



# Principal's blog

## Week 5 27 February- 3 March

Now that swimming lessons have been completed for another year, it's time for us to settle into the routines of term. A huge thank you to Ms Locker, who continues to plan and execute amazing programs, as well as our patient and flexible staff and parents who were so willing to support the students. Swimming lessons can be a complicated and busy few weeks. The flexibility of our community has been wonderful.

Working at Settlers Primary School continues to fill me with immense pride. One of the things I love the most about our school is the positive reputation that it holds in the broader community. The Settlers blue and red uniforms show people in Baldivis who we are and where we come from. Almost without fail, people who speak of our school and its students do so with positivity and enthusiasm.

With great power comes great responsibility! At times I have needed to speak with our students about the implications of being in school uniform outside of the school gates. Our responsibility for students and their wellbeing exists from the moment they leave the house in uniform to the moment they take it off at night. Our team are continuing to support families whose children have attracted less than positive attention in our community whilst in a Settlers uniform. I thank our families for continuing to support us in this endeavour, as we strive to maintain and enhance the reputation of our school in Baldivis.

Mr Petterwood

## This Week

- **Week 4-6** - On Entry Testing (PP students)
- **3 March**- Year 6 Point Peron Excursion

## Coming Up

- **9 March** - Years 4-6 Faction Swimming Carnival
- **Week 7 and 8** - Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN testing
- **Week 4-6** - On Entry Testing (PP students)



# What is Spelling Mastery?

This week sees the roll out of a new program across our Year 3 to 6 cohort. For 25 minutes, four times a week students will be participating in an evidence based and high impact program that allows for students to be taught directly at their individual spelling level. To this end we have well over 300 students and 23 groups being taught over 50 minutes Monday - Thursday. Our Deputy Principals, Education Assistants and teachers are all working together to differentiate spelling to meet the needs of each child.

Spelling Mastery is an increasingly common spelling program that focuses on the development of children's morphographic knowledge (their ability to break words into chunks of meaning), to spell. This is extremely different from the way you or I were likely to be taught to spell. In Spelling Mastery, spelling is treated more like mathematics, with memorisation and things like "look say cover write check" being replaced with a systemic approach to the sounds, rules, and conventions of language.

Spelling Mastery has been recognised as being of great benefit for students who are finding spelling challenging, particularly those who may have a dyslexia diagnosis. It's also recognised as been a fantastic extension tool, as children who are already spelling beyond year level are streamed into higher groups. We know that high impact teaching benefits **all students**.

A huge thank you to our P&C, who's generous contribution to the program makes it zero cost for families.

## Photos

