Friday, 17 February 2017

Dear College Families,

We trust you and your family had a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday. We are very excited for the year ahead and believe God has wonderful plans in store for students, teachers, and parents. We have three Stage 3 classes this year with Mrs Laidler teaching Stage 3 Barrier Reef, Mr Hutchinson teaching Stage 3 Uluru, and we are thrilled to have Mrs Waters join the College this year teaching Stage 3 Kakadu. We are blessed to have a range of specialist teachers who will also teach your child this year – Mr Christie for Music, Miss Huang for Mandarin and Mr Elton, the School Chaplain, will be teaching Biblical Studies.

This year, classes have been named after the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism. Jeremiah 32:17 says, ‘Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.’ We hope that through this theme, our students will develop a greater awareness of the beautiful world that God created and our need to care and protect for it.

Please take the time to read the information below to ensure a smooth start to the school year.

**Communication**

The College uses email as the primary form of communication. Class communication notes will be found each fortnight in Directions, the College newsletter, that is emailed to your nominated email address. It can also be found on the College website. Please ensure that the College has the correct email address so you receive these regular updates. If you need to contact your child's teacher urgently, please call the office, as teachers tend to be very busy during school hours and may not have a chance to check emails until the end of the day.

**Bring Your Own Technology**

Students in Stage 3 are required to have their device at school every day. We use these regularly in daily lessons and we ask that it comes to school charged and in an easily identifiable case for protection. We will ask your child to download apps at home when required. A list will be sent home shortly of apps we would like your child to have for learning purposes this year. Your child should have a set of headphones to use with their device. We have clear guidelines for the use of technology in the classroom and students will be asked to leave their device at home for a period of time if they cannot use it responsibly.

**School Books**

Over the next few weeks we will send uncovered books home in packs on Friday afternoons. Please cover them in the provided Norwest covers remembering to write your child's name and subject before covering with clear adhesive or plastic. Books are to be returned to school on the following Monday, regardless of whether they are covered or not. Students may cover their Homework book with their choice of cover. All books are to be covered by the end of Week 5. Thank you for your assistance with this.
Absentee/late notes

If your child is absent for any reason, it is a legal requirement that parents provide an explanation. You may respond to the SMS notification or send a written note or email. All students in the Primary school arriving late to school must be signed in by a parent/guardian at the office. If students are leaving early, they must also be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian. It is helpful for you to notify us of any changes to the routine with a written note/email also.

Homework

Homework is an important part of student learning in Stage 3. Homework will be issued each Friday and is expected to be returned the following Thursday. Students will have one book for homework in which they will complete their Spelling Homework and at times other tasks. This year students will receive their Literacy activity via Google Classroom and upload their homework task via the Google Classroom App. Homework will start from Week 3, Friday, 17 February and is to be returned Thursday, 23 February.

Please check that your child has completed all homework and initial the recording sheet each week. If your child is struggling with the set homework, please encourage them to bring in their book so that their teacher can assist them before the homework is due. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s class teacher. Should there be a reason for the non-completion of homework, please write a short note/email and an extension will be permitted.

According to the College’s Homework Policy, Year 5 students are required to complete 20 minutes of homework and 15 minutes of reading each school day. Year 6 students are required to complete 30 minutes of homework and 20 minutes of reading each school day.

Class Dojo

We will be using Class Dojo in Stage 3 as part of our classroom management system. Students will receive positive or negative points throughout each school day, which will accumulate over the term. They will receive rewards as they reach certain levels of points. Students will have received a paper note with a login code for them and a login code for you to link in with Class Dojo. As parents, you have the option of signing up for weekly reports to be emailed to you from Class Dojo. Please return the signed note by Friday, 17 February.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

You will soon be receiving more information about the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC). The PRC is included in the Norwest Challenge, and we strongly encourage all students to participate. We will inform students throughout the year when we read texts at school that are on the PRC list. We do however ask that your child bring in a PRC book of choice to read each day within the classroom. More information will come regarding the Norwest Challenge.

Library

Students will need to bring their library bag and any books needing to be returned from the previous week’s borrowing. Students are encouraged to borrow new books every couple of weeks.

Crunch N Sip

Students are required to bring fruit/vegetables and water daily for Crunch N Sip time each day. Please ensure that it is in a labelled container and only fresh fruit or vegetables are to be eaten at this time.

Parent Participation

The College highly values the times and talents of our parents. If you are interested in helping in Stage 3, there are some different events through the year and occasions where jobs can be completed both at home and in the classroom. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out in any way. Please note that to help on campus, you will need to have completed the Volunteer Induction Seminar and have a current Working With Children Check number. Please contact the office for details.
What’s on in Stage 3 each week:

Monday  Assembly/Chapel (on alternating weeks) – After lunch, students will attend either Assembly or Chapel. If your child is receiving an award at Assembly, you will be notified the Friday before. Our classes will also do Assembly items at various times during the year.

Music – Band Group and Strings Group – students will be required to bring in their instrument

Tuesday  Music – Composition Group

Library – Stage 3 Barrier Reef

Wednesday  PE – Students are to wear their sports uniform and must have their sports hat

Library – Stage 3 Uluru and Stage 3 Kakadu

Friday  Sport – Students are to wear their sports uniform and must have their sports hat

Music – Band Group (Week A), Strings Group (Week A) – students will be required to bring in their instrument, Composition Group (Week B)

Please Note: If your child plays an instrument it must be brought to school every Monday and Friday. Your child has the choice to leave their instrument at school over the weekend if they wish.

What are we learning this term?

History  Australian Colonies

English  Narratives & Expositions

Science and Technology  Package It Better

Camp  Week 7 – Bathurst Goldfields

Students will be placed in groups for Spelling and Maths across the Stage. Each day, students will move to different subjects across the Stage 3 teachers.

Questions

Please feel free to contact us with any questions and use email at any stage to set up an appointment.

Please remember to label all of your child's items and belongings. Labelling assists us in returning lost items and can save you money!

Again, we are looking forward to this special and significant year and pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing as we work together throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

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