Homework Expectations:
- **Mathletics** several times a week. [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)
- **Reading** for 20-30 minutes every day. Remember to track your thinking and record your reading in your diary.

What’s Coming Up
- **Literacy Week** – 31st August – 4th September
- **Footy Colours Day** – Friday 4th September
- **Bush dance** – Whole school community – Thursday 17th Sept
- **Curriculum Day** – Friday 18th September
- **End of term 3** – Friday 18th September

What we are learning about at the moment:

**Numeracy:** We are revising and consolidating lots of skills in Numeracy at the moment. We are looking again at multiplication and division, how to use money as well as timelines.

**Literacy:** We continue to work on our school based History projects on our chosen explorers. Students will be preparing their written project as well as their short presentations they will be making to their class.

**READ READ READ!!! EVERY NIGHT!!!** We know that reading more makes us better readers. Reading helps us to learn more about the world, it increases our vocabulary and helps our imagination to grow.

**MATHLETICS:** It is expected that all children will participate in our Mathletics program. It is **essential** that your child completes the tasks set for them. **Children not attempting Mathletics tasks at home will be given a separate homework sheet that must be completed at home.**

All students are focussing on THREE spelling words at a time.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you have something you would like to discuss.

Attendance and Absence Notices:

Please remember to send an Absence note to school with your child when they return to school after **every** absence. All absences must be explained to the school via these notices as the school must report all information regarding attendance to the Department of Education. Unexplained absences may be reported to the Department and families can and will be fined for these. So please make sure you have informed your child’s teacher in writing of any absences.
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:
Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx