Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2, and be prepared as it is going to be BUSY! We have the NAPLAN tests in week 3, The Faction Fun Run in week 4, the WA Day Public Holiday in week 7, Whole School Assemblies in weeks 4, 6 and OUR assembly in week 9! Phew!

CURRICULUM

Timetable:
As you can see from the Timetable provided, we are working on a Fortnight timetable. The only change is that we have a double period of Science every second week (even weeks) on a Wednesday.

Literacy Blocks:
I will continue to hold 2 - 3 Literacy Blocks (depending on assembly weeks) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tasks and texts are selected to suit the learning needs of the differentiated groups and are explicitly presented in a learning session; follow-up tasks are directly linked to the strategy being targeted in the session. Learning across other areas is also embedded in these sessions, so if a writing task relates to a topic in History or Science it may be covered in a Literacy Block. Literacy Blocks target skills and strategies with the aim of improving performance in reading and writing. Students are encouraged to continue reading at home using their Home Reader pads to track their journey.

Mathematics:
I will teach a mixture of the Number & Algebra, Chance & Probability and Measurement & Geometry aspects of the curriculum on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The concepts planned to be taught this term will be Place Value, numbers to 10 000, addition and subtraction strategies and facts, Chance language and experiments and 3D shapes.

Society & Environment:
We will continue to study History this term, looking at the continuity and change in our community and Australia, as well as how diversity has shaped our Nation.

Science:
Mrs Anderson will be teaching Physical Sciences this term. The students will be looking at heat and how it is produced as well as how it affects everything around us. The students will also learn how to use a thermometer. As mentioned above, we will have Science every second (even) week this term.

Health:
We will be starting the Protective Behaviour program this term. Helena Donohoe, our school chaplain, will lead the teaching of this program and the students will participate in a variety of activities designed to build self-esteem and resilience. These activities will also assist in giving the students experience working in teams and respecting the personal qualities and viewpoints of others.
Physical Education:
It is important that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear on the days they are participating in sport, as well as bringing a hat and water bottle. Please note that if your child is unable to participate in sport a signed note needs to be provided. Classroom 6 has Physical Education on Tuesdays and Fridays, with Middle Sport on Wednesdays.

Hat Policy:
GDHS has a year round hat policy which means that each student must have a hat in order to participate in Physical Education, Middle Sport, recess and lunch all year round.

Library:
Our library session will continue to be on a Thursday. These sessions are important as this is one of the only times the students have the opportunity to borrow books. Please make sure your child brings their library bag every Thursday. Library bags can be purchased from the school canteen in faction colours.

Homework Requirements:
The students will continue to have spelling words and home reading to complete at home. The list might total 15 words but it may be only 3 – 5 words that your child learns each night. This will make the task manageable and should only take 10 minutes to learn using the look-say-cover-write-check strategy taught in class. The students can pick an activity from the ‘Spelling Menu’ to make learning their spelling words more enjoyable.

Home-reading should not be stressful and texts are intended to be at the level of the reader. It is more enjoyable if someone at home listens and interacts by asking questions to ensure an understanding of what is read. It is hoped children will find interesting words to bring to school to share for our ‘Word of the day’ wall or even share a part of a book they enjoyed, (or a poem or cartoon). We have Home Reading booklets for your student to track their journey.

Classroom Management:
We follow the whole primary school reward program using greenies and pinkies.
6 x greenies = 1 pinkie.
6 x pinkies = merit certificate at appropriate level.
Classroom behaviour is managed using greenies/pinkies as rewards.
We also use a traffic light system if warnings are given for unacceptable behaviour in class e.g.
- Green level – all students begin the day at this level.
- Orange level – if warnings are given previously and student persists with their behaviour
- Red level – student still persists with poor behaviour and at this level may have a referral to administration (Deputy Principal) or will require a meeting with the parent/guardian.

School Term Vacation:
If you are planning a holiday during the school term you are required to contact the principal for him to approve it. If it is not approved by the principal it will appear in the absence system as an ‘unapproved holiday.’ You can contact the principal either by phone 9575 5300 or we can pass on a written note for you.
**School Diaries**
School diaries will be sent home every night. Please ensure your child is bringing their diary to school every day and that you check it daily for messages. There is not always enough time in the day and I may not have the chance to go through all the students diaries, so **please let your child know if there’s a note for me**. The students have been instructed to show me any communication.

**Parent Volunteers:**
I am always looking for help in the classroom! If you are available to help out in the classroom for student reading or just in general, then please let me know. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

**Teacher Contact Details:**
In an effort to ensure we are on the same page regarding your child’s learning, I am available for meetings with you during my D.O.T.T times or immediately after school. **To organise a meeting (or for any general concerns or queries) please contact me via your child’s diary or the school phone number 9575 5300.**

We will have a better chance of gaining optimum results when teachers, parents and students all work together in a supportive working environment. I looked forward to a great Term 2 with you and your child!

Miss Lindsey Gilchrist
Room 6 Teacher.