Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our number one school priority is reading. We are very pleased that our students are progressing well in this area. We successfully reached our term 3 target of 75% of students above the school and regional reading benchmarks. The term 4 reading benchmarks are: Prep: Level 8; Year 1: Level 16; Year 2 – Level 20; Year 3 – Level 24; Year 4 – 6 – Reading age equals chronological age. If you are not sure what your child’s reading age is, please look at their reading goal (due home by the end of week 3) or see the teacher.

Please work with us to help your children achieve the set reading goal, by ensuring that they read every day. If your children are still learning sight words, please work especially hard with them to complete their levels so that their reading can progress. Our data shows that there is a direct improvement in reading when sight words are learnt.

D. Broadfoot
Principal
13th October, 2016

Clowning
As widely reported in the media, there is a current trend of people dressing as clowns and going in public with the intent of scaring others. Earlier in the week, a number of Queensland state schools were named as targets for this behaviour in a Facebook post. As a result, this is a topic of conversation amongst our students. Many students are concerned that clowns may come to our school. We are reassuring the students that this is extremely unlikely and that we can keep ourselves safe through our emergency procedures (i.e. lockdowns). We will be having a lockdown drill on Friday, given the concern surrounding this current public nuisance behaviour and threats to schools. Students will be informed prior to the lockdown to ensure that there is no unnecessary fear. The safety and wellbeing of students continues to be our highest priority.

In the interests of student well-being, we are also requesting that students do not come dressed as ‘scary clowns’ for the Halloween Disco. This could quite easily terrify young children.

Student Free Day - Monday 17th October
Please note that this Monday 17th October is a mandated student free day. This day will be used for staff professional development. Our focus will be around a number of areas, including collaborative analysis of our progress towards our achievement targets and school priorities, followed by further class and whole school improvement planning.

Prep Enrolments
Enrolments for Prep for 2017 have now begun and we are filling up fast again! If you have a child that is eligible to start Prep next year please pick up an enrolment pack from the office. Please pass on this information if you know of another parent or caregiver that will be enrolling their child in prep at RESS next year.

Date Claimer – Year 5 and 6 Awards Night
Parents and caregivers of Year 5 and 6 students are invited to attend the Year 5 and 6 Year Level Awards and Graduation evening on Thursday 1st December. More information was sent home earlier in the week.

School Disco Expectations
We are looking forward to a great Halloween disco, next Friday. The final of Railway’s Got Talent will also be held. We will be reinforcing the following expectations at parade:

Expectations:

- All students are to be picked up by an adult. No students are to be walking home by themselves
- Scary clown masks are not recommended, given the recent events in the news
- Students are not permitted to be outside the designated areas, including under D block unless they are buying food at the Railway Café
- Students are not permitted to bring soft drink/energy drinks/chewing gum to the school for this event.
- Have a great time and allow others to have a great time too.

World Teacher’s Day
World Teacher’s Day is Friday 28th October for Queensland schools. We are looking forward to celebrating the great work that our teachers do. It is a great opportunity to give your thanks too!

PIMLICO SHS ENROLMENTS
Enrolments for Year 7, 2017 will be accepted from 8:00am on Friday 14 October.
Enrolments are open to all students, although enrolment numbers may need to be limited according to the school’s Enrolment Management Plan. Priority for enrolment is given to children who permanently reside within the defined catchment area for the school. However, enrolment is not limited to residents of the catchment area and other children will be accepted for enrolment for the available places, according to the priorities in the Enrolment Management Plan (please note that the catchment area relates to the child’s permanent place of residence, and not to the school attended by the child). About half the Year 7 enrolments in 2016 were from outside the catchment area. Visit our website http://pimlicoshs.eq.edu.au and click the enrolment tab for more information on the Enrolment Management Plan.

Completed Application Forms must be received by Friday 28 October 2016. Written acknowledgement of enrolment will be provided to all enrolled students in mid-November. Application forms received after 28 October will be placed on a waiting list and accepted as places become available.

Students enrolled for 2017 will be invited to visit the school on an Orientation Day on Wednesday 30 November. Students are also invited to one of our Open Days as part of our Transition Program on 15, 16 and 17 November.

STUDENTS LEAVING
Please ensure that you inform the school if your children will not be back at school on the first day (Monday 23rd January) or if you may be moving. This information is essential for planning classes and for staffing planning for 2017.

We also need to enrol all Prep students immediately to ensure we can adequately prepare for 2017. If you have children eligible for Prep in 2017, please call the office to arrange enrolment.

Worms in children
A few parents have noted their children getting ‘worms’ recently. It’s common to find worms in kids aged between five and ten years. If you notice that your child has a very itchy bottom, it could be a sign of worms. Luckily, worms are easy to treat.

Your doctor will probably tell you to take antiparasitic tablets, which you can get over the counter from a pharmacy. These tablets usually work after one or two single doses.

If your child is diagnosed with threadworms, you should treat everyone in the family with antiparasitic tablets. This stops the spread of worms between family members. It’s also a good idea to keep your child home from school while he/she has worms, to stop worms spreading to other children.

Unfortunately, the eggs spread easily and it’s common for infections to come back.

There are several ways to help prevent the spread of worms:
- Thoroughly wash hands after going to the toilet and before handling food.
- Cut fingernails regularly.
- Try to encourage your child not to scratch around their bottom or suck their thumb or fingers.
- Treat everyone in the family with antiparasitic tablets when someone in the family has worms.
- If you or your child has worms, regularly wash their clothes and bed linen in hot soapy water every day for up to several days after treatment.
- Clean toilet seats and potties regularly.

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