Dear Parents and Carers,

This overview outlines the content that will be covered during this term with your child. It is a great reference to keep somewhere prominent so that you can refer back to it with your child and discuss specifics of their learning. Please don’t hesitate in contacting us if you have any queries or concerns about your child.

**Religious Education**
Students this term will be learning about the Seasons of Lent and Easter. The Lent unit focuses on how Jesus reaches out to us, and thus how we can be like Jesus and reach out to others. Some time will be spent looking at the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as the parish program of preparation for First Reconciliation will be taking place this term. Students will participate in liturgical celebrations for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. The unit of work for Easter is focused on the Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus and how Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection.

**English**
Students will be engaging in reading, writing and speaking and listening activities daily, which include opportunities for teacher modelling, guided group learning and independent tasks. In writing, students will be producing both imaginative and informative texts on a range of topics, including our history focus on the European exploration of Australia. A key goal will be for students to develop their capacity to compose longer, more detailed texts over a sustained period of time. Later this term, we will begin introducing skills to join letters for fluent cursive handwriting.

A key goal in reading will be for students to identify effective strategies to read unknown words and maintain their understanding of the text. When reading informative texts this term, we will focus on the various elements of those texts (e.g. images, diagrams, videos, captions) that contribute to providing specific information on the topic.

**Mathematics**
We begin this term with a focus on place value, making connections to addition and subtraction of larger (e.g. four-digit) numbers using a variety of mental and informal strategies (the development of the formal written algorithm comes at a later time). These strategies are being developed through use of, and reflection on open-ended activities. We will also spend time learning mental strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers, and applying the number operations to measurement concepts such as length and area.

**Human Society & Its Environment**
Our unit of work this term is *How has exploration changed Australia?* In this unit, students will examine how exploration has made an impact on Australia as we know it today. Students will investigate the people who explored Australia over time, and their motivations. They will consider the impact that exploration had on the life and culture of Australia’s Indigenous peoples. Students will be introduced to key concepts related to the British colonisation of Australia.
Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (incl Sport)
Students will be participating in Peer Support on Friday afternoons this term, starting Week 4. This initiative is based on the Better Buddies program developed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, developing strategies for challenging and minimising bullying.

In term 1, year 3 will have their sports day on Thursday. In PE, the focus will surround athletics and the development of skills in the area of sprint, discuss, shot put, and long jump. Students will be accorded, assessed and have the opportunity to earn a position at the Athletics carnival in field events. They will also participate in novelty athletic events leading into our Athletics carnival.

In PDH, Students will focus on the “Active Lifestyles” unit, in which students will learn to discuss the relationship between varied and regular physical activity and health. Students will do this through monitoring and recording on their own physical activity patterns.
In peer support this term as well as in PDH, students will also cover content about relationships where they will describe how relationships can enhance well-being.

Visual Arts
Our work in Visual Arts is integrated with our HSIE unit of work, using the colonisation of Australia as its subject matter. They will study the use of symbol, placement and colour in artworks, and how these impact on the audience.

Music
In our music program this term, students are learning to compose music using Apple’s GarageBand. As a part of our study, we will be exploring the features in the GarageBand app and use it to compose a short song. Students will all have an opportunity to explore and experiment with many sounds including acoustic, electric and digital sounds, learn how to mix their tracks to balance the sounds and have the freedom to be creative.

Library
Library borrowing will take place on Mondays. Students should have a library bag to protect their library books.

Thank you for your assistance already in covering exercise that have been sent home and in providing your child with the resources they need to start the year. It is important that all their personal items are clearly labelled with their name so that lost property can be returned promptly.

If your child is absent from school, please be aware that we require a note explaining the absence within 7 days. This is a legal requirement.

Please don’t hesitate in contacting us should you have any queries. If you need to meet with us, please get in touch with us at school to make an appointment.

We look forward to seeing you at our Meet and Greet evening on Tuesday 16 February at 6:30 pm.

Robert Barden, Alicia Nelson and Kylie Leach
Year 3 Team