

**Welcome to Room 3, Term 1, 2017**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to Room 3 for 2017! I hope that you and your children are feeling excited about the year ahead, I certainly am. I would like to warmly welcome the year 5 students to Room 3 and know that they will fit in really well with the rest of the class.

**Below is an outline of what we will cover in class this term**

Swimming has already started and is on every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Therefore, the students will need to make sure that they come prepared on those days with their towel, togs, goggles and sunscreen. Please ensure that students are prepared for swimming even on days that the weather is not looking very nice as it may improve throughout the day. Swimming sports will take place later in the term (Week 5) and more information will be available closer to the time.

Our main focus for Mathematics throughout the first part of the term will be place value and addition/subtraction. This includes basic facts recall, particularly looking at improving our accuracy and speed. We will be focusing on developing our knowledge in this area of math and also the strategies that we use to solve problems. We will be doing many problem solving sessions for the students to develop their skills and knowledge and also share these with their peers. The other focus for Mathematics will be geometry and will happen later in the term.

There will be two focuses for writing this term - recount and poetry writing. Recount writing is a great way to begin the year as the students can record some of the fun activities they have done throughout the holiday period. We focus on quality writing rather than quantity as a good piece of writing does not need to be long. We are going to be looking at how we can make a good piece of writing great by adding in further details and using some wow words. Poetry is a genre of writing the students love. It gives them the opportunity to be creative with their writing and to write about things that interest them and it is also a great way to express themselves. We will be focusing on several types of poems.

Guided reading will take place on a regular basis each week. The students will be grouped and will regularly have activities to complete. These will include activities to improve language, grammar, comprehension, spelling and vocabulary.

Our Inquiry topic this term will focus on different aspects of who we are as individuals and learners. That we are all unique and we have different talents and needs. We will be focusing a lot on respect and how we can ensure that everyone feels respected and valued. The class will also be looking at a book called 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today' by Carol McCloud. This book will help the students to see how kindness, compassion, and respect are so important in our classroom, school, and world. Once again, throughout the term, we will also be discussing our Enviro School journey and how we can continue to set goals to improve our environment and how we can educate others to also value it.

For art this term we will be looking at drawing. We will look closely at some techniques and will do many sketches throughout the term. We already have some amazing art up in class so come in and have a look!

Home learning will look a little different this term. We will certainly be having spelling, reading and basic facts each week but not a detailed homework sheet like there have been in the past. Occasionally there may be a mini project/inquiry for the students to complete at home, but mostly home learning will focus on these three curriculum areas.

Along with this, the students will have Outdoor Academy sessions and the Year 7 and 8 students will have Technology. More information about this will come later in the term.

Finally, please remember that throughout the term we have many assemblies and that you are always welcome. These assemblies are great opportunities for the teachers to celebrate the successes the students have and for the students to share their work with their peers.

I look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hull