Dear Parents and Community,

Welcome back to another school year. It is great to see all the students back with smiles and eager to catch up with friends. I would like to extend a special welcome to the new students and families who have started at EMPS this year and wish you a great start and wonderful year.

Attendance
This year our school will be having a very big focus on student attendance. As all parents would be aware regular attendance (90% or more) is essential for progression in learning. Anything below 90% attendance can result in gaps in learning and students slipping backwards, particularly in areas of English and Maths. The school will be implementing a number of strategies to highlight the importance of attendance to our students, but by far the biggest and most significant impact is made by YOU! The school needs all of our parents to aim for 90% attendance by insisting that your child comes to school every day that they are not legitimately sick. Please do not give in when they try: “I don’t want to come to school” or “I don’t like school” or “People are mean to me” or any other of the many excuses that our kids provide. School needs to become a constant routine that IS NOT negotiable. Please support the school with this really important focus and please feel free to touch base with someone at the school if you are having problems getting your child to attend regularly.

Road and Bus Reminder
Could all parents please remind students to give way to vehicles when crossing the road outside the school. An important request from the bus drivers is for parents and students to not walk behind parked buses. These vehicles can move backwards when taking off, which could lead to serious injury or death to anyone in the way. Please use the crossing provided and then the pathway on the opposite side of the road.

Students at School
Could I please remind all parents that students should not be at school prior to 8.20am. The school cannot provide adequate care of duty of care to students who come before this time. A reminder also that students should stay near or around their classroom once they are at school and not go down to the oval or the undercover area. Could I also remind parents that many of our teachers will be preparing lessons and setting up classroom activities in the morning. Classroom opening times will vary across the school and these will be discussed by individual teachers during the upcoming parent meetings.

Parent Meetings & Homework
Throughout the next few weeks teachers will be arranging times for parent meetings. These meetings may be held as either a whole class parent meeting or individual parent meetings, depending on the classroom teacher. Notes will be sent home with information about these meetings shortly. During these meetings teachers will be outlining the homework expectations that the school has for each year group.

Homework is an expectation for all students and is an important strategy in consolidating what has been taught at school. To assist in undertaking homework, the school has invested in on-line programs that can be accessed at home for the purpose of homework. Please make use of these wonderful resources.

Small Groups & Parent Help
As part of our school organization most classes across the school will be creating small groups for maths, reading and spelling. To enable these groups to operate most effectively we need parent assistance. If you are interested in volunteering some time at school to help with these programs or various other programs at school (library, canteen etc) please contact the appropriate staff or administration. Thank you to the many parents who have already offered their assistance in helping out within the classrooms and the canteen this year.

School Board AGM
The School Board AGM will be held on Thursday 17th March at 3.15pm in the staffroom. All visitors are welcome to attend. The AGM will provide an overview of 2015 school year and appoint positions for 2016.

Reminders:
- School Fees $40.00 – Could I please remind all parents who have not yet paid school fees to please make an effort to do so? These fees do assist the school to provide materials for our students.
- Web Site – Please take a moment to have a look through the wonderful web pages the school publishes. The address is: http://www.eastmanjimup.wa.edu.au

Have a great fortnight!
Jeremy Hadlow Principal

Are you missing a Bike?
If so please call into the front office.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 18 Feb</td>
<td>Incursion “Constable Care”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 23 Feb</td>
<td>Incursion “PVC Music”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Mar</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9 Mar</td>
<td>Faction Athletics Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Mar</td>
<td>Faction Athletics Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14-Fri 18 Mar</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>Fri 25 Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Mon 28 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Tue 29 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Tuesday</td>
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<td>Tue 5 April</td>
<td>Interschool Athletics Field</td>
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<td>Fri 8 April</td>
<td>Interschool Athletics Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 7 April</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 April</td>
<td>Last day term 1</td>
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**School Fees - $40.00**

As a government primary school the maximum fee that we can charge for school fees is $60 per child. At EMPS we have kept our fees as low as possible to ensure affordability. We would greatly appreciate all parents making the effort to pay school fees before 1 April 2016. As an incentive we will be offering 3 students per class the chance to win a canteen voucher. These prizes will be drawn on Wednesday 6 April at the mini assembly and can be used at the school canteen at any time.

**Three Program**

Our wonderful pre-kindergarten program will run again commencing Term 2 starting **Monday 2 May 2016**. The sessions will run from 9.15am to 10.15am. The program will provide our young future students with an excellent introduction to our school. Enrolment forms are available at the school.

**Breakfast Club Volunteers**

Can you help out at Breakfast Club? We have a vacancy for Wednesday mornings. It will take about an hour of your time before school, and many of our children benefit both socially and nutritionally from being able to start their day with a good meal. If you are interested please call 9771 1146 or drop into the school for more information.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking will recommence for the 2016 year on **FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY** between 8.30-9.00am in the Library.

If you would like to register your child for School Banking simply pop in and see the wonderful staff at the Commonwealth Bank in Manjimup. (You will need to take your child’s birth certificate with you)

**NEW PAGES ON OUR WEBSITE**

- First Day of School
- 2016 Classes Ready for Work
- Christmas Concert a Fun Night
- Awards Night 2015
- Year Six Awards
- Cherry Festival Arts Display
- Prekindy Children
- Room 4 Assembly
- Room 5 Assembly

**BICYCLE SAFETY**

Each year 530 children present at Princess Margaret hospital as a result of Bicycle injuries. The majority of these injuries occur on public roads. Most cycling injuries don't involve another vehicle, but occur when children fall off their bike after crashing into a pole, curb or fence.

**Riding The Bike**

- Children should obey the rules of the road and know what each traffic sign means.
- Children should never make a turn without looking behind them. Teach them to make a shoulder check before they signal and turn.
- Children should avoid riding on busy streets and riding at night.
- If there is traffic, a child should stop by the side of the road and wait for a gap before turning.
- For young cyclists, a footpath or shared path is the best place to cycle, unless a no bicycles sign is on display. The Road Traffic code 2000 allows children under 12 to ride on footpaths, but remember that driveways are dangerous.
- Children on bicycles should always give way to pedestrians.
- Help children understand when it is safe to cross the road.
- Teach children to walk their bikes when crossing the street, crosswalk or railway crossings.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**MANJIMUP REPERTORY CLUB**

**Pirates**

Manjimup Repertory Theatre is performing a weekend of pantomime shows this weekend only. Tickets are on sale at the Manjimup Visitors Centre.

**Tigers Football Club**

Registration and First Training Night
Wednesday 2nd March 4.30pm at Rea Park
Auskick (Yrs. 1,2,3), Yr 4/5, Yr 6/7& Yr 8/9
Any New Players and Parents Welcome
Players and Parents Sausage Sizzle
Enquiries Angelo Femia 0428770908
Email: manjimuptigers@westnet.com.au