



# 3/4 UNIT NEWSLETTER

## Term 1 2024

### Welcome to Grade 3/4 2023!

The Grade 3/4 students have made a wonderful start to the school year and we hope they have discussed some of their learning experiences with you thus far.

We have spent some time getting to know the students and helping them to get to know their new classmates, as well as settle into their new classroom routines and environments.

In the first two weeks of term we have established school and classroom processes and routines and our rights and responsibilities within the class and in the playground. Students engaged in our 'Start Up' program where they revised Grade 3/4 expectations. We have reviewed and continue to promote our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Care and Compassion, Resilience and Co-operation.

The 3/4 teachers are looking forward to getting to know your child further and creating a learning environment and learning experiences that are exciting, purposeful and personalised.

We believe school is a partnership between students, teachers and parents and are willing to discuss any issues that may arise.

Appointments can be arranged by calling the office on 9306 9481 or via email/Xuno.

### THE 3/4 TEAM INCLUDES:

**3/4 P - Mrs Elisa Pannunzio**

[Elisa.pannunzio@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Elisa.pannunzio@education.vic.gov.au)

**3/4 C - Ms Chris Biggs**

[Christine.Biggs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Christine.Biggs@education.vic.gov.au)

**3/4 O - Mrs Deidre Ochoa (Mon, Thurs, Fri)**

**Ms Lisa Marino (Tues & Wed)**

[Deidre.Ochoa@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Deidre.Ochoa@education.vic.gov.au)

[Lisa.Marino@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Marino@education.vic.gov.au)

**3/4 H - Miss Rebecca Hay**

[Rebecca.Hay@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hay@education.vic.gov.au)

**3/4 Z - Miss Zoe**

[Zoe.Sakellaris@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Zoe.Sakellaris@education.vic.gov.au)

### Important Dates

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup> February & Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Introducing my Child Conferences  
3:30pm-6:40pm

**Mon 11th March**

Labour Day Public Holiday

**15th March – 27th March**

NAPLAN Grade 3 only

**Mon 25th March**

School Photos

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March**

3/4 Continents of South America & Africa EXPO

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Last Day of Term 1

### SCHOOL DAILY TIMETABLE:

9.00 - 9.50	Session 1
9.50 - 10.40	Session 2
10.40 - 11.30	Session 3
11.30 - 11.45	Lunch Eating
11.45 - 12.30	Lunch Break
12.30 - 1.20	Session 4
1.20 - 2.10	Session 5
2.10 - 2.25	Recess Break
2.25 - 3.15	Session 6
3.15	Dismissal



## Brain Food

We encourage students to bring Brain Food to eat during class time. The food provided during this snack time is additional to that provided for lunch and recess. Healthy foods that are unprocessed fruits or vegetables provide children with an energy boost for learning, develops higher brain function and promotes healthy eating. Children are also encouraged to have a water bottle filled with water only to sip on throughout the day.

## Birthdays

Students may bring **individually wrapped** lollies/chocolates to share with the grade to celebrate their birthday. These will be distributed at the end of the day for students to take home to enjoy.



## Library

Students will attend weekly Library sessions. They need to have their library bags with them each week. Students can borrow up to four books and they must be returned by the next week's Library session. Lost or damaged books will need to be paid for.



3/4 Library Timetable	
3/4C	Wednesday
3/4H	Monday
3/4P	Tuesday
3/4O	Friday
3/4Z	Tuesday

## Sun Smart

Term One is a Sun Smart term. Students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat at lunch and recess. It is also compulsory that students wear their hat when participating in outdoor activities.



## School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform/colours. Students are not to be wearing branded tracksuits or leggings with logos such as Nike or Adidas. We ask that items of clothing are labelled and to check the lost property located outside Mr Kenny's office for any lost items. Please ensure hair longer than shoulder length is tied up. School uniform is also worn on excursions. If your child is not able to wear the school uniform, please advise your child's classroom teacher via Xuno or with a written note.



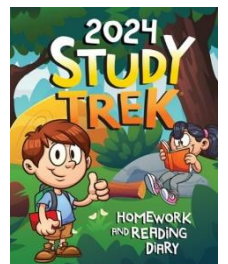
## Absences

Please report via Xuno or phone the office if your child is or will be absent from school. Alternatively provide a note upon their return explaining the reason of absence.

## Student diaries

Student diaries are used to record class schedules, important school dates and events. Teachers and parents may use diaries as a means of communication between school and home.

Diaries are also a motivational tool for students to keep record of their daily reading at home. Teachers will collect and check diaries every Friday.



# CURRICULUM FOCUS

## Literacy

Students will engage in daily shared, modelled and guided reading opportunities, where text is visible and students can focus on specific reading strategies to make them a better reader. Guided Reading is used to scaffold students as they read, to talk and think their way through a text that is at their instructional level. Some students will also have the opportunity to engage in Reciprocal Reading where they discuss the text to build on meaning. They do this through using comprehension strategies such as predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising when reading a text. An appointed group leader prompts discussion for each of the strategies, so that all students are given the opportunity to apply and refine their skills when predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising. In Writing, students will continue to develop their understanding of the purpose, structure and features of descriptive writing, narrative and persuasive texts. Students will have opportunities to plan, write and publish their own texts. There will also be weekly opportunities for students to further develop their handwriting skills. Wherever possible, literacy tasks will make connections with our integrated unit of work.



## NUMERACY



Students read and measured temperature as part of our 'Start Up' program. They used a thermometer and interpret daily temperature on the Bureau of Meteorology website. They then analysed and represented the data collected on a line graph. Students are focusing on calendar work, the days of the week, months of the year and recording events on a calendar/diary.

There will be an explicit focus on Place Value in Term 1. Students will work on recognising, modelling, representing and ordering numbers, as well as partition, rearrange and regroup numbers to assist with solving calculations. They will then explore decimal numbers using Decimats.

Our focus will also be on other measurement areas. This includes telling the time, investigating the relationship between units of time, using am and pm notation and solving simple problems involving time. Students will use maps to find places and cities in Australia. They will use features of a map to give and follow directions.

## INTEGRATED STUDIES

Students in level 3 and 4 identify and describe spatial characteristics, and the characteristics of places and environments at a range of scales. They identify and explain interconnections and identify and describe locations, including Australia, Africa and South America.



## SPORT

**Westbreen Primary School aims to improve student's Fundamental Movement Skills to encourage lifelong participation in physical activity. These will include skills such as:**

- Throwing and Catching
- Balancing and dodging
- Side gallop, hop, skip
- Two hand strike



**Sporting sessions are tailored to students' needs and are skill based. We hope to create stronger links between children and local sporting clubs, nurturing a lifelong love of sport.**

## HOMework

Homework benefits students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. The link between home and school is a vital component for each child's success at school. Homework provides a valuable link between learning at school and learning at home. Parents, in partnership with the school, can encourage their children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

Grade 3/4 students are expected to complete homework no more than 30 minutes/day or 120 minutes of homework in any one week. Please note that students are not expected to complete homework tasks/projects on the weekends or during school holidays.

Students receive homework on Monday and it is expected that it is returned by Friday every week.

**Students use their diaries daily to record reading, homework and other important school dates.**

**Homework tasks may consist of:**

- **Reading** for 15 minutes per night. Students will be asked to complete a summary of the book or of a chapter they have read during the week.
- A reading activity.
- **Spelling** words – students use the Look, Say Cover, Write, Check strategy to practise their words and complete accompanying activities such as putting words in a sentence, alphabetical order, identifying syllables etc.
- **Maths** activities. Students will receive a revision of the activities completed during the week
- **Integrated studies** – Students will receive an activity revising work covered in the classroom
- **PROJECT:** There will be **one project** per term. Students will be given some classroom time to research their project. Students are asked to collate, sort and publish the information at home. Other homework tasks will be altered to ensure projects are successfully completed by the due date.

**We encourage students to discuss their weekly homework tasks with their parents/guardians.**

**We understand that students may be involved in a variety of extracurricular activities/family commitments; if this affects your child not being able to complete homework for that week, please write a note in your child's diary or contact the classroom teacher via Xuno, email or by contacting the school office.**

### 3/4 SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

	Italian	Art	Science	Music	Social Skills
<b>3/4C</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday	Monday
<b>3/4H</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday
<b>3/4P</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>3/4O</b>	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Monday
<b>3/4Z</b>	Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday	Wednesday	Monday

## Music - With Mrs Delacoe

The grade 3/4 students will be using instruments such as marimbas, bongos and shekeres, to create musical and movement pieces. They will be using inspiration by the music and culture of South America and Africa, which is this term's inquiry topic.

## Italian - With Signora Angela

Students will interact with the teacher and peers to greet, to introduce themselves, state how they are feeling and how old they are. They will also describe their favourite things such as colour, food and sport through action-related talk/ play and produce an identity card.

Students will revise: Introducing themselves – Mi chiamo .....e tu? , Quanti anni hai? Ho sette anni, e tu? Come stai? Sto bene, benissimo, così così, male.

I Colori & L'alfabeto Italiano – rosso, verde, bianco, nero, blu, arancione, viola, giallo, marrone, rosa, azzurro, e celeste.

I Giorni & I Mesi dell'anno – domenica, lunedì, martedì, mercoledì, giovedì, venerdì, sabato – gennaio, febbraio, marzo, aprile, maggio, giugno, luglio, agosto, settembre, ottobre, novembre e dicembre.

Students will also focus on gli oggetti nell'astuccio/ l'aula. (Learning the names of the various classroom stationery items found in students pencil case or in the classroom.) Which will lead to learning the rules of using the definite articles in Italian, both in the singular and plural form. E.g. La penna – le penne, il tavolo – I tavoli, l'aula – le aule, lo zaino – gli zaini.

Students are encouraged to revise common topics at home via the following two sites: [www.learn-italian.net/italiantopics](http://www.learn-italian.net/italiantopics) <https://www.digitaldialects.com/Italian.htm> Both sites provide a range of online games and activities for all students to enjoy.

## Art - With Ms Mahlis



In Term One, Year 3 and 4 students will review art room expectations and routines around using various art materials, including working together to clean and tidy the art room. Students will build upon their understanding of the elements of line and shape and how they can be used to give different textures to create interest and enhance their artwork. Students will then transfer their understanding of line to the medium of plasticine, for example smooth, rough, curved/zigzag, angled to make a self-portrait that will be a part of a whole school 'Faces of Westbreen' mural. The students' artwork will be inspired by Plasticine Artists and Animators such as Evan Hudson, Stefano Colferai, and Mauricio Torrescano.

## Science - With Ms Aresti

This Term in Biological Sciences, the Grade 3/4 students will learn how scientists develop classification systems to try to understand the diversity of life. In this unit students will explore the features of living things, and ways they can be grouped together. Through hands-on activities, students explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.



## Social Skills - With Mrs Wileman

- During Circle Time at the beginning of each session, all students have the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions on a wide range of topics
- Identifying and acknowledging the individual talents of students
- Identifying what can upset us at school, learning how we deal with them and where to go get help if it's needed
- Positive peer support
- Partnership skills and setting goals.
- Building and strengthening skills through co-operative games
- Identifying and acknowledging personal strengths e.g. what makes you feel proud?
- Bullying: learning what it can look like and how to deal with it.

### NAPLAN - National Assessment Program

The Grade 3s will participate in the NAPLAN testing this term, from 13<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The NAPLAN test results provide diagnostic information for parents about a child's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. At school, this information will be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student outcomes. We wish our Grade 3 students all the very best with their very first NAPLAN testing.

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN please speak to your child's classroom teacher or visit the NAPLAN website <https://www.nap.edu.au> where you will find answers to frequently asked questions and information regarding past tests and sample questions. Find below the NAPLAN test window.

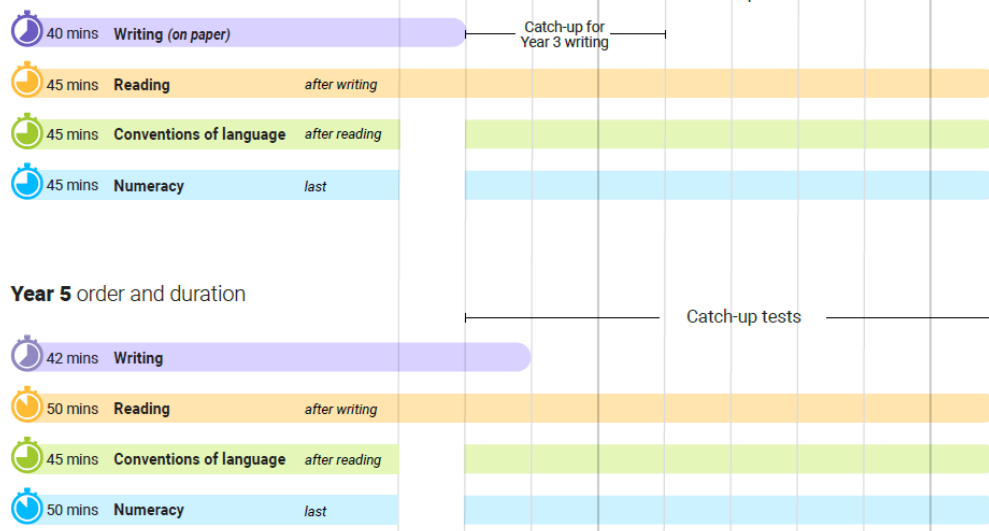
## NAPLAN test window

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days.

## March 2024

### Primary

#### Year 3 order and duration



- Year 3 writing is done on paper by all students and must be scheduled for day 1. It is recommended Year 3 writing tests be completed by all classes at the same time in the morning.
- Year 5 writing must be scheduled on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations.

Tests must be scheduled as soon as possible within the test window, prioritising scheduling in week 1 over week 2 and the morning over the afternoon.

For advice on scheduling, including catch-up tests or rescheduling, schools should refer to the 'NAPLAN National Protocols for Test Administration', and consult their state/territory test administration authority as required.