Dear Parents/Guardians,
Welcome back to school for 2016. We would like to introduce our 3/4 team for 2016.

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The children are settling in well and we are all looking forward to a productive term. This newsletter will provide you with a brief rundown of our programs and a term overview. If you need more information or have any concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. We are happy to communicate electronically, so please send us your email address. It is very important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting you at the ‘Meet the Teacher Evening’.

LITERACY
Reading - During reading, students participate in small Guided Reading groups and Reciprocal Teaching sessions with the classroom teacher. Students are involved in a range of reading activities such as comprehension tasks, word analysis, Reading Eggs, research activities, shared reading, book reviews and working on the internet. This encourages students to develop as independent learners/readers. The focus this term will be on Activating Prior Knowledge, Predicting and Self Monitoring.

Writing - During writing sessions, teachers model different elements of the writing process, depending on the focus of the session and the needs of the students. Through shared and guided writing, students experiment with strategies for planning, reviewing and proof reading their own writing. The focus this term will be on narrative and procedural texts. Students continue to consolidate their Modern Cursive script in handwriting sessions.

Spelling and Grammar - Students will routinely participate in spelling and grammar investigations each week to assist the development of spelling strategies. From week 3 your child will receive weekly spelling tasks to practice at home. The blend they receive each week will be based on your child’s point of need.
**NUMERACY**
Maths is timetabled daily. The units of work vary according to the needs of the students and the focus of the session. This allows teachers to focus on students' specific needs. Students are involved in whole class and small group activities. In Year 3 /4, our aim is to further develop students' understanding of the number system leading to the ability to perform accurately the basic mathematical operations, to calculate, estimate, measure and to use these skills in everyday problem solving situations. Relevant ICT activities and number games are part of the Maths program.

Please encourage your child to practice their automatic response of tables and basic facts at home (By the end of grade 3, students need to know their 2, 3, 5 and 10 multiplication tables and by the end of grade 4 they need to know all the multiplication tables). Quick quizzes against the clock and number facts grids are worthwhile activities. Daily Mathletics is part of the homework program.

**Term 1 topics are:** Place Value, Data and Odd and Even Numbers

**eLEARNING & INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES**
We will continue to incorporate Information & Communication Technology for various aspects of student learning including keeping track of students' learning goals, collaboration between students and teachers using iPads. Don't forget that if children are unable to access the Internet from home they can do so at school. There is also a strong focus on Cyber Safety and Coding this year.

**ICT Agreement** - All students will have received an 'ICT Agreement'. This form needs to be signed by both parents and children. Students will not be permitted to use any ICT in the school unless they have returned the signed agreement. Your classroom teacher will keep a copy of the agreement for school and send a copy home for your family to display.

**DIGITAL DIARIES**
Students will also have a digital diary, which will be accessed through their iPad. They will receive a username and password to login to their diary. Students will record their nightly reading and teachers will be able to add homework tasks for the students to complete. Parents can also connect to the diary by downloading an app called app 4 parents (free, but can only be downloaded in an iPhone.) With this app parents can view homework and contact teachers if needed.

**DEEP LEARNING**
The Deep Learning topics for Year 3 /4 this term are: 'Learning to Learn and Lets Code'. We ask the essential question 'What factors influence what and how we learn and How can we use Scratch Jr/Scratch to teach others about our school values?' Throughout this unit, students will become familiar with the school value system. Students will explore the Health curriculum and how they learn best. They will also be introduced to the digital technologies curriculum through coding where they will teach others about the school values. Students will learn about iPad code of conduct and the expectations that surround it. This unit will run alongside the Buddy Program.

Homework will begin in Week 3. Students will receive their weekly homework every Friday to be completed and returned on the following Friday.

We expect:

**Independent reading** - 30 minutes daily. This can include: Reading Eggs, magazines, fiction/nonfiction texts or newspapers. Students are to write in what they read, each night in their diary (this will be on your child’s iPad).

**Spelling words** - Weekly spelling words will be sent home beginning week 3.

**Mathletics** - Students are to complete all teacher assigned tasks weekly. Extra tasks are optional.

- Nightly practise of automatic response of tables and basic facts is encouraged.

**REMINDERS**

- **PUNCTUALITY:** The first bell rings at 8.45am and children should be in line ready to enter the classroom at 8.50am. (Children must not enter the building until brought in by a teacher)

- **NO HAT, NO PLAY!** - Our Sun Smart Policy requires that all students wear a broad brimmed hat whilst outdoors during Term 1 and Term 4. Students without a hat will be asked to stay in the shade outside the Prep area.

- **School Uniform** - Flemington PS has a compulsory school uniform in the colours of navy, teal green and white. Please ensure that your child is dressed in the correct uniform at all times. Coloured hijabs or jumpers are not permitted.

- **Routine** - It is important for students to have a balance of indoor and outdoor time after school. In the interest of our students, getting a good night sleep and being able to learn and develop well, you are encouraged to turn off all screens a least an hour before bedtime (e.g. tv, ipads, etc.)

- **Computers and iPads** - It is important to supervise students while they are on computers or iPads and have internet access.

- **Fruit break** - Please provide your child with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable in a small container to eat during the day. We ask that where possible you pack a rubbish free lunch. Please also send a water bottle, which children can drink from during the day.

- **Nut Free Lunch Boxes** - As some children in our school have life threatening allergies to nuts, please ensure your child does not bring any nuts or nut products (such as Peanut Butter or Nutella) in their daily lunch.

- **Labeling Belongings** - We encourage parents to label all student belongings, including school uniform, lunch boxes, drink bottles and students’ school resources, e.g. pencils

- **Library Books** - Please help maintain our resources and have a good search around the house for any lost library books or classroom reading materials.

- **Working with Children’s Check** - You must have a ‘Working with Children’ check if you wish to help out with any activities within the school, i.e. classroom, excursions, incursions.

These can be completed online at [http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/)
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Grade 3/4 iPad Information Evening**
Tuesday 9\(^{th}\) February 6-7pm in the 5/6 Flexible Learning Neighbourhood

**3/4 Swimming lessons at Kensington Swimming Pool**
Every day from 8\(^{th}\) - 19\(^{th}\) February
- 3/4T: Bus leaves at 11.00am, lesson begins at 11.30am ends 12.15, students back at school at 1.00
- 3M and 3/4M: Bus leaves at 12.00pm, lesson begins 12.30 ends 1.15, students back at school at 2.00
- 3/4L & 3/4T: Bus leaves at 1.00pm, lesson begins at 1.30 ends 2.15, students back at school at 3.00

**Classroom Helper Program**
If you could like to help out in our classroom or on excursions and have not yet attended a Classroom Helper Program at Flemington P.S we encourage you to attend.
Tuesday 16\(^{th}\) February from 9-11am

**Allanah and Madeline Foundation Cyber Safety Information Evening**
Wednesday 17\(^{th}\) February from 6-7.30pm

**Helping Your Child to Read**
Thursday 18\(^{th}\) February - 9:00am - 11:00am

**School Council**
Monday 22\(^{nd}\) February

**Meet the Teacher Evening: Years 1 - 6**
You will receive a time and date from your child’s classroom teacher in the coming weeks.
23\(^{rd}\) or 24\(^{th}\) February 4-7pm

**District Swimming Carnival: Queens Park Pool**
Friday 26\(^{th}\) February

**Labour Day Public Holiday - No school**
Monday 14\(^{th}\) March

**Term One student reports sent home**
Wednesday 23\(^{rd}\) March

**End of Term One - 1.30pm dismissal**
Thursday 24\(^{th}\) March

*Make sure you check Diary Dates each week through In Touch*