Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the last term of 2016! The year has gone so fast. Mrs. Hopcraft, Ms Britton, Mrs Salerno and Mrs Jephcott are looking forward to a successful and fun last term.

Processes and Procedures:
In the morning children put away their bags, change their readers and sit down to read independently or read aloud to a partner during the first ten minutes of the day. This gives teachers the opportunity to mark the roll, check dairies and collect notices.

Communication Processes:
If you need to contact your child’s home group teacher please leave a message at the front office or write a message in the student diary and we will contact you as soon as possible. Teachers are available to have pre-arranged meetings in person when the need arises.

Key Learning Areas:
The math focus is to refine the student’s knowledge in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using regrouping methods. We will continue to work to improve recall of basic number facts. Students will investigate graphs and collecting data. Students will continue to develop their ability to tell the time to the minute and time passed.

The English focus for the grade 3/4 students this term are dream time stories, non-fiction texts (with a science focus) and narratives. Students will write an information report, creative writing, recounts and procedures. Students will investigate the correct usage of punctuation such as: apostrophes, quotation marks and commas.

Our inquiry unit will focus on living and non-living things. Students will be able to define what makes a living thing. Students will investigate their impact on our environment. Students will research and present an information report on a scientist of their choice. This learning will demonstrate their ability to research information and document their findings in an information report. During the term our grade three / four students will have a learning expo to showcase their learning. More details to come!

Reading Aloud:
The students enjoyed reading aloud to their peers last term. Therefore, this term we are giving the Grade 3 and 4 students the opportunity to read aloud again to their grade to help improve fluency. Students need to bring their favourite story book from home to read aloud to the class. Reading aloud will occur on Monday mornings after assembly in home rooms. Students are encouraged to choose a book that they can read confidently and to practise reading it aloud several times before they read to their class. Teachers will notify students of their day to read in Week 1 of Term 4.

Home Learning Expectations:
Home work will continue to be a weekly expectation. There will be weekly spelling based activities and it is expected that your child practises their times tables for home learning. Your child will be expected to complete and submit their home learning by Friday every week. Your child will be expected to read daily, learn set spelling words and practise their times tables each week. Once again, it is of vital importance for students to read daily and bring their home reading books to school every day. Students are required to show the teachers their diary each day so teachers can see that students are reading daily.

Physical Education:
This term grade three and four students will continue to have physical education classes with Mrs. Plastow for an hour a week.

Visual and Performing Arts:
Visual Arts activities during Term 4 will focus on the areas of collage and mixed media. Grade 3/4 classes will be creating artworks focusing on the living/non-living theme where possible. Students will be combining the many elements of art
into their artworks and completing a study of an artist. All students working in the art room are expected to provide an art smock to be worn during classes so that their school uniform is protected from the products used in lessons. This can be an old shirt or t-shirt from home.

**Performing Arts:**

Grades 3-6 will have a 30 minute Performing Arts lesson during this term covering musical elements and encouraging responding to the Arts.

During Term 3 the children thoroughly enjoyed another very successful Alpha Show performance. ‘The Hunchback of Notre Dame’ provided an opportunity for our children to experience a live theatrical performance with full costumes, props and sets. They were an enthusiastic audience and the cast interacted and actively engaged with the children throughout. This term we have a special surprise for our students with another exciting performance. In Week 10, Alpha Shows will be presenting ‘The Grinch’ in the multi purpose room, a special end of year treat.

**Italian:**

Year 3/4 students will compare the weather in Australia and Italy. Students will research the effect it has on people’s lifestyles, clothing, etc. The story *Il Sole e Il Vento* (The Sun and the Wind) will be used as a stimulus for learning.

Students will also explore the cultural celebration of Christmas in Italy and Australia.

**Special Events:**

We are planning an excursion to the Melbourne Museum to see the ‘Bugs Alive’ exhibition on Thursday 13th of October. More details to come.

**Uniform Expectations:**

Term 4 is a Sunsmart term and **all students must wear a school hat** for all outdoor activities. Students who do not have their school hat cannot participate in outdoor activities, which includes outside PE lessons as well as recess and lunch breaks. Please remember that your child should have a water bottle each day as teachers allow students to have a drink whenever they feel the need.

Our uniform is navy blue pants and a light blue top. Black shorts or black tracksuit/leggings are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school.

**Attendance:**

You will have noticed that at the end of every term we are now sending home an attendance certificate for each child. Daily attendance and punctuality are vital components for achieving successful results at school. These certificates will alert you to attendance patterns and are also a means of celebrating the efforts of all. Congratulations to the children in the 3/4 area as our attendance has improved this year. Keep up the great effort!

**Assembly:**

Each grade in the school is responsible for presenting an item at assembly and running the assembly for that week. Our grades will be presenting in:

- 3/4 A – Week 10
- 3/4 B – Week 7
- 3/4 C – Week 5

Kind regards,

Erika Hopcraft  
Sarah Britton  
Linda Salerno  
Amy Jephcott