



Dear Year Three and Year Five Students,

This week you will sit a few NAPLAN tests and there is something very important for you to be reminded of -

1. These tests do not assess all of what you know, or any of what makes you extremely **special and unique**.
2. The people that score these tests don't **know you as a person**.
They don't know about many of your strengths and talents or whether you can draw, paint, sing, dance, act, speak confidently, throw, hit and catch a ball, and so much more.
They have not heard how well you can share your creative ideas or seen how patient you are with your brother or sister.
They don't know how you are a trustworthy and dependable friend or how your kindness and humour make others feel happy.
3. The scores you will receive from these tests will show how you went on these particular days, but **they won't show how you have improved on something** you may have once found difficult. They also can't show how much **your presence, your effort and your attitude** in class is really **valued and celebrated** in our school.

SO ...

- ❖ Come to school well rested, with a good breakfast in your tummy.
- ❖ Arrive thinking positive thoughts about yourself and about the test.
- ❖ Read instructions carefully.
- ❖ Do your best.
- ❖ Stay calm.

Finally, just remember that no matter what, we really care about you and we will continue to see you as so much more than just the scores on your test.

All the very best this week and we look forward to seeing you out on the playground with a smile on your dial and a spring in your step!

Kindest regards

Mrs Thuijs and all the Staff



Dear Year 3 and 5 Families,

This week students from Years 3, and 5, (and Years 7 and 9 in high school) will participate in an assessment of their literacy and numeracy skills. As with any test in life – whether academic, sporting or other – some students may feel anxious about NAPLAN. In each case, it is up to the significant adults in students' lives to help explain what NAPLAN is all about and to help them to keep it in perspective.

For students, NAPLAN is a short assessment they take only four times during their whole school life. For parents, NAPLAN is a point-in-time assessment for seeing how their child, compared with the rest of Australia's children, is progressing in the fundamental skills of literacy and numeracy. The information NAPLAN provides, supports conversations between parents, teachers and schools working together to help children achieve their full potential.

NAPLAN data is also used to support school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor their students' progress over time against a national measure, and to identify areas of strength and development. NAPLAN data, when used in combination with other school-based assessments, provide teachers with diagnostic information for planning their teaching programs, and guiding and supporting their students' learning journey.

Literacy and numeracy are fundamentally important for all young people, **but NAPLAN is not, and should never be, the sole measure of a child's achievement at school**, or of the success of a whole school. The school curriculum has so much to offer. All students here at St Emillie's have an opportunity to study a rich curriculum including literature, science, mathematics, humanities and social sciences, technology, health and physical education, Japanese, and the Arts.

So, if your Year 3 or 5 child is sitting NAPLAN this week, simply **encourage them** to do the best they can and treat the test day as any other school day. Your support is also needed in making sure they are:

- Well rested
- Well nourished
- At school on time
- Secure in the knowledge that all they are required to do is give their best effort.

Thank you for your support and wisdom.

Tania Thuijs, Principal