Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, and what a BIG term this is going to be! Fast approaching is our annual NAPLAN testing for the year 5’s which is being conducted nationwide in week 3. We have 3 whole school assemblies this term in weeks 4, 6 and 9 along with 3 merit assemblies in weeks 5, 7 and 10. Our class assembly is week 6 and we hope you can all make it to see your child’s amazing talents. We are lucky enough to have a public holiday (yay) on Monday the 1st of June and our Faction Cross Country is being held on Wednesday the 18th of May. While all of these activities and events are happening, reports are also being busily written so it is a jam-packed term for students and teachers!

Below is an outline of what Room 7 will be doing this term.

**CURRICULUM**

**Literacy Blocks:**
I will continue to hold Literacy Blocks (uninterrupted 2 hour blocks of literacy instruction). Students are strongly encouraged to continue reading at home for at least 20 minutes a day. Spelling will continue to run in class on a fortnightly basis with practice words going home for homework and a Spelling test every second Friday.

Below is an outline of what topics we will be covering during Term 3.

**Writing:**
- Expositions (Persuasive writing)
- Reports
- Explanations
- Newspaper Articles

**Reading:**
- Facts and details
- Sequence
- Compare & Contrast
- Literal and inferential details

**Viewing:**
- Newspaper Articles

**Mathematics:**
This term I will be covering the following topics;
- Number and Algebra - Fractions and Decimals
- Measurement and Geometry - Time
- Statistics and Probability – Data and Graphing
- Working Mathematically – Solving real life word problems.

**Society & Environment:**
Both year 5/6 classes will be continuing with the History Curriculum this semester. This term both classes will be focusing on Democracy, Migration and the impact these have had on Australian society. Students will be looking at infrastructures such as the Snowy River Mountain Scheme and how it brought migrants to Australia. This will be followed by a research report on an alternative source of electricity such as solar power, geothermal electricity, wind power or biogas and its impact on the Australian environment.
Science:
Mrs Anderson will continue to work with the Primary students in Science, teaching the Science Enquiry Skills strand. Miss Harris will teach the Science Understanding strand to both Year 5/6 classes. This term the focus is on Physical Science. Miss Harris will be looking at Light and Shadows and Electrical Circuits.

Technology and Enterprise:
Mr Beard will teach both classes for T & E this term. The focus is Technology Processes, specifically the ‘Design Process’. The students will be required to Plan, Design, Make and Evaluate their designs. Students will be ‘Tinkering with Toys’ whereby they will design a toy that uses energy to move. Students will be required to bring in materials from home to make their ‘toy’.

Health:
This term the Year 6 students will be doing Health with the Community Nurse, Tricia Clifford in alignment with the National Curriculum. This will involve Puberty, Healthy Bodies and Relationships. The year 5’s will finish off last term’s SEDERA Challenges and Choices topic on Resilience and Wellbeing and then move on to Personal Growth and Development.

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. Room 7 will continue to have Physical Education on Tuesday and Thursday and Senior Sport on Friday.

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, Senior Sport, recess and lunch all year round. Please ensure you child has a hat as it is not only a GDHS rule but it can help prevent skin cancer. Hats can be left in the classroom.

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 uniform shop in faction colours.

Homework Requirements:
Homework will commence again after NAPLAN and will be given out every Friday, to be returned the following Friday. It will consist of:

- **Weekly homework sheet – Includes fortnightly spelling words, Maths and English activities.** The students are required to practise their spelling every night using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check (LSCWC) strategy and choose 10 words to write sentences on the paper provided. The other 10 words are to be completed in the next week’s homework. We are encouraging the students to write complex sentences, using a variety of different punctuation.

- **Read for at least 20 mins a night, every night.** Sometimes this should be out loud so students can practise fluency, pronunciation and expression. Using a digital device to record their oral reading is an excellent way to review their own performance. Reading to siblings is another way to practise this. Consistent nightly reading will be rewarded with treats, computer time and ice cream. Students can write their reading (Title and number of pages read) in their diary and have an adult sign it to say it has been done.

- **Practise times tables -** By Year 5 and 6, students should be able to instantly recall all the times tables and number facts up to the 12 times table. Students should be practising these on a regular basis so that they can rapidly recall them.
Any work not completed in the class time given will be sent home to be finished and returned the following day. Students, who have extra roles in the school such as Faction Captains or Councillors, will be expected to catch up on any missed lessons in their own time.

All assessments or research assignments given to the students throughout the term will be given ample class time to complete and would rarely require extra work at home unless your child has been absent or off task. If the assignment requires extra work at home, no extra homework will be given.

I am encouraging all students to complete their homework each week to support their learning and to ensure that they do not miss out on extra curricula activities, such as ‘End of Term Rewards Day’ and appreciate your support.

Classroom Management:
The class rules have been discussed and written by the students based on Gingin DHS expectations; Care, Respect, Try and Responsible. The students’ behaviour in class is monitored and recorded on a board against a colour scale. As the children move up they are rewarded with greenies, pinkies and CRTR tokens. At the end of the fortnight the tokens are drawn out and children receive small prizes including computer time, getting the comfy chair choosing a seating arrangement. As the children move down there is a warning, note home to parents and occasionally a community circle. The community circle allows your child to reflect on what they did, who was affected and the feelings of others can be heard. Merit assemblies are held throughout the term to award students’ success in these areas.

6 x greenies = 1 pinkie.
6 x pinkies = merit certificate at appropriate level.

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 form an easy mode of communication between parents and teachers. Please ensure your child writes their nightly reading into their diary (Title and pages read), brings their diary to school every day and that you check and sign it daily.

Teacher Contact Details:
In an effort to ensure I am on the same page regarding your child’s learning, I am available for meetings with you. To organise a meeting or for any general concerns or queries please contact us on the school phone number 9575 5300.

Thank you

Mr Beard