

# O.S.P.S. SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE 2018



## PARENT INFORMATION 2018

3JP - Mrs Jan Presnell      3JS - Miss Jenny Smith      3MW - Mr Murray Wilde  
3DD - Mrs Diane Dwyer      3KK - Mr Kim Kerr      3KD - Mr Ken Benson  
3MD - Miss Maddy Morrison  
Mrs Julie Kearney – year level co-ordinator  
Mrs Nikki Virtuoso – assistant principal year 3 & 4

Dear Parents

This information booklet should answer many questions regarding the Year 3 Program and expectations at this stage. If you would like further clarification – to meet the teachers and to ‘see’ THE VILLAGE – please come to our INFORMATION SESSION next Tuesday February 6th. We will be meeting in the main MUSIC ROOM adjacent to the staff carpark at 6pm. Please bring this booklet with you. Child minding is available in the O.S.H.C building  
The Year 3 Village Team.

### Specialist Programs:

The children have specialist teachers for ART, MUSIC, JAPANESE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION .

### Library :

The Year 3’s borrow their take home reading books ( ACCELERATED READING BOOKS )with their teacher’s assistance during timetabled class library times on Mondays and Fridays. The library will also be open for borrowing before and after school each day

**Curriculum Focus:** Aside from the core subjects of MATHS and ENGLISH and the specialist subjects , learning in THE VILLAGE centres around sustainability, environmental issues, and being ‘healthy’. The children learn to plant, grow, harvest, cook and eat healthy produce. They learn about living things and of the interdependence of plants and animals. As ‘farmers’ children take on the extra responsibilities of looking after the animals and working in the garden. The 4 R’s of RETHINK, REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE together with worm farms and composting form the basis of the VILLAGE approach to sustainable living.

Semester One Focus - ‘We are Alive’ – which will include the seven characteristics of living things, wants and needs of humans and other animals, life cycles – of chickens, seeds and plants as well as an ongoing focus on sustainability and the sustainable lifestyle of the first Australians.

To support classroom learning we have several special programs in place – the Student Reading Laboratory (SRA), Accelerated Reader, Spelling City, Mathletics , Rainforest Maths , and the Maths Invaders Program. These programs enable each child to work and progress at his/her own ability level and pace.

### **SRA**

SRA is an individualised multi-level reading system which is used to develop children’s reading comprehension and word study skills. Children learn about word building, grammar and



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language conventions – each level reinforcing and building on concepts learnt at earlier levels. Progress charts are kept and regularly monitored.

## Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader is also an individualised reading program. Based on diagnostic tests in February and June, children are set reading goals and targets. All books in the scheme are graded and points allocated based on the book's difficulty. In term one children are placed on a reading level within their tested range and their quiz results closely monitored. In term 2 teachers will add the points target and children will have three targets to meet- a book level target, a reading comprehension target and a points target.

It is important to emphasise that the Accelerated Reader Program is not a competition to be had against other children, but a system where children try to improve on their own skills and performance. There is a wide range of reading levels across the year level from below the expected to well above.

**Reading is about understanding. A child may well be able to 'read' books at higher levels but if his/her comprehension is consistently down below the 85% mark he/she is not demonstrating full understanding of what has been read. We continually monitor and adjust the levels to enable children to pass the comprehension questions with a pass of 85% or more.**

## Spelling

Weekly spelling words will include graded word lists, words arising from children's own writing and topics studied. Each Monday we do a pre-test of the week's words. Based on the results some children will then be set challenge words which are often well above the expected standard for Year 3. Some children will find the list words difficult and will be set fewer words to learn. Words will be tested again at the end of the week and tests pasted into their spelling books, so that **parents can see both the pre and post study test results**. The spelling books are to be kept in your child's green book bag and are to come back and forth to school each day.

Please help your child to learn his/her words and set aside time for your child to work on the on-line **Spelling City Program** at home. We key the words and sentences in each week. The activities in this program are a great way for children to learn and then revise their words. Children will have their own user names and passwords.

## Maths

Children work on the Maths Invaders computer program at least four times each week to develop and extend their number skills. Each child works through the program at his/her level keeping a record of progress. The children will also be working on other MATHS PROGRAMS including Rainforest Maths and Mathletics (see below).

We teach 'tables' in a variety of ways to cater for the individual learning styles of children – chanting/singing, making flash cards and teaching the counting patterns involved.

Many children come up from Year 2 with a sound knowledge and quick recall of their 2x, 5x, 10x tables. By the end of Year 3 we will have covered all the tables up to 12x - please support us by



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helping and encouraging children to learn their tables at home. Once learnt they can then work on their quick recall. Tables can be learnt both ways  $12 \times 3 = 36$   $36 / 3 = 12$   
Children working at a higher level will be encouraged to learn up to 15 x.

## Mathletics

Mathletics is an on-line maths program which covers all areas of the maths curriculum. It is available for use both at home and at school. Accessing Mathletics at home is a great way for children to improve on their skills and has proved to be of great benefit.

The children will be set various sections to complete for homework and other sections blocked until the set work is completed.

Rainforest Maths, accessible through Mathletics, is an invaluable resource for home use. The TIME section is highly recommended as many children at this level find it difficult to tell the time. Starting in level 2 and moving on from there is recommended. This term we will have one computer session per week where we will go through the various strands of maths using Rainforest Maths.

## Fitness *Heathy Eating & Exercise = Healthy Me*

Children are expected to run every morning. Some children who wear leather school shoes each day bring along suitable running shoes to change into. **If your child is unable to run for some reason please send along a note.**

## Fruit and Water on Tables

Each class has 'fruit time' before recess. This ensures fruit actually gets eaten and helps us in teaching about the importance of making healthy choices. We also encourage healthy choices for recess snacks and lunches and to bring minimal, if any, rubbish. We encourage minimal or no wrappers every day but have set WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS as a challenge for all the children (and parents). Children are encouraged to take any uneaten food home so that parents can actually see what is/ is not being eaten and make changes if necessary.

## Absences

We cover a lot of work in Year 3 and missed days, unless due to illness, are not encouraged.

## Homework

**In Year 3 HOMEWORK = HOME READING, WEEKLY SPELLING WORDS, MATHLETICS, TIMES TABLES PRACTICE AND THE OCCASIONAL PROJECT.**

The children should not experience any difficulties. If, however, there are any problems, please contact us or write a message in your child's diary. You can also contact us by email.

Weekly spelling is part of your child's homework and words lists need to be practised. Children will also be given set tables to learn over 2 week blocks.



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Our **Reading At Home Scheme** requires the children to read for an uninterrupted block of at least 20 minutes on at least 20 nights per month. Some more able readers read for a lot longer than this.

**Children must write the book's title; record the pages read in their diaries and then have a parent sign to say that this has been done.**

Please only sign if you know that your child has actually read.

Reading aloud is also recommended at this level.

Children also enjoy being read to – from a book that they may or may not be able to read themselves – a great thing to do once they are tucked into bed of a night!

Children come in to the classrooms at 8.45am to read and complete quizzes.

**Projects** will be assigned throughout the year. Through these tasks - research, planning and presentation skills will be developed. A completion date is always given with the task and expectations for content and setting out will always be fully discussed at school. Please do not hesitate to see your child's teacher if there are any problems. Whilst you can give some advice and assistance projects should be done by the child.

## **Maths/Writing Groups**

Four sessions are timetabled with extra staff assigned for extension, further development and extra assistance in both maths and writing. You will be familiar with this from Year 2.

## **NAPLAN**

The nation wide NAPLAN ( National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) which tests children's maths, spelling, reading and writing skills as well as word, grammar and punctuation skills will take place in early May. The Naplan style "challenges" we do in preparation enables us to focus on developing thinking and problem solving skills ( beneficial in themselves) but also, so that by the time children sit the required 45 minute tests, they are not only comfortable with the format, but able to complete the tests to the best of their ability.

## **Cooking**

Parents are asked to provide \$2 per term towards the cost of the cooking ingredients. Aside from cooking sessions we have a number of special days throughout the year including Potato Day where we cook our village grown potatoes in an outdoor pit. This term the children will be cooking village pizzas using tomatoes, spinach and herbs from the garden. Cooking will take place on Tuesdays straight after assembly commencing in week 4. We will also have outdoor cooking sessions to cook and eat any available harvest.

## **Chickens**

Our eggs arrive on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Most of the chicks will go back to the farm but we usually keep 6-8 in the village and also offer some to parents. This depends on the number of cockerels which generally outnumber the pullets two to one. Obviously roosters are not allowed to be kept in suburbia. Occasionally we get the sexing wrong and a chick grows into a rooster!! When this happens we generally keep the rooster until he becomes too much of a problem about the place!



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If you are interested in adopting some of the pullets – we will be selling them for \$5 each (to help cover the cost of the program) - let us know as soon as possible so that we can reserve some for you. Of course you will need to build yourself a coop – look online for a wealth of information on raising chickens. They become very tame with handling and make great pets with the added bonus of fresh eggs!

## **Farmers**

There are 21 farmers each week. Three from each class. Farmers are encouraged to arrive at school from 8.30 am of a morning Wednesday to Wednesday to start their farming chores. If this is not practical for parents then 8.45 am is also acceptable. Farmers will be given some extra time during the day to complete reading quizzes.

The farmer's change over day is Wednesday – when we have 42 farmers . The twenty one **old** famers report for animal duties ( 8.30 am) whist the 21 **new** farmers to Mrs Dwyer and Mrs Kearney (8.45am or earlier if it suits).

Farmers are also asked to bring along any fruit and vegetable scraps or any wilted veggies from the crisper for our animals.

We are always looking for food for our thousands of worms in the worm farms – we can barely keep up with their food requirements even with all the village fruit and veggie scraps. Meat, dairy, bread or onion scraps are not suitable.

The focus for farmers in term one is to learn about and care for the village animals, to learn about the things growing in the garden and, to talk and think about seeds and how things grow and change. In the hothouse session this term children will learn about succulents and how to take and nurture cuttings to make new plants. All the children will be bringing home some silver beet or parsley seeds in their pockets during their farming week. Please encourage them to plant at home in a sunny corner of the garden or even in a pot.

## **Animals during the holidays**

There is a lot of interest in taking guinea pigs and rabbits to mind during the holidays. Please send along a note if you would like to take two for the term holidays. We will also be looking for minders for term 2 and 3 holidays as well as the long Christmas break. Sometimes this is shared between two families. The guinea pigs need to be fed twice a day and moved to a new patch of grass each day – they are great lawn mowers!

We provide the cage and all the food – it's a great way for your child to try having a pet without the ongoing responsibility.

Once we have the chicks we will also need weekend and holiday helpers. In term 3 this will also mean fresh eggs for the family!



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## Weekends

At present the teachers are coming in each weekend to check on, feed and water the guinea pigs and rabbits – if there is anyone who lives close by and would like to do this for the term or is able to help some weekends please see Julie Kearney or Murray Wilde.

## O.S.P.S Diary

This is essentially a reading diary and should be kept in your child's book bag at all times. It will also be used to record multiplication times to be learnt over a fortnight and for short reminder notes. Contact with staff should be by a separate note or by email.

## Slippers / Croc style slip-ons

Please send along some alternative footwear for inside use in wet weather if you haven't done so already. Crocs or slip-ons work well rather than big fluffy slippers.

## Tissues

Each child is asked to bring a box of tissues for class use throughout the year.

## School Fete

**The Year 3 students and families collectively run the plant, produce and preserve stalls as well assist with the animal farm. The plant stall includes a special section for Mothers' Day. Last year we added the 'Kiss the Chicken' contest. We will be looking for a few more ideas.**

For the purpose of the helpers' board and the fete coordinator's letters home as well as to tag a contact person for parents we will allocate stalls to grades but please feel free to add your name to any of the Year 3 rosters. Our aim is to fill all time slots on all stalls so we may have to move a few people across to another stall whilst keeping the requested timeslot.

How can you help ahead of time?

## Plants

Last year's Year 3 children planted a lot of succulents and we generally get lots of donations. Some parents start breaking up plants at home and start potting up early.

Have you got any clever planting ideas for Mothers' Day gifts. Last year we had a few mums and dads making concrete pots and others making mini-gardens in clear glass bowls. We also had a team of mums and dads coming in to pot up plants ready for sale.

We have a lot of succulents from children's gardening sessions -just waiting for the right pots. Do you have any pottery pots at home you no longer need ?

**Produce** – Our main source of produce for the day is **ALEXANDERS' FRUIT MARKET** in the Oakleigh mall. Alexanders is extraordinarily generous so please if, and when you shop there, let them know that you are part of the O.S.P.S VILLAGE this year. We also have families bringing in donations from home gardens or contacts they have to sell on the day.



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**Preserves** – The whole school helps with a massive lemon collection - to sell and to make up into lemon butter. Are you prepared to make some for us? Lemon butter is always highly sort after. Last year we also had mums making up a variety of jams – which sold like hotcakes. We are happy to pay for the ingredients if you would like to have a go – look out for cheap plums, figs, cumquats etc. If you would like to make some jams at home please see Jenny Smith or Jan Presnell.

Please also start saving suitable small and medium sized jars for us. Taking the labels off as you go would be a big help.

## **Parent Assistance in the Garden**

Maintaining the garden is a big job. There is always something that needs to be done, particularly at the start of the year. If you are able to spend an hour or two helping to get the garden beds weeded and tidy we would love to hear from you. There are also lots of pot plants needing to be weeded and repotted for the fete as mentioned above.

## **Children's Happiness and Well- Being**

Most children thoroughly enjoy their year in the village. It is well known that children learn better when they are happy and engaged. If for any reason your child is unhappy or experiencing difficulty then we need to know about it as **soon as possible**. We can't help if we are **not** aware of a problem or potential problem.

## **Mobile Phones and ipads**

Whilst we have no authority over children's mobile phone use – texting and group facetime and messenger use outside school hours - it does become a problem for us when issues start online and continue over into the school day. Please monitor and limit your child's online use closely.

## **Problems and concerns at any year level including Year 3**

- Please come and see us regarding work concerns, everyday issues etc. Many issues can be investigated and smoothly resolved through parent/teacher communication.
- Always bear in mind there may be more to a story than what your child has told you. Having an open mind is very helpful and ask yourself, 'What hasn't my child told me?'
- Don't let playground problems continue unresolved. Speak to your child's teacher. We WILL follow up on any issues of concern but it is impossible to support you or your child if we aren't informed.
- Children will make mistakes in their behaviour, both other children and your own. This is normal and part of being a child. Please support us to encourage positive behaviours.
- Encourage and expect your child to approach the teacher with any concerns first. We have asked the children to do this. We may be able to resolve the problem much faster. Your support in this is appreciated.

**NOTE: Do not under any circumstances, directly approach other children in the yard to sort problems out. This is an extremely serious matter and always results in the situation becoming worse, rather than better.**



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PLEASE allow the teachers, Julie Kearney the year level co-ordinator, Nikki Virtuoso - the assistant principal - year 3/4 or Ron Cantlon to deal with such concerns.

## Flexibuzz

Don't forget to download 'Flexibuzz' to your Android or Apple phone. This is a very useful, handy app for the school to communicate last minute news with parents via SMS: eg *'The bus will be late home from the Year 3 excursion'*. The link to download is on the school website.

We look forward to your continued support and to a very happy and productive year with your children.

Julie, Jan, Jenny, Murray, Kim, Diane, Ken, Maddy and Helen

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