Dear Parents,

Welcome back! Wow, it looks like another fantastic term ahead of us. Everyone is excited and bursting to get started! The students have all settled in nicely and are working together tremendously well as a team. It is very important to set a positive atmosphere early on in the term, to allow the students to feel comfortable in their environment, which they have done to a high standard. We have a lot to cover this term, which is outlined below. Your child will receive a timetable in the coming days outlining our blocks of teaching. Please stick this on the fridge or somewhere of easy access, as it provides constant structure and everyone knows what they are doing for the day. We also have swimming for the first 3 weeks of term. Please remember to pack bathers, goggles, a towel and extra food. That aside, I’m looking forward to an excellent term. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything.

Kindest Regards,

Chen Pearson

CURRICULUM

IMPORTANT DATES

February 6th – Whole school swimming starts

February 10th – NewStj’s Swimming Carnival (Gr 3-6)

February 15th – District Swimming Carnival (Qualifiers only)

February 16th – Whole school swimming finishes

March 13th – Labor Day

March 15th – Hockey Clinic

March 31st – Term 1 finishes

April 18th – Term 2 starts
English:

This term we will be working in literacy circles, which is a group based activity and focuses on collaborative reading of a selected book. Students will learn how to strengthen their comprehension, how to build up their vocabulary and learn new strategies for working in a team and also independently. Also, we are developing our skills for writing different genre types, mainly in the area of narrative and persuasive writing. This is in preparation for NAPLAN for Grade 3, which is in May (9th, 10th, 11th). Our grammar focus will be targeting nouns and verbs.

Mathematics:

Our numeracy is targeted through a mixture of station work, which operates by working on activities for a short amount of time, then rotating to a new task. The class will also work as a whole group. This allows for peer teaching to occur and creates for explicit teaching opportunities. We are working on place value this term, whilst also targeting our decimals and fractions. Mathematical word problems and numeracy riddles and puzzles will also be targeted.

Integrated Studies:

An exciting unit is already underway in our classroom. We are hard at researching the history of Australia and its culture. This can relate to the convicts, the gold rush, bushrangers and their impact on society, the way money has changed over time as has the culture. Students can investigate topics like transport, famous defining moments, sporting greats or war. If you have any stories to tell or artefacts to share from past relatives about these experiences, please make a time to come in and share them.

Religion:
We are learning about belonging with a focus on Lent and Easter. This will help the students to learn about themselves and their place in a range of groups, including the Church. Preparations for Easter, during Lent will involve learning about Jesus and responding by making small sacrifices to help others in need.

Homework:

If students could read every night (weekends not compulsory), from a book of their choice, that would be fantastic. This practice further consolidates the reading skills we practise during the day. Students will go to the town library on a Friday, but will also have the opportunity to access the school library. Also, students will be given a numeracy sheet, if they wish to practise their maths skills further.

This is an exciting year, and I look forward to a positive and rewarding time with all the students. Please drop in at a convenient time if you would like to have a chat.