Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are thrilled to announce to our community, that Melton Primary School has taken the first exciting steps into the world of KidsMatter! Maybe you’ve heard of the initiative on TV or other schools? It’s an amazing opportunity for us to come together as a community and develop a positive focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our children.

KidsMatter Primary is an Australian initiative that aims to improve children’s mental health and wellbeing. Kidsmatter recognises the central role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children and encourages effective working relationships between school staff, parents and carers as well as the broader community.

Mental health and wellbeing is all about making sure that our children are happy, feel safe and are confident at school, at home, in the wider community and many others areas. Research clearly shows that children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They are also better learners and have stronger relationships. It is for this reason that we have decided to take part in this excellent initiative.

We need your help to make this happen: This week the schools’ staff are being surveyed to hear their views; including the voice of parents and carers will also add valuable insight and assist the action team with planning. We are asking all families of children at Melton Primary School to complete a quick online survey. The survey will supply us with vital information about how to best assist our children and our community. It will help us to recognise what we are already doing well and what we need to work on to promote children’s mental health and wellbeing. For best results, we need as many families to complete the survey as possible. The KidsMatter Action Team will then collate and analyse this data to create an action plan detailing how we can better promote mental health and wellbeing within our school. We greatly value the opinion of our parents and caregivers, which is why we have asked for your input at this planning stage and as we progress on our Kidsmatter journey.

Please complete this survey by Friday March 28th, so that we can analyse our data by the start of next term and use this information in conjunction with staff surveys, to guide our direction.

To complete the survey please log onto: www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentssurvey. You will be asked to type in the name of your child’s school, select the grade level of your child/children, select the language you speak at home and select a reporting period. For the reporting period: please select the option at the bottom which says ‘2014 Q1: Jan-Mar’ as this is our current reporting cycle.

If you do not have access to the internet but would like to complete the survey, we are pleased to offer times to do so at school. iPads and laptops will be available, along with staff who will be there to answer any questions. To complete the survey at school, please come along on: **When:** Monday 24th of March to Friday 28th of March (5 days total)

**Where:** In the BER kitchen

**Times:** Before school from 8:30 – 9:00 am.

**After school** from 3:00 – 3:30 pm.

Bikkies, coffee and tea will be provided!
You can also access a paper copy of this survey from the office. If this is the option you are choosing please return the paper copy survey to the office no later than Monday March 24th to allow us time to enter the data manually.

The parent survey is quick and easy to complete. Please be honest with responses as this data will help us plan for your child's future mental health and wellbeing.

**How is your privacy protected and what happens to the answers?**

The answers provided by parents and carers are completely anonymous and it will not be possible to identify you or your child from your answers. Data is stored electronically by KidsMatter Primary in a password secured database. Only summarised results are used by the school to assist with school planning. KidsMatter Primary may also use data summarised at a state level to inform the national development of KidsMatter.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this new initiative. As a school, we genuinely value the relationship between home and school and look forward to developing this new initiative in partnership with you and your children.

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

Sharon Sowter on behalf of the
Metton Primary School
KidsMatter Action Team

[Signature]

Alan McColl
Principal