Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, hopefully it won’t be as hectic as Term 1 was! 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. 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 another jam-packed term for students and teachers!

Below is an outline of what Room 8 will be doing this term.

CURRICULUM

Literacy Blocks:
We 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:
- Compare & Contrast
- Fact & Opinion
- Cause & Effect
- Conclusions and Inferences

Viewing:
- Newspaper Articles

Mathematics:
This term we 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:
We are continuing with the History Curriculum this semester. This term we are 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 and its impact on the Australian environment such as solar power, geothermal electricity, wind power or biogas.

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. We will be looking at Light and Shadows and Electrical Circuits.

**Technology and Enterprise:**
Mr Beard will be teaching both classes for T & E this term. The focus is Technology Processes and 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 8 will continue to have Physical Education on Thursday and Friday 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 Wednesday. 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 Wednesday. 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 while they can hear themselves reading. Reading to siblings is a great way to practise this. Consistent nightly reading will be rewarded with ‘greenies’. 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. We are encouraging all students to complete their homework each week to support their learning and ensure they do not miss out on any other extra curricula activities, such as ‘End of Term Rewards Day’ and appreciate your support with this also.

**Classroom Management:**
Our class is following the school’s CRTR (‘critter’) values of CARE, RESPONSIBILITY, TRY and RESPECT. All students are expected to adhere to these expectations and positive reinforcement and the use of the whole primary school reward program of greenies and pinkies for positive behaviour choices is being used. Students will be awarded ‘greenies’ for good behaviour choices, excellent work ethic, completing homework, handing in diaries and reading each night. 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

*Miss Harris*