



## Latham Primary School



### Parent Information Years 3/4 - Term 1 2020

“We are now about to visit the most marvellous places and see the most wonderful things!” - ***James and the Giant Peach***

Welcome to the 2020 school year. We look forward to working with the students, developing their skills as they become organised and independent learners.

#### **Classroom Organisation**

There are three classes in the 3/4 unit, 3/4MP Perfect Peaches, 3/4TB Fantastic Foxes and 3/4EvS Brilliant BFGs. Our program has been developed to give students opportunities to work in a variety of ways as a unit and as individual classes. It also allows students to work at their own ability level. As our time table is quite tightly run, we ask that students arrive at school by 9:00am. If your child should be away from school please inform us either by phoning the school or with a letter explaining their absence, as it is a legal requirement for absences to be explained. If your child is unable to participate in physical activity, a note is also required.

All students are to be in school uniform every day including a SunSmart, wide brimmed hat. We suggest students bring a water bottle to have on their desks during the day. A fruit break opportunity will be provided throughout the day.

#### **Literacy**

Students will be working on developing their skills in writing, reading, spelling, speaking and listening during our literacy block. Over the course of the year students will be exploring different text genres including persuasive texts, procedural texts, imaginative and information texts using the 6+1 Writing Traits. This term we will be looking at imaginative texts. This includes planning, drafting editing and publishing narratives. Students will develop their understanding of sentence structure and word choice to better their work.

#### **Numeracy**

Students will be developing their use of mental computation strategies for solving problems, in particular addition and subtraction and developing speed and accuracy of calculations using Middle Years Mental Computation strategies and games. The strategies taught such as the split strategy, regrouping and compensation will enable students to apply them to solve problems with larger numbers. We will also be covering place value up to tens of thousands, measuring time to the minute and using formal and informal measurements to calculate the length of objects through whole class discussions, small group work and the use of concrete materials.

#### **History and Studies of Society**

This year students will be working through the inquiry approach to all areas of their learning. This term we will be focusing on the students building their skills as *thinkers, collaborators, researchers, self-managers* and *communicators*. These are known as the *Learning Assets*. This term as part of our history curriculum, we will be exploring our personal identity, the First Nations people and their history and the impact of the First Fleet. This will incorporate visual arts and link closely to other learning areas

## **Social and Emotional Program**

We will be starting the year exploring our five school values of *respect, resilience, positivity, motivation* and *collaboration*. We will move onto the program MindUP which explores the brain and how it impacts our actions and thought processes.

## **ICT**

Students will have access to a range of devices over the course of the year. Students will be provided with their personal logon details. Students will be working with the Google For Education suite along with a variety of other applications.

## **Specialist Programs**

This year students will have one hour of Japanese with Louise, one hour of PE with Syed and 45 minutes of performing arts with Amanda. The days that each class will have time with these teachers and library are as follows:

	<b>3/4MP</b>	<b>3/4TB</b>	<b>3/4EvS</b>
Japanese	11:20-12:20 Monday	12:20-1:20 Monday	2:00-3:00 Thursday
Arts	10:00-10:45 Tuesday	10:00-10:45 Thursday	10:00-10:45 Monday
PE	12:20- 1:20 Monday	11:20-12:20 Monday	9:45-10:45 Tuesday
Library	Friday Morning	Friday Morning	Friday Morning

### **A message from Louise....**

こんにちは *Konnichi wa* - hello and welcome to 2020, the “Year of the Rat’ (ねずみ とし *nezumi doshi*). This term, Students will be learning Japanese through story with Louise. Students will start the year by reading the Story “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?” in Japanese. Students will also be learning some basic Japanese sign language for colours to enhance their cultural and language understanding and learning how to create simple sentences in Japanese describing objects by colour.

### **A message from Syed....**

It is a very busy term for physical education with the focus on skill development and preparing for sporting events. Students will begin by learning and practising hockey skills, including passing and catching, dodging, goal shooting and defending. Through regular drills and modified activities, students will develop their understanding and skills, which will lead to playing a game of hockey with standard rules. During the second half of the term, students will begin preparing for the annual cross-country carnival in week 9. Students will also start preparing for the annual athletics carnival which is scheduled for late Term 2. They will build on their sprint, hurdles, relay, throwing and Javelin skills with school-approved equipment. It is requested that parents ensure that students are wearing appropriate footwear, have a SunSmart hat and drink bottle for every P.E. session. Also this term, we also hold the annual swimming carnival in week 6.

### **A message from Amanda.....**

For the Performing Arts this term the students are learning about drama. The lessons will explore how the elements of drama (e.g. Voice, body, movement, relationships, tension, time and space) can be organised into dramatic performances involving improvisation and devised drama. The students will also be looking at the similarities and differences between the dramas they make and view.

## **Homework for 2020**

In 2017 the School Board ratified a new Homework Policy that comes into full effect as of the beginning of 2018. The new policy states that reading is an essential skill that is to be practised by all as regularly as possible. At the beginning of the school year a list of possible activities or suggested websites you might like to pursue with your child will be sent home by the teacher. This will detail activities that can be used to practise skills other than reading. Teachers may identify that individual

students require additional support in their learning. After a conversation with the parents an agreement will be made and other activities assigned. In Addition to this, parents may request other activities for their child to complete. More information about the policy is available on the school website at

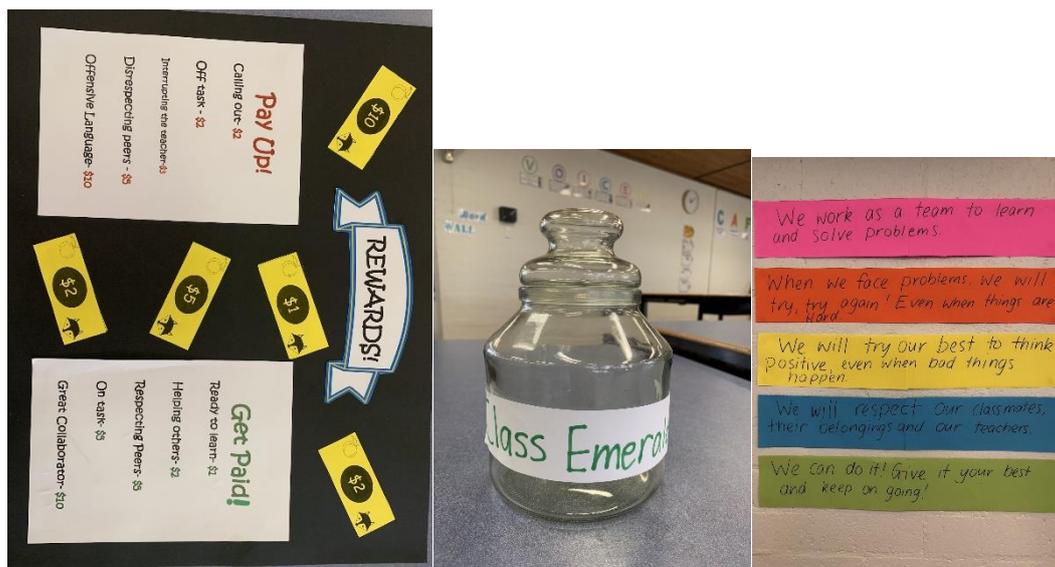
[http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/409592/Latham\\_PS\\_Homework\\_Policy\\_2017\\_2.pdf](http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/409592/Latham_PS_Homework_Policy_2017_2.pdf)

Please see the list attached for activities that could be done with your child.

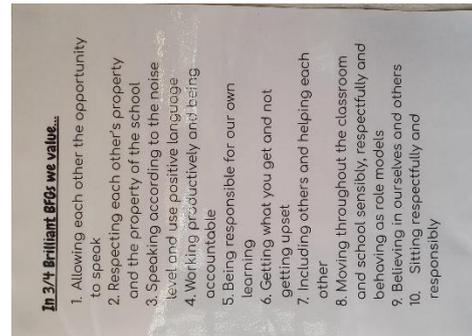
### **Student Management**

Each teacher promotes positive behaviours in their classroom linked to the school values. These positive behaviours ensure successful participation in learning. Each classroom space and teacher's guidelines and processes for reminding students of these behaviours may differ. There is also a warning system in place to support students who have a lapse in behaviour to get back on the right track. The child will be supported at every step with counselling and encouraged to own their behaviour and reflect on future behaviour choices.

In the Perfect Peaches and Fantastic Foxes we are using a class economy to promote positive behaviour in the classroom. Students earn class money for making positive choices and going above and beyond our co-constructed, Class Code of Cooperation. Students then pay money for not meeting the code. Every fortnight students have an opportunity to spend their money at our class shop. As a unit, students work as a team to earn emeralds to put in our jar. Once the jar is full, students will get to vote on a whole class reward.



In the Brilliant BFGs we are using the in class behaviour system where each student starts the day on Fantabulous and has the ability to move up or down depending on their behaviours during the day. Each student can jump levels based on their behaviour and can redeem themselves if necessary. The students voted that the level higher than Frumptious would mean a marble in the jar towards the whole class reward. We will choose a class reward in the next week.



If you have any questions or concerns about your child please contact the front office to make an appointment. We have school commitments every morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, but are available for meetings any other afternoon by appointment.

**Millie Peattie, Toni Brammall, Emma van Smethills and executive teacher Daniel Manestar**