



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the 2018 school year. This term will be jam packed with exciting learning adventures for all the students and I am looking forward to seeing the students grow in confidence both academically and personally. Even though it is early days, it is great to see the students' individual personalities showing through and their enthusiasm for learning is already shining in the classroom. We have spent the first few days establishing a positive learning culture in our room, exploring how having a growth mindset can help each and everyone reach their potential, and setting the framework for a collaborative and successful year.

Uniform

A reminder that the school uniform is compulsory for all students. This includes **black school shoes**. Runners are permissible when students are participating in PE and sport, and to changing into for recess and lunch times.

Communication between school and home

Please ensure your child brings their diary and document wallet to school every day. Student diaries and document wallets are an important communication tool for parents and teachers. Please check your child's diary every night. It is helpful if you can respond to or initial any entries from teachers so we know you have seen them. Managing a diary is an important organisational skill to prepare your child for secondary school. To support this you could get your child to record important dates, timetables, reminders of the due date of notices, projects etc. Additional information may be sent home in the document wallets. I request that absence notes are written on a separate piece of paper as we are legally required to retain them for a number of years.

Class Dojo is also another important communication tool which I utilise to send home messages, arrange meeting etc. Thank you to the parents who have already connected. If you have not yet done this, please do so as soon as possible as it is an efficient way to keep in touch.

Financial Classroom

We will be running a financial classroom to teach the children skills in business and finance inline with our new curriculum. More details at parent information night.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent Information Evening
Monday 19th February

House Athletics
Thursday 8th March

Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday 12th March

Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 13th March

Three Way Conferences
Date TBC

Harmony Day
Wednesday 21st March

End Term 1
Thursday 29th March 2.30 pm
Dismissal

NAPLAN
Tues 15th - Thurs 17th May

Grade 5/6 Camp
Mon 28th— Fri 1st June

Grade 3/4 Camp
Wed 25th—Fri 27th July

Hats are compulsory for all outside activities in Term 1 and Term 4. Sunscreen and sunglasses are also recommended for students to be Sun Smart.

We also use Konnective as a whole school communication tool. Most notices and reminders are posted on Konnective, and it is also used during the year as a way of communicating about camp and excursions. If you are not already signed up please contact the office and they will provide you with details of how to do so.

Term Overview:

The following is the term overview for the 4/5 class this term.

Learning to Learn

Our 'Learning to Learn' unit will allow the students to discover how they learn best and set up the yearly routines, as well as learning how to work together as a classroom unit. The unit provides activities that see the students reflect upon their strengths and what makes them individuals. We are focussing on helping the students develop and maintain a growth mindset, so that they understand that with persistence all of them can embrace challenges and improve achievement. Another important part of the 'Learning to Learn' unit is for the students to think about and set achievable goals. These have now been completed and their Individual Learning Plans will be presented to the parents at the Three Way Conferences to be held later this term.

English

In Reading, the students will learn about finding 'good fit' books, predicting, identifying interesting vocabulary and using prior knowledge to make connections with the texts they are reading. During Writing sessions, the principles of VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) will be revisited and the children will be focussing on the text types of Recount and Narrative writing. We will be revisiting the fundamentals of punctuation and focusing upon correct sentence structure during grammar lessons. The students will be given many opportunities to practise their oral speaking skills through daily activities and the presentation of their work to their peers.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will begin by laying the foundations for a successful year by revising and extending students' knowledge of place value, followed by the four operations. We will then measure, order and compare objects using metric units of length and area. Finally, in the area of geometry, we will be describing the attributes of 2-D shapes and 3-D objects and making models of these.

Inquiry

The Inquiry unit for this term is a History based unit called 'I Am, You Are, We Are Australian'. Although it has predominantly a humanities focus, it will be integrated across other areas of the curriculum where applicable. The Grade 4s will learn about who first lived here and the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People. The Grade 5s will focus on what it means to be an Australian citizen and how people can participate as global citizens.

School Involvement

I am always appreciative for the support and assistance that I get from parents and I would love to have some parent helpers in the classroom; listening to children read or working with small groups. Helping in the classroom will give you a better idea of what your child does at school every day as well as helping you and your child form stronger ties between home and school.

Creating a link between home and school is vital for your child to succeed in their education. While it can be difficult for working parents to find the time to get involved, simple activities such as taking the time to listen to your child read for 15 minutes every night will improve their reading significantly. Ensuring they complete their homework to the best of their ability and punctually will support them in their school work and provide you with a better idea of what they are covering at school over the course of the week.

If you would like to be involved in any of our school activities or you would like to know how to better assist your child at home, please come and see me. You will also need to have completed the Classroom Parents' training, sign the school's confidentiality agreement and have a current Working With Children card. Mrs Lawson is running **full** training courses on the 12th and 14th of February in her room. If you have missed the **refresher** courses please speak to Mrs Lawson to arrange another time.

Three Way Conferences

Three way conferences are attended by the teacher, student and parent/s. They will be held later in this term. Interview times (excluding EAL interviews) will be booked using an online booking system. The system has a 'first in best dressed' approach, so book early. During this meeting you will have the opportunity to let me know any important information about your child, I will discuss any concerns I may have and your child will share their learning goals with you. I look forward to meeting with you and your child.

BYOD Chromebook Program

Students in Grade 3 and upwards all use a device on a daily basis to support their learning in the classroom. From 2017 Chromebooks were introduced to the school through the BYOD program, and have been successfully integrated into the students' learning in many different ways. Students in Grade 3 will shortly receive information about how they will be able to purchase a device through the school for use this year. You will also receive the required specifications should you wish to purchase a device from a retailer.

Please help your child to get in the habit of charging their Chromebook each night and ensure they pack their chargers in their school bag.

As the UMPCs are an essential learning tool I ask that any distracting games, music, widgets etc. are kept to a minimum.

Homework Requirements and Expectations

In Grade 4 and 5 all students receive weekly homework. The homework is thoroughly explained and allocated to the students each Wednesday and is due back to school on the following Wednesday.

Each weekly set of homework contains a variety of tasks, all of which the students are expected to complete throughout the week.

Weekly tasks will include compulsory home reading and number facts practice, as well as individualised weekly spelling words. Other tasks may include open ended inquiry tasks and project work. These provide opportunities for the students to work both independently and in conjunction with family members.

Completion of homework supports the learning being undertaken in the classroom. The students are given six nights to complete each weekly set of homework in order to give them the opportunity to manage their time and participate in their chosen number of extra-curricular activities.

I will be happy to discuss this in further detail at the Parent Information Evening on the 19th February.

Camps 2018

This year the Grade 3 and 4 students have the opportunity to attend a camp at Arrabri Lodge, just outside of Warburton.

The Grade 5 and 6 students will be going to Camp Rumbug this year which is an adventure camp. They will be challenged to step out of their comfort zone.

Whilst not compulsory, the camp is highly recommended, as it provides students with a range of new experiences, adventures, challenges and teamwork activities.

More detailed information about the camp, including the initial deposit, will be sent home in the near future.

Punctuality

To ensure a smooth start to the day, please ensure that students arrive at school from 8.30 and at least 5 minutes before the 8:45 bell. Parents must accompany their children to the office for a Late Pass when arriving after the bell.

Parent Information Evening

A parent information evening is scheduled for Monday 19th February. On this evening a session will be held for parents of Grade 4 students in Room 3 and Grade 5 in Room 6. To assist with preparations for this, please use this slip to let me know of any questions you have or any information you would like addressed during the session. Please return this as soon as possible to me in Room 4. You can also forward questions on Class Dojo.

4/5 Y Classroom Rules

The students have worked together to collaboratively design a set of rules which they felt reflected the culture of our classroom this year:

- ◆ Your food suits you best, keep it to yourself.
- ◆ Listen to what the teacher says.
- ◆ Look, listen, and think before you act.
- ◆ Look after your own belongings.
- ◆ Don't interrupt, put your hands up.
- ◆ Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Appointments

Most problems and issues can be resolved with a quick meeting and I am happy to meet with parents as the need arises. Should you wish to see me, I would appreciate it if you could contact me (either via the office, student diaries class dojo or in person) to make an appointment so that we can meet at a mutually convenient time before or after school.

I look forward to meeting you all, and working with you and your children throughout the year.

Thank you for your support,

Jess Yuen

4/5 Y Term 1 Timetable

M	T	W	Th	F
ICT Lab	Music	Art	George	3/4 Sport
PE	Library (when reopened)			5/6 Sport
Indonesian				

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____ Parent's name: _____