Stage 2 Term 4 Overview, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4 for 2016. This note outlines the topics and areas we hope to cover during this term.

**English**
The students will continue to read, view and listen to a variety of texts on different topics and subjects. They will use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning to expand content knowledge, integrating and linking ideas and analysing and evaluating texts. In Speaking & Listening, the students will participate in whole class and group tasks to orally practise using the modelled language needed for the written texts.

In writing, Year 3 will focus on drama and poetry, specifically studying the way language is used to suit the purpose and the audience of our texts. We will read stories and convert them into scripts, which will then be performed in the classroom. This activity aims to utilise and develop the literacy skills of our students, namely oral communication, reading, writing and composing.

Year 4 writing this term will be based around writing for a scientific purpose. Students will be constructing texts that are informative, persuasive and procedural. They will be explaining scientific concepts relating to botanical science and detailing explanations of observed experiments. Later in the term they will be constructing persuasive letters to attempt to bring about change in their community.

**Mathematics**
This term in Mathematics, consolidation of a variety of concepts will take place within the classroom. These topics include angles, time, multiplication and division. As well as revising these topics, new concepts such as chance and mass will be introduced. Other activities will focus on developing problem solving and logical reasoning strategies. Mathematics activities will also continue as part of the weekly homework focusing on developing the ability to decode and solve word problems.

**Science**
Year 3 – This term, students will be studying a unit called Night and Day. Students will explore the sizes, shapes, positions and movements of the Sun, Earth and Moon. They will investigate how shadows change throughout the day and link these changes to the Sun’s apparent movement across the sky. Through investigations, students will be able to explain night and day in terms of the Earth spinning on its axis.
Year 4 – This term, students will be studying a unit called Plants in Action. Students’ beliefs about flowering plants will be challenged as they work through hands-on activities. Students will develop a sense of wonder and appreciation of plants as they investigate the processes of pollination and germination, the stages in a plant’s life cycle and environmental conditions that plants need for growth.

**Swim School**

This term, arrangements have been made to include a swimming program in our school curriculum. Students from Years 2 to 6 will be attending swim school programs at either Ryde Aquatic Centre or West Pymble Pools in an intensive swimming program. Over two weeks, the program will develop water confidence, swimming technique while providing students with skills in water safety and survival. The Scheme is conducted over ten days and each daily lesson is 45 minutes.

**Remind App**

We are using the Remind app as a means of communicating with parents. The app allows parents to receive on their Smartphones, brief messages about what is happening at school in Year 3 and 4. The service is at no cost and totally voluntary. You simply need to install the Remind App on your phone. The app is available for iPhone and android devices. During the setup process, you will be asked to join a class. Use the class code eps_year3 (for Year 3) and eps_year4 (for Year 4). You will then receive the Stage 2 messages sent from school. We will continue to use newsletter, notes and the electronic sign as means of communication.

**Important Dates**

- 24th October – 28th October
- 31st October - 4th November: Swim School
- 24th of November - End of Year Concert
- 8th of December - Year 3 to 6 Presentation Day
- 14th of December - Excursion to Greenwich Baths

*From Stage 2 Teachers, EPS*