Dear 3/4 families,

We warmly welcome all new students and their families to our 3/4 community and we welcome back all our returning students and their families.

We’ve made a great start to the learning year. It’s been wonderful to catch up with the children both ‘old’ and new. We hope you’ll all have the opportunity to drop in and say hello and have a look at our classrooms before or after school over the next few weeks.

Welcome to the new teachers in the 3/4 area, Mrs Jen Lenten 3/4 L and Mr Michael O’Donovan 3/4 O. Welcome back to Ms Cheryl Ryan 3/4 R (3/4 co-ordinator) Miss Natasha Robb 3/4 N, Miss Blair Warren-Smith 3/4 W and Mr Elias Economou 3/4E, also Denise, Anita, Alison, Heidi, our Teacher Aides who will be working in our area again this year. We are all looking forward to the year which we have already started in a most positive way. The children have completed some excellent work already and have amazed us with the way they’ve settled in so well and so quickly.

SCHOOL ROUTINES

When the 8.45 bell rings the children come inside, unpack their bags, if they have ipads, put them safely in away in their designated cupboard and get themselves ready for the day, remembering to enter through their own classroom doors rather than taking shortcuts through the building. (Please note that teachers are on yard duty at 8.45am before school so if any child is at school before this time they must be booked into the before school care program or parents are to supervise them.)

Setting up for the day could include: saying good morning, putting iPads away, swapping over take-home books, handing in notices/ money/bank books, setting up pencil cases and books, putting chairs down.

Our times for our class sessions this year are; recess is at 11.00 to 11.30 and lunch is at 1.30 to 2.30. The children go out to lunch play at 1.40. As usual the end of the school day is 3.30. Children are allowed to eat ‘brain food’ (fresh fruit or vegetables) in class during the day.

SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

Keeping safety in mind, as well as storage, children who ride scooters/bikes to school must wear a helmet which they can chain to their scooters/bikes in the bike rack on the south side of the 5/6 area. Also when leaving the school at 3.30 children must walk their bikes along Birdwood street past the school as it is a very busy time where many children and parents are on the footpaths.

As always, scooters, bikes, roller blades/skates, skate boards are not allowed to be ridden anywhere within the school grounds, which includes the 3/4 and Junior deck areas.

We’d also like to remind parents and children in the 3/4 area that iphones, ipods, hand held electronic game consoles and any other electronic devices are not allowed to be used in or out of the classroom unless there is a special day arranged by the teachers. Anything of value should be kept at home and not in school bags.

KIDS MATTER

Our goal as a Kids Matter school is promoting children’s mental health and wellbeing. We know that being mentally healthy is vital for learning and for leading a rewarding life. Kids Matter is a way for schools to nurture happy, balanced kids through mental health promotion and prevention. For more information go to www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary
FIRST TERM REMINDERS

BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION EVENING-
TUESDAY 10th Feb — Come and meet the 3/4 team and find out about what happens in the 3/4 area.

HATS: Please remember to send a SUNSMART hat (no caps) to school each day. We are a Sun Smart school and in terms one & four hats must be worn whenever we are outside. If children take their hats home, they need to remember to bring it back the following day. Children who don’t have a hat must sit in a shady area.

WATER: Drinking plenty of water keeps your brain active and your body hydrated, so a named water bottle filled each day is a must! Children can keep water bottles in their bag lockers, on benches or on their tables.

ART SMOCKS/LIBRARY BAGS: Don’t forget named art smocks and library bags!

TISSUES: We ask all families to supply 2 boxes of tissues to the classroom to see us through the year. We would also like to request a small bottle of hand sanitiser from each child for use during the year. Thanks to those families who have sent these in already.

RUBBISH FREE AND WATER WISE: Just a reminder that we are a WasteWise and Sustainable school and the children and staff are encouraged to bring their lunches to school in re-usable containers with no wrappers. Any wrappers will be taken home in lunch boxes.

BRAIN FOOD: Children are encouraged to eat ‘brain food’ during our learning sessions in the classroom if they are hungry, as long as our teaching and learning isn’t disturbed. However the food eaten in these learning times must be fruit, vegetables, dried fruit/nut combinations or healthy homemade snacks. Other snack food can be eaten at recess or lunch break.

CAMP MANYANG—Every year the children attend a three day camp to Camp Manyung at Eliza. This year is our Winter camp. The dates are Wednesday 16th, 17th and 18th of September, the last three days of term 3. This is a very valuable experience and we encourage all children to attend. We will be organising a parent information session some time in term 2.

NIGHTLY READING

In the 3/4 area, students are expected to read every night. This could include:
- reading to themselves (texts they can read independently)
- reading to an adult (texts they may need a little help with)
- being read to by an adult (texts they would like to read, but are not yet ready to read independently, such as some children’s novels)

The children will have a Book Log which we expect will be signed by a parent/guardian every night or morning. Each morning the children may be expected to be ready to either show their signed log to the teacher or to tick a Weekly Reading Chart showing they have read and had their log signed. Please read the information sheet in your child’s folder about reading at home.
SPECIALISTS TIMETABLE
A note will be sent home showing you what days your child will have specialists. It would be good to put it on the fridge or somewhere visible so your child/children can refer to it when necessary to be organised for the day.

HOMEWORK
As well as nightly reading, children will also be given other homework tasks to complete. In Term 1 we will start with a homework grid of tasks that children can chose from to complete. More information will be provided when we start the grids. Homework can be completed in their homework books or on their iPads.

SPECIAL EVENTS/DATES

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<td>BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING 6-7pm</td>
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<td>Friday 20th Feb</td>
<td>Helping your child to read session for parents</td>
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<td>Monday 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Prep children start full time</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th Feb</td>
<td>School Picnic</td>
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<td>Friday 27th Feb</td>
<td>Helping your child to read for parents</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3rd Mar</td>
<td>Meet your new teacher evening</td>
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We’re looking forward to another sensational year of teaching and learning in 3/4.