the design for these uniform items last year and orders are expected to be here prior to the end of Term 1. Mrs Skinner (in the office) will let you know when these have arrived and are ready to go home.

Regards
Melissa Rock
Principal
P/1W’s First Day of School - 2016!
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Every Day Counts

Primary school attendance

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
**Important Dates**

**Friday @ 2:10pm—every week**  
Assembly—all welcome!

**Monday 22nd February**  
Grade 1 & 2 students—AFL Clinic excursion

**Wednesday 2nd March**  
National Young Leader’s Day

**Friday 4th March & Saturday 5th March**  
P&F Fundraiser-Kidshotz Box Photos

**Thursday 24th March**  
School Breaks Up @ 1:15pm

**Monday 11th April**  
Term 2 commences

**Thursday 28th April**  
School Photos

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**Breakfast Club 2016**

We offer cereal, oats and tinned fruit every morning from **8:00am** until **8:30am**, all completely free of charge.

A nutritious, balanced and consistent breakfast has been proven to aid students in concentration and promote an eagerness to join in on class activities at the beginning of the school day.

**All students welcome!**

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**2015 Christmas Raffle Results**

1. Charli Hillbrick  
2. Angelina Palermo-Fitzgerald  
3. Manveet Daphu  
4. Logan Wellsmore  
5. Alexia Reid  
6. Ebony Corti  
7. Tim Crehan  
8. Lilly Tichborne  
9. Hayden VanLoo  
10. Kamalpreet Daphu  
11. Chelsea Wellsmore  
12. Kyane VanLoo  
13. Indi Reid  
14. Ebony Corti  
15. Jackson Mackenzie  
16. Manveet Daphu  
17. Glenda Combridge  
18. Imogen Dawes  
19. Alana Hilsley  
20. Brady Gaspero  
21. Blake Robinson  
22. Alana Hilsley  
23. Alex Campbell  
24. Judy Tormey  
25. Noel McLachlan  
26. Lilly Tichborne  
27. Riley Duffy  
28. Kai Bennett

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**2016 PREP students**

2016 School Nursing Program questionnaires are due back tomorrow:

**Friday 05th February**.

These questionnaires are an important tool used to assist in the education/wellbeing of your child/ren.

Please remember to complete the questionnaire and return tomorrow.

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**Happy Birthday to all students who celebrated a birthday in January!**

**Bryden Gaspero 01/01**  
**Jordan Jorgensen 05/01**  
**Dani Utanga 07/01**  
**Anastasia Sharpe-Birdsall 08/01**  
**Taya Byrne 13/01**  
**Axl Smith 15/01**  
**Chloe Deininger 17/01**  
**Sarah Masiewicz 20/01**  
**Lilly Tichborne 24/01**  
**Indianna Bennett 26/01**  
**Chloe Shanks 26/01**  
**Jayson Jorgensen 27/01**  
**Charlie Hillbrick 30/01**

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**Our Vision...**

At Tobruk Street Primary School we aim to foster happy, successful learners who are confident, resilient and independent. We value and respect each others’ abilities and individuality.