Welcome to UPPS. We are very excited about this year. Please refer to important information below.

**Important Dates**

**Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th February** – Foundation assessment interviews  
**Friday 5th February** – Parent Information session, picnic and open classroom afternoon  
**Thursday 11th February** – Parent helper course  
**Friday 12th February** – Foundation morning tea  
**Thursday 3rd March** – Parent teacher interviews 11:30am–6pm  
**Friday 11th March** – Curriculum day (student free day)  
**Monday 14th March** – Labour Day public holiday  
**Thursday 24th March** – Last day of term 1 (school finishes at 1:15/1:30)  
**Friday 25th March** – Good Friday public holiday

**Term 1 is a Sun Smart Term**

Term one and four are sun smart terms at school. This means that all students MUST wear a sun smart hat while outdoors. It is also a good idea to provide your children with sun screen, sun glasses and extra labelled water bottles. If students do not have a sun smart hat on they will be expected to sit in the gazebo.

**Wednesdays**

On Wednesdays in February, foundation students will undergo two assessment interviews. One of these will be based upon literacy, and the other on numeracy. They will only be required to attend school at their given interview times on Wednesdays. Please see the note coming home today for their allocated times.

**Blogging**

Each grade has its own blog. It’s a great way to get a glimpse of what is happening in the classroom. Blogs allow students to communicate with the school community and share their learning. Our blog addresses are  
Please make your child’s blog a favourite on your computer and check in on what we have been up to from time to time. You can subscribe to our blogs and you will be emailed when blogs are updated. Unit newsletters like this can also be found under a link at the blog.

**Healthy Snack**
Students may have two healthy snacks a day in between recess and lunch. These can be a piece of/cut up fruit or vegetables. These are usually eaten at 10am and 12:30am.

**Home reading**

Each day, students will take a book home from school to practise their reading. Please read the book with your child and ask them questions about the text afterwards. To begin with, you may read to your child with them tracking the words and then repeating that page back to you. Students can gradually take control of the reading. Their reading needs to be recorded in their reading diary each night and then bought back to school each day in their reading satchel.

**Hot Words**

Foundation students practise the ‘hot words’. These are lists of high frequency words, usually with some common spelling patterns. The goal is for students to be able to recognise these words on sight when reading. They therefore need short, regular practise of these. Your role will be to support your child to learn these words by reading the words with your child on a regular basis and playing games together. Eg. memory, snap, I spy or go fish. Once a student can read a list independently, they are moved onto the next list. Each class is looking for a parent helper to test students on the lists each week. Please see Mrs Phillips or Miss K if you can help.

**Parent Helpers**

We would not be able to run such successful classroom programs and excursions without your involvement. If you are able to help out at any stage please let us know. If you have not completed the classroom helpers program, a new session will run shortly. Please remember to help at the school you will need to complete a working with children check. These forms can be found at any Australia Post office.

**Entering classrooms**

Please enter classrooms via the classroom door, not the office to keep office traffic to a minimum.

**Bende**

Bende is our education support officer (ESO), you may see her in our classrooms supporting students.

We look forward to catching up with all of you during the term.

Thank you Sarah and Hannah