25th January, 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to you all! A special ‘bula vinaka’ to new students and their families. We hope your ISS experience will be unique and purposeful.

The students appear to be settling in well and responding positively to the challenges and expectations of a new year. Over the next couple of weeks we will be getting to know each other, establishing routines and conducting the necessary assessments to guide the planning of our teaching and learning programme for the year.

We are your teachers for year 3: Alexandra Sutch (3A-Neela), Dasha Singh (3D-Laal),

Helena Southcombe (3H-Peela) Kasari Seru, our Year 3 Teacher Assistant, and Lucy Otway our Year 3 Learning Support Teacher.

Below are a few pointers to assist your child in organizing themselves for the school year.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

It is very important that Year 3 students adhere to the school’s uniform policy. We have a no hat-no play policy - hats must be ISS school hats. If your child feels the cold they need to wear an ISS school jacket or windcheater. Please do not send them wearing any other jumpers or T-shirts. ‘Safe’ shoes are to be worn at all time on the school property. These shoes should be black, brown or navy blue as per our uniform guidelines. Students need to wear proper full sports uniform for physical education and sport and swimmers for swimming classes. New students will be informed of their house colours later by our PSPE teacher.

**LABEL EVERYTHING**

Many items of student property - uniforms, hats, drink bottles etc end up in lost property and are never claimed. Clearly labeled items can be returned to you, saving you money, so please make the effort to do this.

**BE AT SCHOOL ON TIME**

It is essential that all students are at school on time by 7.50am each day. This will give the children time to walk to our rooms, hang up their bags and take out any items they will need ready to begin classes at 8am.

**TIME TO SEE CLASS TEACHERS**

Please feel free to call the office should you wish to make an appointment with your child’s teacher. The class teacher will contact you or if necessary make a time to meet with you. If you have a message that needs to be received that day, put it in your child’s diary and ask your child to bring it to the attention of the classroom teacher when they are marking the roll first thing in the morning. Please don’t rely on sending us text messages as we cannot guarantee that we will check these in a timely manner.

**PICKING UP CHILDREN**

Please do not come into the classroom at bell time at the end of the day until students have been dismissed. We encourage Year 3 students to develop responsibility for their personal organization.

**HOMEWORK**

The school has a homework policy – generally Year 3 students should allocate half an hour to 40 minutes per day for homework. In the first two weeks incidental homework will be sent home; however, homework will begin in full in week 5 after the swimming programme in week 3 & 4. Please encourage your child to continue their home reading during this time. Individual teachers organize their own individual homework programme. There will be a homework exercise book. We will send out homework on Friday and it is due back on Thursday.

**EXERCISE BOOKS**

To ensure that students’ books are protected and maintained, we request that all exercise books are covered preferably by the end of week 3. Some of these books will be brought home at the end of week 2. We suggest that students use adhesive plastic covers.

**READING LOGS**

Students will be provided with a reading log to record their daily reading beginning in week 3.

**DIARIES**

All students will be issued with a class diary. They are expected to bring these to and from school each day. If they contain messages from parents, the children should give these directly to their teachers in the morning when rolls are being marked. Otherwise, all diaries should be signed by parents on a Thursday night and these will be co-signed by teachers on a Friday.

**POI**(Programme of Inquiry)At ISS we offer the children a rich **transdisciplinary programme of inquiry** which is concept driven. Most learning is through the UOI although some parts of Language and Maths are taught as stand-alone.

We will be inquiring into 2 central ideas this term:

Weeks 1 – 6 **Peace and Conflict**

Central Idea: *Finding peaceful solutions to conflict leads to a better quality of human life.*

Weeks 7 – Term 2 Week 2 **Tourism**

Central Idea: *Communities provide interconnected services design to meet people’s needs.*

A 2-night year level camp is planned for this unit and will be discussed further during the

term.

The Peace and Conflict Unit will be integrated with Hindi Studies and Tourism with Mrs Subadra Chandra.

If you have any books or resources at home that would aid our inquiry, we would love it if you could share them with us. Also if you would be able to talk to the students regarding either of these central ideas, or know somebody who could, could you please let us know. We welcome any material from home related to our inquiry unit this term. Please refer to the attached Term 1 overview for details.

**Single Subjects:**

**Physical Education: (Ms. Amele and Mr. Petero)**

Children must come dressed in the correct P.E. uniform on their P.E. day. The P.E. timetable will change when we go swimming in Weeks 3 and 4. More information about the swimming programme will be sent home closer to the time. If your child is not participating in P.E. for any reason they will be expected to bring a note in their diary explaining why.

**Swimming: (Ms. Amele and Mr. Petero)**

Year 3 will be swimming in Weeks 3 and 4 at the Aquatic Centre. The sessions will take place at the start of each day – but not on Fridays. All children are expected to participate.

**Other Languages**: (Mrs Chandra)

Year 3 students will do a full year of Hindi.

**Art and Music: (Mrs Lindy Stice & Mr Tim)**

Each child should bring an art shirt for Art. Art is taken every week by Mrs Lindy Stice. Year 3s will be introduced to recorder by Mr Tim. The school provides recorders, but if children prefer to use their own, then they are most welcome to bring their own.

**Items Required**

Items which need to be brought to school on a daily basis are:

* plastic drink bottles filled with water
* ISS sun hat
* mosquito repellant and sunscreen which can remain in your child’s school bag
* Morning tea and lunch or a lunch order
* Diary and Reading Log
* Pillow for Reading

**Important: the school is adopting a ‘NO NUT POLICY’ as we have children in the school allergic to nuts. Please refrain from sending peanut products to school.**

We are looking forward to meet you at the Primary Evening session on Wednesday, 1st of February.

We look forward to a happy and productive learning year.

Yours Sincerely

Alexandra Sutch asutch@international.school.fj

Dasha Singh dsingh@international.school.fj

Helena Southcombe hsouthcombe@international.school.fj

Kasari Seru kseru@international.school.fj

Lucy Otway lotway@international.school.fj