Dear Parents/Guardians,
Welcome to all of the students who will be part of the Bellbridge Grade 3 team this year! We hope you have had a wonderful break, and are refreshed and eager to start the school year.

The classes this year are as follows:
3A Room 15: Miss Emma Haines
3B Room 16: Mrs Susan Andrews
3C Room 17: Miss Rebecca Burgess
3D Room 18: Ms Lynne Lloyd

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a hat, art smock, library bag and tissue box on the first day of school. If any of these items have been overlooked, we would very much appreciate them being brought into the classroom (all named please) as soon as possible, to ensure a smooth and happy start to the year for students and their teachers! ☺

School Times
School starts for all students at 8:20am. Students have tasks to complete from the first bell, while the roll is taken and money/notes are being collected. Late arrival can hinder student's progress and will make it difficult for them to settle into daily routines. Please ensure that students arrive at school before the 8.20am bell.

Hats
During Term 1, students are required to wear blue hats (i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hat) whenever they are outside. Students not wearing a hat will be required to play in the courtyard for recess and lunch.

On-going communication - Student Diaries
All students will be given a student diary this week. Diaries will be filled in each day with the Take Home Book your child should be reading at home. We ask that diaries are checked and signed by parents/caregivers nightly, or at least weekly, to ensure that students are reading at home regularly. The diaries are also an effective communication tool for teachers and parents/caregivers. Please feel free to write any questions or concerns in your child's diary at any time. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please request an appropriate meeting time. It is important to remember that problems are usually easier to resolve if they are dealt with promptly.

Student Wellbeing & Discipline
In keeping with the establishment of the whole school approach to student wellbeing, the Grade 3 students will be discussing appropriate behaviour and expectations in their classrooms. Teachers have adopted a consistent approach to discipline and currently have a reward system
of School Wide Positive Behaviours strategies. Our School Wide Positive Behaviours are: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner.

**Homework**

Homework this term will begin in Week 3 (Monday 13th February) and conclude in Week 8 (Friday 24th March). Homework will be handed out and explained to students each Monday and will be expected back by Friday for correction.

Homework expectations are:
- To read for at least 15 minutes daily and student diaries need to be signed daily by parents/caregivers.
- To practise basic spelling skills and strategies.
- To practise basic number skills and strategies.
- To explore fun and engaging educational websites.

(Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities are intended to support what is being done in the classroom and it is valuable for children to complete each task to the best of their ability). If you have any concerns regarding homework, please make an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher.

**Important Dates**

- Monday 13th February - School Swimming Competition (competent swimmers only)
- Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st February - Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet
- Monday 13th March - Labour Day Public Holiday
- Friday 17th March - Bullying. No Way! Day and National Ride2School Day
- Friday 24th March - Bellbridge School Carnival
- Friday 31st March - End Term 1
- Tuesday 18th April - Beginning of Term 2

It’s a good idea to read the school newsletter to keep up to date with school activities, term dates, public holidays and curriculum days. Also check out the school website: [www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au) and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary](http://www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary)

We look forward to meeting you at the Week 4 Parent Teacher ‘Meet & Greet’ (Monday 20th of February and Tuesday the 21st of February) and working in partnership with you and your child to ensure a happy, successful and rewarding 2017 school year.

**Regards,**

The Grade 3 Team. ☺