

YEAR 3 • NEWSLETTER • TERM 4

UPCOMING DATES

-October-

Thursday 9th - Reconciliation
Information Evening

6:30-7:30pm

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th -
Reconciliation Commitment
masses

Friday 17th - Year level mass

Friday 25th - Gr3 hosting prayer
service

Tuesday 28th - Werribee Zoo
excursion

Wednesday 28th - First
Reconciliation

-November-

Monday 3rd - School Closure
day

Thursday 6th - Twilight Sports

Friday 14th - School Closure
day

Saturday 15th - Parish Fete

Monday 17th - Friday 28th -
Swimming Program

-December-

Friday 5th - School Closure day

Tuesday 9th - Thanksgiving
Mass

Friday 12th - Step Up Morning

Tuesday 16th - Final day for
students

Sarah Punkett - 3P (Mon-Fri)
sarah.plunkett@sivermont.catholic.edu.au

Claire Feild - 3F (Mon-Wed)
claire.feild@sivermont.catholic.edu.au

Tracey O'Connor - 3F (Thu-Fri)
tracey.oconnor@sivermont.catholic.edu.au

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for a busy and exciting final term of Year 3. A big thank you to all parents and students who attended the Learning Conferences at the end of Term 3. These meetings are such a valuable opportunity to celebrate growth, share progress, and set goals for the term ahead—we truly appreciate your support and partnership in your child's learning journey.

PhOrMes Spelling Program

This term, our spelling lessons will continue to follow the PhOrMes program. This approach helps students understand why words are spelled the way they are. We explore the sounds in words (phonology), common spelling patterns (orthography), the meaning of word parts like prefixes and suffixes (morphology), and even where words come from (etymology). By learning these connections, students build strong spelling habits and develop a deeper understanding of how words work, which supports both their reading and writing. Some of the spelling rules/patterns we aim to cover this term are-

- Letter 'l' making the 'igh' sound as in find, mild, grind
- Letter "o" making the 'oa' sounds as in post, most, ghost

Spelling was a common focus in many of our Learning Conferences, and we appreciate the interest families have shown in helping their children build confidence in this area. At home, you can support spelling development by-

- Encouraging regular reading
- Playing word games such as Scrabble, Boggle or Wordle
- Displaying the most common words lists at home (we recommend using Oxford words lists)
- Talking with your child about the spelling focus for each week

SEL Program

We look forward to beginning our special 4 week wellbeing program designed to support students' social and emotional development. As outlined in Dave's letter, boys and girls will meet in separate groups to explore topics such as kindness in words and actions, being a good winner and loser, inclusion and exclusion, teamwork, and flexibility in friendships. Please read the following page for more information.

As always please don't hesitate to get in contact with us should have any concerns or questions throughout the term.

Timetable 3P		Timetable 3F	
Library	Monday	Library	Monday
Auslan	Tuesday	Auslan	Thursday
PE	Wednesday	PE	Tuesday
Visual Arts	Wednesday	Visual Arts	Wednesday
STEM	Wednesday	STEM	Wednesday



WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

READING

In term 4 students will explore *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate — a touching story told from the perspective of Ivan, a gorilla living in captivity. Through Ivan's voice, students examine themes of friendship, freedom, and empathy while developing key reading comprehension and writing skills. The unit encourages deep thinking about perspective, animal welfare, and what it means to be truly kind and courageous. Through this excellent novel students will also build a range of new vocabulary through highlighted focus words from the text.

Students will continue to explore a variety of comprehension strategies throughout the term such as making predictions, connecting with the text, cause and effect, synthesising, comparing two texts and asking questions throughout the reading process.

WRITING

This term, we will begin with a focus on writing **persuasive texts**. Students will develop their ability to express opinions clearly, using strong, topic-specific vocabulary and supporting their ideas with convincing reasons. They will also learn how to structure their writing effectively, ensuring their arguments are logical and easy to follow.

We will also have a focus on **grammar**. Students will refine their use of punctuation, expand their vocabulary choices, and practise constructing well-formed sentences. These skills will support greater accuracy and clarity across all writing tasks.

Later in the term, our writing focus will shift to **information reports**. Linking with our science unit, students will research and write detailed reports about the life cycles of plants and animals. They will learn how to organise factual information into clear sections, use scientific vocabulary, and present their findings in a structured and informative way

MATHEMATICS

This term will begin with a focus on Data, where students will pose their own questions, collect information, and represent it in a variety of ways. They will then move on to Location, exploring maps and their key features.

Our next unit will cover Probability, giving students the opportunity to investigate the likelihood of events and experiment with both fair and unfair chance situations. Later in the term, we will revisit Multiplication and Division, strengthening problem-solving strategies and reinforcing recall of the 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, and 10s times tables.

We will conclude the term with Mass and Capacity, where students will use familiar metric units to estimate, compare, and measure the attributes of different objects and events.

SCIENCE

Through an engaging science unit, students will explore the fascinating question: *Why don't all living things grow and change in the same way?* They will investigate the life cycles of a variety of animals and plants, comparing how different species are born, grow, reproduce, and survive. Students will enjoy watching the documentary *Life on Planet Earth* to see real-life examples of growth and change across the animal kingdom throughout time. Later in the term, an exciting excursion to Werribee Zoo will give students the chance to observe animals up close and deepen their understanding of how life cycles vary across species.

SEL

We look forward to beginning our special 4 week focus. Some of the topics we will cover include:

- Understanding how our words, gestures, and body language can be kind or unkind
- Being a good winner and loser in games and activities
- Inclusion vs. exclusion, and recognising that "alone time" is different from leaving someone out
- Working together as a diverse group
- Flexibility in games and friendships—learning that relationships involve give and take

Session Structure

- Monday: 45-minute teaching session introducing the week's focus
- Tuesday to Friday: 15-minute follow-up sessions to practise, reflect, and consolidate learning

RELIGION

This term will begin with a strong focus on Forgiveness and Healing, as students prepare to make their First Reconciliation. In this unit, they will explore the stories of Zacchaeus and the Forgiving Father, using these to deepen their understanding of the four stages of Reconciliation.

Next, we will move into our unit on Stewardship, where students will reflect on how they can be caretakers of the world and make positive contributions to God's creation.

We will conclude the term with a focus on Advent, preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

HOME LEARNING

It is expected that all children **read for a minimum of 20 mins per night, at least four times a week**. Students are required to record their reading in their diaries each night. **Please ensure these diaries are brought to school as they will contain log in details your children need throughout the year.**

