

Welcome to our first bulletin. Our aim is to release a bulletin every second week, however, we may also send short emails when the need arises. Each bulletin will address what we are learning in our classrooms, how you can complement this learning at home, upcoming events and other news or information.

If you would like to see particular items addressed in our bulletin, please email your child's teacher and we'll endeavour to include something next time.

What We Are Learning

Our overarching big idea this term is: **Problems can have solutions.**

We will be unpacking this concept as the term progresses, concentrating on various social, local, national and international problems and identifying or creating possible solutions in response.

Maths

In Maths, we have revisited our conceptual understanding of place value by exploring it in various ways, including different representations of the same number, expanding numbers and investigating the real world uses for numbers.

Writing

Students have been developing their writing skills through the creation of narratives, exploring homophones, understanding how contractions work and developing their knowledge of spelling strategies.

Reading

We have begun to explore different texts in our class, focusing on poetry, narratives and arguments. We've also started guided reading with groups of children, allowing us to work closely with our learners to develop and strengthen their reading strategies.

Home Learning

Did you know that home learning started on day 1 of term 1?

Formerly known as homework, students should have already started their home learning through reading with, for and to YOU. Done over 20 minutes, students might read some of their text silently and some aloud, followed by a conversation with you. We've been encouraging students to borrow books from school, but they can also explore texts from home or a public library.

Ask them about the topic, characters, point of view, purpose, style of writing, check their vocabulary, look at their text and ask specific questions to check their understanding.

Other learning will be sent home when it is relevant and complements what we're doing at school. When your child is asked to complete a task at home, we do not expect or want your child to do this alone. Our home learning is intended to enhance the partnership between home and school, and as such, we want you to adopt a collaborative approach.

Make sure you always check *How You Can Help* for other ways you can extend and support their learning at home.

How You Can Help

Question them about their learning. Ask them:

1. What is a narrative? What do good writers include in a narrative?
2. What spelling strategies do you use? Hunt for words that have similar same spelling patterns. *For example, look for the oa pattern in boat, cloak and toast.*
3. Can you teach me about place value? Tell me about the most challenging number you know? Can you draw it? Is it bigger or smaller than ... ?
4. What is *The Best Part of Me* about? Tell me about the best part of you.
5. What is a growth mindset? How did Piper show a growth mindset? How do you display a growth mindset when you're at school?

Suggestion: Don't ask all of these questions in the one sitting. Use these questions as conversation starters over the whole week.

Growth Mindset

The grade 3/4 teachers are working towards developing a greater understanding of growth mindset. We've been investigating what a growth mindset is and what it might look like or sound like in our classrooms.

When students take risks, make mistakes, go back and try again, ask for help, learn from a friend or adopt the mantra, "I don't know YET", they are demonstrating a growth mindset. Sometimes learning is hard and confusing, and that's okay. We want our learners to accept that not all learning is easy and that being challenged is okay.

Next time your child comes home and tells you that school is too hard, or I hate school, or I don't like (insert subject), talk about a growth mindset.

Encourage them to be patient. If you can, share your own life experiences to help normalise their own feelings.

*Thanks for reading,
Grade 3/4 Team.*