

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Grade 3! We have enjoyed a great start to the school year and look forward to a great year of learning and fun.

### Home Reading/Homework

We will be starting our take home reading program this week. Take home books are chosen from a collection specifically targeted at each child's individual reading ability. Reading is assessed regularly and the children move up levels as their accuracy, fluency and comprehension improve. **Please be aware that comprehension of texts at a deep level is a major focus in Grade 3, therefore children will progress through the reading levels at a much slower rate.** We recommend that your child reads at least 15 minutes a night, aiming to achieve a minimum of one hour per week. Home reading will be the only homework for at least the first couple of weeks. Please ensure that the reading log at the back of your child's homework book is completed and returned to school every Monday. Reader bags should be returned to school daily.



### School Supplies

Whilst the majority of students have returned all of their school supplies, please return any outstanding stationery, reader covers, art smocks or library bags to school as soon as possible. Term One is a hat term and this period will now stretch into several weeks of Term Two, as dictated by the Education Department. Students are encouraged to have a drink bottle for water to keep in the classroom, particularly during these hot few months.

### Tissues

It would be wonderful if each child could bring a box of tissues to school to share with the grade. A big thanks to those who have already done so, it is much appreciated.

### Classroom Helpers

We are very keen to have parents, grandparents and friends involved in our classroom programs this year. Our reading program needs a number of helpers who listen to children read their take home readers. This will take approximately half an hour, from week 4. If you are able to help please fill in the form attached, indicating the days and times you are available and send it back to school as soon as possible. Also, a reminder that ALL volunteers need to read the Parent Helper and Volunteer Worker Confidentiality Policy and Agreement, then sign and return to school the Agreement PRIOR to commencing any volunteer work within the school or classroom. If you have already completed a form it is not necessary to complete another. Copies of the Policy and Agreement are available from the front office.

Additional opportunities to help will arise throughout the year. 3/4H will require parent volunteers for Kitchen Garden in Term 1, as indicated by the note already sent home. 3B, 3P, 3MK and 3M will do Kitchen Garden in Term Four. In Terms 2 and 3 there will be opportunities to help during MAKE - hands on activity sessions completed weekly. We will be going on excursions throughout the year and will need volunteers for those. In term Four the Grade 3s will go on their first camp and a limited number of parent helpers will be needed then too.

## Curriculum

In addition to Literacy and Mathematics we will be focusing on various Inquiry topics this year. In the first weeks of Term One we will be getting to know each other, completing team building exercises and sharing information about ourselves. We are also learning about expectations and routines in Grade 3 and revisiting our whole school MEPS values. In a couple of weeks we will begin learning about the science of Earth and Space, for example the rotation of the Earth and what makes night and day. This will be in addition to the specialist Science program.



## Allergies

Please be aware that we have a number of allergies and anaphylactic children in the Grade 3 cohort. We discourage you from bringing treats to school that contain nuts and please remind your child not to share their food with others.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns or issues throughout the year.

Kindest regards,

MICHELLE POLLEY, KAREN MORCOMBE, MARK POWELL, CHRISTIE BROWN,  
BEC HALEY AND TASH BERNARD

