Welcome back to a brand new year!
I certainly hope you all had a great Christmas break and I take this opportunity to wish all of our families and the Oatley West community the very best for 2015.

I hope you all enjoyed celebrating Australia Day last Monday and I know many of you participated in the event at our own Oatley Park.

On Tuesday staff returned with teachers busy in meetings, professional learning and preparation for the upcoming year.

On Wednesday students returned and it was really great to see every single one of them in the school uniform and pleased to be back at school (well most of them). Those that said they would rather still be on holidays certainly put up a good disguise at being really happy.

We started the day with a school assembly in the hall, introducing our new staff and singing a hearty rendition of the School Song, I Am Australian and The National Anthem. We revised our school values and discussed the upcoming year’s events.

Our new Kindergarten students have been attending in allotted times over the last three days to complete their Best Start testing and have all arrived fully for class today. We welcome all of our Kinder students and new students and their families to our school.

Please be reminded that you will need to have an updated email address to receive the school newsletter each week. The newsletter is also posted on the App.Skooolbag each week so that the community can download the newsletter onto their phone or tablet. If you require a hard copy please let the office know to have one printed for you.

New School Flag:
We are very proud of our new school flag which was flown for the first time on Wednesday. The school flag will fly proudly from the flagpole in the Welcome Courtyard daily. Three new flags adorn the flagpole in the basketball court area; the Australian Flag, State Flag and Aboriginal flag.

Staffing:
Ms Cross will be on exchange this year to Denver in the United States. We welcome Ms Laarman
who is the exchange teacher for the next twelve months.

Ms Cross has arrived to dig her car out of the snow and Ms Laarman has arrived with us to experience just about every season of weather we can turn on for her, from heat to storms and torrential rain. Welcome to Australia and Oatley West Public School Ms Laarman.

We welcome Mrs O'Reilly who is the permanent replacement teacher for Mr Sheinwald who retired last year. Mrs O'Reilly was successful under the department’s merit selection process after succeeding at interview at the end of last year.

We welcome Mrs Chappell into position of Deputy Principal. This is a new position at our school. Mrs Chappell was successful under the department’s merit selection process after succeeding at interview at the end of last year. Mrs Chappell will be working very closely supporting me in the principal role this year.

Ms Eaton will continue relieving as Principal at Peakhurst South Public School throughout 2015. Ms Hart is relieving for Ms Eaton. Ms Warren, Ms Morgan, Ms Aravanopoulos and Ms Farah will be taking term about as Assistant Principal relieving for Ms Eaton. Each of these four teachers are aspiring leaders and this opportunity will be shared each term however they will work as one across the year.

Mrs Ross has been seconded out of the school in the position of Relieving K-2 Curriculum Advisor, Learning and Leadership Directorate, Early Learning and Primary Education. This appointment is for Term 1 and possibly into Term 2. Mrs Koutrodimos is relieving for Mrs Ross throughout Term One and if needed into term Two. Mrs Smits is relieving as Assistant Principal while Mrs Ross is away from the school.

Ms Laarman is replacing Mrs Cross who is on exchange. Mrs Laurence is relieving as Assistant Principal throughout 2015.

We are very pleased to see Miss Benita our School Chaplain back again this year after a successful application was accepted at the end of last year. I look forward to continued success in this program throughout 2015. Benita has certainly become an integral part of our school’s way of life.

Mrs Atkins joined us last year as a teacher for English Language Learners (old ESL title). I am happy to announce that she will be back with us again full time throughout Term One and Term Two. Hopefully these days will continue into Term Three and Term Four.

Mrs McLaren the School Administration Manager (SAM) is on leave leading into retirement this year. We welcome Mrs Slater relieving in this role and Mrs Robertson will be relieving in Mrs Slater’s days as School Administrative Officer.

Mrs Golledge and Mrs Fulker are both School Administrative Officers (SAO) permanently employed at our school in the office.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Walker will continue this year as Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO) supporting students with learning difficulties.

Mr Guttenberg (Mr Barry) and Mr Scully (Mr Carl) will continue as General Assistants.

We tried so hard last Friday to be able to form classes but numbers were balancing and at the last minute I decided to spend the weekend thinking over numbers and the school organisation. We formed classes today and below is the organisation for 2015.
**STAFF 2015**

**Principal**  
Mr Nash

**Deputy Principal**  
Mrs Chappell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Stage 1</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **KS** | Ms Sheehy  
(E1 Coordination [AP]) |
| **KE** | Ms Manuel |
| **KB** | Ms Brown |
| **KM** | Ms Morgan |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1</th>
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</table>
| **1S** | Mrs Smits  
(SL1 Coordination [Rel AP]) |
| **1B** | Mr Ballantyne |
| **1J** | Mrs Ramsay |
| **1/2H** | Ms Hart |
| **2T** | Mrs Twining /  
Mrs Heneghan |
| **2O** | Mrs O'Reilly |
| **2L** | Ms Laarman |
| **2R** | Mrs Koutrodimos |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 2</th>
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| **Stage 2** | Mrs Chappell  
(SL2 Coordination [DP]) |
| **3B** | Mr Burr |
| **3W** | Ms Warren |
| **4K** | Ms Knott |
| **4G** | Mrs Innes |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/5M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5A</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **5L** | Mrs Laurence  
(SL3 Coordination [Rel AP]) |
| **6F** | Ms Farah |
| **6R** | Ms Ross |

| Counsellor | Mr Francis |
| Chaplain | Ms Clark (Miss Benita) |

**Library**  
Mrs Fitzpatrick/  
Mrs Morris

**LaST**  
Mrs Playford

**ESL**  
Mrs Atkins

**Learning Support**  
Mrs Colbert

**RFF**  
Mrs Hatzistergos,  
Ms Chalkiotis  
Mrs Colbert

**School Administrative Manager**  
Mrs Slater (Rel)

**School Administrative Officers**  
Mrs Golledge  
Mrs Fulker  
Mrs Robertson Rel

**General Assistants**  
Mr Barry Guttenberg  
Mr Carl Scully

**School Learning Support Officers**  
Mrs Brown  
Mrs Walker

A school map will accompany the newsletter

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**School Cook Book**

School Club with the help of the parents & teachers of Oatley West Public School published it’s very own Cookbook late last year “Oatley West Valued Recipes”. Unfortunately due to delays in customs, the books were not available in time for Christmas but that does not mean it is too late to support this School Club Fundraiser and in turn our school. There are plenty of books left for sale, and the books are only $30 each. The money raised will supplement the current stock of iPads for students, with the intention that every class will have them available for student use, and additional funds are available to properly maintain them.

School Club supports many school improvement initiatives, the most recent of which you would all have noticed on the grounds of the school – the fabulous colourful artwork to encourage active and imaginative play in our kids.

School Club is always in need of new members and does not require a weekly or even monthly commitment. Occasional assistance for cake stalls, Mother’s or Father’s day stalls is all they need. More importantly School Club needs your ideas about how they can best raise funds for the school and your input to decide how school club funds can best be used to this end. For information on how to get involved you can call or message Jacqui Short on 0432 932 991. Younger children are always welcome to come along.

School club provides funding to the school each year with a budget for each classroom teacher and specialist teacher of $50.00. Teachers may use this in any way they feel will suit their room for the year. Most buy stamps or motivational stickers or classroom equipment to support their program. I try to get to as many School Club meetings as possible as a further venue to communicate with parents. If I can’t attend I will arrange a representative to attend on my behalf.
IGA Shopper Dockets
One of our new Kindergarten parents contacted me last year suggesting that I notify new parents to the school as well as a reminder, that when you shop at IGA @ Oatley there is an Oatley West Public School box to put your dockets in. At the end of the year, IGA gives the school a dividend according to the amount spent after tallying up the shopper dockets for the year. This is usually around the thousand dollar mark so it is worth mentioning for support throughout the year. Last year I put the money together with the WOO bike-a-thon money allowing us to complete the sun shelter over the bike pad.

Safety around the School
Starting off the new school year brings a fresh and new start. Could we all please be mindful of the most precious things of all, our kids as we drive in and around the school precinct? During the busy morning drop off period and afternoon pick up period, please drive cautiously and carefully and way below even the prescribed speed limit. There are crossings, drivers parking and pedestrians to contend with as a car driver. Remember our little ones, even our Year 6ers haven’t the senses to sum up a situation, look out for the speeding car, the driver who has lost concentration or looking down at their mobile phone. We have to predict for them by being sensible and driving accordingly.

Could I also stress the rise of complaints from our neighbours last year of people parking across their driveways, on their grass verge and often double parking in the middle of the street to collect and drop off their children. Concern has also been expressed by parents and the community about parents double parking and calling their children across the road with a few near misses of children running out onto the road from in between and behind cars. An accident/death waiting to happen!

Quite a few parents were caught parking in the Bus Bay by the Police and the Hurstville Council Parking Ranger. They are out and about and it’s not worth the hefty fine.

If you do not need to bring your car into the school precinct at these very busy times please leave it at home or park a few streets away. There is often plenty of parking one or two streets over. This would save congestion at these busy times.

Thoughts for the week
1. It takes a village to raise a child
African Proverb

2. The game of life is the game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later, with astounding accuracy.
Florence Scovel Shinn

We are a Sun Smart School. No Hat Play in the Shade.
The Friendship Spot

As part of the new playground markings OWPS has the Friendship Spot. This spot is located near the computer room and handball courts. The Friendship Spot is for recess and lunch times when students don't have someone to play with. It could be that their friends are away from school on that day, or they have lost their friends in the playground, or they don't have anyone to play with. Miss Benita (School Chaplain) will be around this spot on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the Value Seekers will keep their eyes out too. It is important that each student is aware of the Friendship Spot for themselves, but also to keep a look out for students who are alone and they can invite them to participate in a game they are already playing. By including others and checking they are alright we are showing the school values and helping each day be a little happier for each student.

Miss Benita
School Chaplain

Chess Club 2015

Chess Club will resume on Monday 16th February (Week 4) at lunchtimes in Mrs Laurence’s room. The chess club is run by the Sydney Academy of Chess who provides weekly tutoring to students at all different levels of ability in chess. The club is run on a term by term basis but some parents prefer to pay for the whole year upfront. There is also the opportunity to purchase workbooks at different levels while chess clocks and chess sets are also available. The cost for Term 1 is $52.50.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board, puzzle solving and fun practice games. Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Forms will be given out to interested students and there is one in this newsletter. I will need them back no later than next Thursday 12th February (Week 3) in order to organise tutors. Please ensure you indicate on the form the skill level of your child.
Please note: New Kindergarten students will not be able to join the Chess Club until Term 2 to allow them time to settle into school and routines.

Please return forms and money to the front office or to the box in my room before the due date.

Anne Laurence

**Library News**

Welcome back to 2015, another great year for reading and research at OWPS. If you have discovered any Library books at home over the holidays, could you please return them ASAP.

The **Premier’s Reading Challenge** begins in March. If you have been reading over the holidays, please keep a record of what you have read. You may be able to add these books to your list.

Rita Fitzpatrick and Virginia Morris

**Uniform Shop**

Acting Manager – Sia Coelho

E-mail: scoelho@iinet.net.au

The Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 9-10am outside the KW classroom in C Block.

**Summer Uniform**: Summer Uniform is to be worn from the beginning of Term 1. The summer uniform consists of the following:

**Girls** - Summer Tunic worn with blue socks, zip jacket (as required) and black shoes. Culottes with the short sleeve blue polo shirt are also available as an alternative to the tunic however traditionally the children in years K-2 wear the tunic. Blue socks and black shoes are to be worn with the culottes.

**Boys** - Grey shorts with a short sleeve blue polo shirt, grey socks with stripes, zip jacket (as required) and black shoes.

**Sport** - Gold polo shirt and black bike pants with side stripes (for girls)/ black shorts with side stripes (for boys). However, if your child feels the cold, they are permitted to wear black tracksuit pants with their gold polo shirt.

**Hats** - All children must wear a school hat. Caps are not part of the School Uniform. Oatley West follows guidelines set by the Department of Education in respect to Safe Sun practices. If your child does not wear a hat, they will be instructed to go to a shaded area.

**Shoes** - Boys and Girls are to wear black shoes Monday to Thursday. Black or white Joggers are to be worn for sport on Friday.

**Uniform Orders**: If you are unable to get to the Uniform Shop, an order form can be completed and dropped in to the school office. All orders will be delivered to your child’s classroom on Thursday when the shop is open.

**Swim Caps in House Colours**: Support your Sports House by purchasing a swim cap in your House colour with Logo. Swim Caps are available for sale for $5.00 at the Uniform Shop. Place your order by Wednesday this week to receive delivery prior to Thursday.

**Parent Volunteers**: Uniform Shop is run by volunteers. If you have an hour to spare weekly, fortnightly, monthly or even just once or twice a Term, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sia Coelho on scoelho@iinet.net.au
Thank You: Many thanks to Andrea P, Linda H, Belinda A, Liz L, Stacey S and Carmel S who all stepped in to help out on our first day back. It was extremely busy however it was greatly appreciated these parents were willing to help, it couldn’t have been done without them.

Sia Coelho

Thank you from Mrs Innes
A big thank you to the 2014 4G parents for the beautiful gifts I received at the end of last year. I was very touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Thank you very much!

Medical Updates
If your child suffers from Asthma, uses a Puffer or needs an Epipen could you please get the appropriate form from your doctor and a current photo. Bring this to the school office where we will make copies to go to the appropriate areas. Please note if we hold this information from last year, this will need to be updated for 2015.

Thank you.
OATLEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Permission notes and medical forms were handed out last week and need to be returned to Mrs Laurence’s room no later than tomorrow (Tuesday). Medical forms (on the back) must be filled out along with the swimming level of your child.

Carnival date: Thursday 5th February, 2015.

Time: Students are required to be at school no later than 8:45am ready for a 9:00am departure. The carnival will commence at 9:45am and will finish at approximately 2:45pm.

Venue: Roselands Swimming Centre

Cost: $10 per child to cover bus fare and pool entry. This will be part of the term note payment. There is a $2.00 fee for parent and community spectators (payable at the pool entrance).

Approved Swim Attire: Lycra rash shirts, nylon shorts, or swimming costumes are the only attire to be worn in the pool. Goggles may be worn.

Please be advised: Coloured streamers and drums are not permitted at the centre.

Needs of each child: School sports uniform or house colours may be worn, swimming costume, 30+ SPF sunscreen, school red hat, water bottle, any medication required, food, drink and towel. Spending money is optional, as the Swimming Centre Canteen will be open.

Please note: *If your child is in Year 2, they must turn 8 years old this year and be able to swim at least 25 metres to attend the carnival.

*If you wish to take your child(ren) away from the pool earlier than bus pickup time, you must inform your child’s classroom teacher so they can record this.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Commence at 9:45 a.m. Boys’ races will precede Girls’ races.

| 1. | All Age Freestyle | 100m |
| 2. | 8 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 3. | 9 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 4. | 10 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 5. | 11 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 6. | 12 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 7. | 13 Years Freestyle | 50m |
| 8. | Junior Years Freestyle | 25m |
| 9. | Senior Years Freestyle | 25m |
| 10. | Junior Backstroke | 50m |
| 11. | 11 Years Backstroke | 50m |
| 12. | 12 & 13 Years Backstroke | 50m |
| 13. | Junior Breaststroke | 50m |
| 14. | 11 Years Breaststroke | 50m |
| 15. | 12 & 13 Years Breaststroke | 50m |
| 16. | Junior Butterfly | 50m |
| 17. | 11 Years Butterfly | 50m |
| 18. | 12 & 13 Years Butterfly | 50m |
| 19. | Novelty Events |

Recess (10 minutes)

| 20. | Finals of 50m Freestyle |
| 21. | Junior Relay |
| 22. | Senior Relay |

Lunch (20 minutes)

If your child is interested in competing in the 200m medley at district level, please submit a qualifying time. Please note that this event is usually suited to experienced squad swimmers. Only the fastest 4 times from the entire District will compete at the district carnival.
Why Chess?

• Create Brighter Thinkers
• Improve Student Focus
• Achieve Academic Success

Educational Benefits of Chess:
• Improves concentration and focus
• Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills
• Enhances memory
• Encourages creative and lateral thinking
• Promotes discipline
• Accelerates emotional development
• Expands visualisation and spatial awareness
• Demonstrates actions and consequences
• Rewards correct decision making
• Increases self-confidence
• Provides opportunities to make new friends from diverse backgrounds

Oatley West Public School Chess Classes, 2015
[Mondays 1:20PM - 2:10PM in Mrs Laurence’s classroom]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>16th Feb - 30th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>27th Apr - 22nd Jun*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>$67.50</td>
<td>20th Jul - 14th Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>$67.50</td>
<td>12th Oct - 7th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No chess on 8th Jun (Public Holiday)

TO ENROL: Please collect a form from Mrs Laurence.

Sydney Academy of Chess Pty Ltd
Sydney Chess Centre, Level 1, 30A George Street Burwood, NSW
P: 9745 1170  F: 9745 1176  PO Box 1325, Burwood, NSW 1805
E: info@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au  W: sydneyacademyofchess.com.au
Oatley West Public School Chess Classes – 2015

Classes will take place on Mondays from 1:20PM – 2:10PM in Mrs Laurence’s classroom.

To enrol, please tick the appropriate boxes below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 – Cost: $52.50</th>
<th>Workbook 1 – Cost: $22</th>
<th>Chess clock – Cost: $65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[16th Feb - 30th Mar]</td>
<td>[Beginner / Rookie]</td>
<td>[DGT Easy Gametimer]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2 – Cost: $60</th>
<th>Workbook 2 – Cost: $22</th>
<th>Chess set – Cost: $22</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[27th Apr - 22nd Jun*]</td>
<td>[Intermediate]</td>
<td>[Roll-up chess board + pieces]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No chess on 8th Jun (Public Holiday)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 3 – Cost: $67.50</th>
<th>Workbooks 1&amp;2 – Cost: $35</th>
<th>Advanced Book – Cost: $33</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[20th Jul - 14th Sep]</td>
<td>[SPECIAL OFFER]</td>
<td>[Exploration in Chess Beauty]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Term 4 – Cost: $67.50</th>
<th>Workbook 2 – Cost: $22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[12th Oct - 7th Dec]</td>
<td>[Intermediate]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Cheques are to be made payable to Oatley West Public School.)

If your payment is not received by the day of the first lesson, your child cannot take part in the class. There will be no refunds for students who miss classes during the term.

Total amount paid: $______________

Grading of Students
To give our chess coach an idea of the skill level of the group, please indicate your child’s approximate playing ability in the boxes below. If numbers are sufficient, students will be divided into groups according to their level. If you are unsure, here is a brief explanation of each level.

Beginner: Children who can’t play or only know a few of the rules of chess
Rookie: Children who know the rules of chess, movements, special rules, check, checkmate, stalemate and can play a game of chess
Intermediate: Children who understand opening principles, how to finish off the game, positional elements and tactics, and compete in tournaments.

[ ] Beginner Level  [ ] Rookie Level  [ ] Intermediate Level

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, please fill in this form and return it to the school office, along with payment for the appropriate term. Please ensure that you place the permission slip and payment inside a sealed envelope with your child’s name and class clearly written on the front.

Student’s Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _

Class: __________ Parent’s Name: __________________________

Contact Numbers: (Home) ___________ (Work) ___________ (Mobile) ___________

Email: __________________________

Relevant medical conditions / allergies: __________________________

Signed: __________________________ Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _
Term 1, Week 2 highlights:

Welcome back to school for Term 1 of 2015. The P&C Highlights are issued each Monday. They are put together voluntarily to give parents an overview of what is happening each week in Music (ie Band), School Club, P&C, Canteen, Uniform Shop, Art and Craft and other activities that come up throughout the year. The school newsletter is separate to this.

If there you have anything you would like included in this overview please email julianne@kennardconsulting.com.

Art and Craft Committee Meeting: The show is only 6 weeks away from 20-22 March! Lots of helpers still needed to pull it all together. All parents welcome to attend next planning meeting this Thursday night at 7.30 in the multi-purpose room.

Training Band: A Parent Information Evening is being held on Wed 4th February at 7.00pm in the hall. Please return Training Band contracts and where applicable Musical Instrument Hire-Buy Scheme Agreements.

Intermediate Band and Concert Band: Rehearsals start Week 3 from Monday 9th February.

OWPS Cook Book still available for sale if you would like a copy. Order form on next page. Cost is $30 per book or $50 for 2 books. A copy is available for viewing at the office. Please reference your child's name and class so the book can be delivered to their classroom. If paying by EFT use child's name as reference and place the order form in the school club box found at the school office. Cash or cheque may also be used to pay.
Order form

Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

Phone no: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________

The OWPS Cookbook is under production and will be ready for distribution in early December. Just in time for Christmas. This would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

We are currently offering a special PRE ORDER PRICE of $25 per book for orders made prior to 23.10.14.

Any orders made after Thursday 23 October will be at the FULL PRICE of $30 each.

Please return this order form with payment to the School Club box in the office foyer prior to 23.10.14.

I would like to order (quantity):______________ cookbooks at $25 each

Cheque made payable to: OWPS School Club

EFT your payment to: BSB: 062218 Account number: 00902102 Quote ref: Child’s Name

If payment is made by EFT, please ensure this order form is also returned.

This cookbook contains over 150 OWPS community, family favourite recipes. It features tried and true favourites from Grandma’s kitchen as well as simple, quick evening meals, delicious sweet treats and fun recipes for kid’s to enjoy time in the kitchen.

With photos showing school life and kid’s cooking, it will make a treasured memento for all children and family members.