Welcome to week 3!

Well what a week we have had the children are thoroughly exhausted from all their swimming, 10 hours of practice is quite a lot but they have all given their very best.

It is amazing to see the difference from where they started to where they are now and to say they have come ahead in leaps and bounds is an understatement.

Thank you must be again extended to Cassandra Wright for her effort, enthusiasm and energy whilst teaching the boys and girls, they certainly enjoyed every swim session.

Serena and Peter White for the use of their pool and especially for the early morning leaf catching and scooping so it was clean and sparkling for the children to use.

Bek Taylor for volunteering her time to come and assist with teaching on Thursdays and Fridays, it was great to have you join in.

At the end of the two weeks we may have had some very tired little people, however, it certainly was a very successful swim school and we look forward to our 8’s and up participating in our Small Schools Swimming Carnival on Monday in Murrurundi and our under 8’s cheering them along!

Small Schools Swimming carnival

The time has arrived for the much anticipated Small Schools Swimming Carnival. Students from Belltrees, Blandford, Ellerston and Murrurundi will compete in the pool and with their cheers. Please ensure you arrive at 9:15am as there will be a strict start at 9:30am.

Remember lots of cold water, suncream and hats. The canteen will be opened on the day as well. Children are to assemble under the Belltrees tent and listen carefully for the announcements.

There will be a roster for parent helpers for the timekeeping. If you could all rally together to find six volunteers when it is Belltrees turn that would be fantastic. (I have attached the roster so we can maybe round up people on the weekend.)
Blandford Horse Sports
That time has come around again and if you are interested in sending your child/children to this event please contact the office.
A few entries have been sent out already and they completed entries **must** be back at school no later that Wednesday 18th February.

Reminders
A reminder that text book fees are now due.
$50 per child. This fee covers all the text books used in the classroom and you can keep them at the end of the year.

Banking is still happening on Fridays

Tuckshop is still operating on Fridays

Library day is still Wednesday.

Classroom helpers: We are looking at our classroom routine beginning on Monday and we are after some more willing volunteers in the classroom. Half an hour is all that is required and I will even let you choose reading, maths games, or gross motor activities. It is wonderful for children to see extra faces in the classroom and interact with parents, friends and relatives on a different level.

Homework – Will begin MONDAY
Children may be asked to complete some maths, simple writing tasks, or an activity sheet. The purpose of this homework is to reinforce what has been learnt in class.

Homework helps:
- to bridge the gap between learning at school and learning at home.
- parents to see what their child can do and to be involved in their learning.
- improve children's concentration and focus.
- children to retain and understand what they've been taught in class.
- prepare children for what they will be taught the next day.
- provide children with the challenges and stimulus they need to engage in their classwork.

Finding the perfect balance!

NSW Department of Education and Communities curriculum expert Ken Olah says the homework policy, which schools use as a guide, is based on common sense.

"The amount of homework depends on the age of the student, the school context, the subject, the purpose for which the homework is set, and so on," he says.

"Homework should help build good learning habits; it shouldn't exhaust or turn kids off."

Schools develop their own homework policy with input from staff and parents. Ask your school for a copy.

If you find homework is becoming too much or is too difficult for your child, or there is something specific going on for your family that makes getting homework done a real challenge, have a chat with your child's teacher.

I look forward to a rewarding and beneficial homework experience between your children and our school!

Have a lovely week! – Johanna Teague