

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018



Below is some information about Grade 3 life for this year. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. If we are unable to speak to you immediately due to meetings, yard duty or other commitments, we will arrange a time to meet with you.

### READING

As in Grade 2, we teach the CAFÉ reading strategies (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Extending vocabulary). While we teach a range of these strategies each week, your child will also work with their teacher to create a learning goal which focusses on a strategy that they particularly need to master. Setting goals helps children understand what they are striving to achieve and makes it very clear to the children what we are teaching them. The teachers will hear your child read regularly and also do formal assessments.



### HOME READING

Your child will bring home a reader from school. We call these 'good fit' books as they are at or just below the level your child is currently learning to read. They should not be too hard and they should be fairly easily read and understood. There is a table in the back of the children's homework book for them to fill in their nightly reading. It is still very beneficial for your child to be reading every night, even if they are just reading to themselves before bed. Grade 3 children do not move as quickly through the levelled reading boxes as they do in Grades Prep, 1 and 2. There is a strong focus on comprehension and analysing aspects of texts such as the author's reason for writing, descriptions of characters and word choices. If your child is enjoying a novel at home they can read that and write it in their Homework book. However, books from school should be read throughout the year as well as home novels. The emphasis on home reading is enjoyment and practise of the reading strategies taught at school. Perhaps they can alternate between home books and 'good fit' books.

### READING HELPERS

We love reading helpers in Grade 3! Please fill in the form on this note and return it if you can join your child's grade for some reading in the afternoon.

### WRITING

The children will learn how to structure various forms of writing and learn the grammar involved for each type. We talk about 'uplevelling' our writing which means improving it by using different openers, using descriptive language (WOW words) and varying sentence structure and word choices. We want people to love reading what we write!

The children will also learn to join their handwriting so that their writing flows quickly ready to gain a pen license in Grade 4!

### SPELLING

The children will have a list of words to learn each week at school and also at home as an optional task. These lists are based on a spelling pattern or grammar rule such as contractions or plurals. They will bring these home to practice but will also work on them at school. On Fridays these words will be tested.





## MATHS

Some topics of the Mathematics curriculum will be taught in your child's home class and others will be taught in groups based on what your child needs to learn. A short test will be given to the children before we begin these topics so that they are working with students with similar needs. This allows the teacher to teach the students at the level they need, not too high and not too low.

## INQUIRY

Our topic for Term 1 is about healthy bodies and minds and how to get them. The first few weeks are focussing on getting to know each other, the behaviours that embody the school values and understanding our feelings.

## HOMEWORK

Our Grade 3/4 Homework Matrix will be sent home in Week 3. It is very similar to last year's. There are 2 compulsory tasks each week - Reading and Mathletics. There are also 2 optional tasks, one of which may be spelling. There will be a list of suggestions for the optional tasks based around family life, doing one's part in the home, learning about the world and using skills learned at school.

## FLEXIBUZZ

Each week the Grade 3 teachers will send out a message through Flexibuzz telling you what we will be learning in the coming week. It will also include calendar reminders. If you haven't joined, we recommend you do so. There is a link to join on the school website.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thank you for labelling and organising your child's stationery items. It made our Day 1 organisation run very smoothly. In Grade 3 we use headphones, library bags, reader bags, art smocks and of course, hats. If your child does not have any of these, please send them ASAP. They need not be green school issue items as long as they do the job (apart from the hat).

Could you please send along a box of tissues if you haven't already? As the winter months come, they are very much in need in our classrooms. Thanks.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children, teaching them all the amazing things in the Grade 3 curriculum. In Term 4 we will take them on a brilliant camp to Merricks Lodge and give them many other learning experiences as well.

Thank you in advance for the support you give us and your children in their Grade 3 year.

MICHELLE POLLEY, BEC HALEY, MARK POWELL AND KAREN MORCOMBE

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## READING PARENTS

Reading afternoon will be Thursday from 2.30 pm.

I would like to help in my child's classroom on the Reading Parents afternoon.

Name: ..... Phone no.: .....

Child's name: .....



Thank you for the offer of your time.