



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second semester. I hope you all had a fun and safe holidays!

I say it at the beginning of each term and this one is no different: it is going to be another busy term! We have a *Scitech incursion* in Week 2, the *Faction Jumps and Throws day* in Week 6 and the *Faction Athletics carnival* in Week 7. We also have *whole school assemblies* in Weeks 3, 7 and 9! There have been some changes to Middle Sport, Spelling and classroom management in room 6 this term along with an important note, which have been highlighted below in bold. If you have any questions about them then please do not hesitate to contact me!

CURRICULUM

Timetable:

As you can see from the Timetable provided, we are continuing to work on a Fortnightly timetable.

Changes to timetable: The only change this term is that Middle Sport will take place on Tuesday mornings (9:30 – 10:25am) instead of Wednesdays in the lead up to the Faction Athletics carnival in Week 7. After that, Middle Sport will return to Wednesdays in the same timeslot.

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. Literacy Blocks target skills and strategies with the aim of improving performance in reading and writing. This term I will be embedding learning from the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) History strand into our Writing program. Students are encouraged to continue reading at home using their Home Reader record books to track their journey. I endeavour to check the Home Reader record books every Friday.

Mathematics:

I will teach a mixture of the Number & Algebra and Measurement & Geometry aspects of the curriculum on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The concepts planned to be taught this term will be the four Operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), Fractions and telling Time to the nearest 5 and 1 minute.

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS):

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. The students will be researching and creating an information report on celebrations and commemorations in places around the world. We will also begin our Geography program, looking at Australia's states and territories, capital cities, regional areas and climate. The students will also be learning about and keeping track of what's happening at the Olympics!

Science:

Mrs Anderson will be teaching Biological Sciences this term. The students will be learning about how living things are grouped by observable features and how they are distinguished from non-living things. They will also look at the characteristics and differences between living things.

Health:

As well as continuing the Protective Behaviour program this term, we will also learn about passenger safety (while traveling in cars, buses and trains), pedestrian safety (such as crossing roads, identifying and responding to unsafe situations in traffic and safe places to cross) and safety on wheels (including road rules for cyclists, bicycle laws and how to avoid injury for riders).

Please note: I understand that due to personal circumstances and tragedies for some families, learning about passenger safety may be upsetting for your child. If you think this may be the case, please let me know at your earliest convenience so I can make adjustments where need be.

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 Tuesdays until Week 7, and after will return to Wednesdays. During Middle Sport on Tuesdays this term, we will be measuring and recording activities in order to place students into Faction Athletics Day events. As there is only a short amount of time to do so, any missed Tuesdays may affect their placement in these events.

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 21 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.

Changes to spelling: You may have noticed that students now receive 6 x sight words with each spelling list this semester. These commonly used sight words have been practised verbally in the classroom (as well as being displayed), however it is also important that your child knows how to spell them. These 6 x sight words will now be included in every fortnightly spelling test.

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).

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.

Changes to Classroom Management: In our classroom there is a 'Choice Chart' which visually shows whether a student is making good choices or whether they need to rethink their next choice. The chart starts with Green (*'I made good choices today'*) and makes its way through Orange (*'My next choice will be better'*) down to Red (*'I need to re-think my choices'*). As part of the restorative practise for negative choice making, if your child ends up on 'Red' they will need to have a conference with me, where we will discuss the behaviour(s) that led to it and reflect on how they can be strong and take charge of their behaviour. The student will help me to complete a 'Behaviour Reflection Sheet,' which will be sent home to be read, discussed and signed by a parent or carer. It is the student's responsibility to return this signed sheet to me on the *next school day* otherwise a logical consequence (and parent/carer phone call) will occur.

School Term Vacation:

If you are planning a holiday during the school term it is 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 email at kevin.brady@education.wa.edu.au

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 us 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 our 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 second semester with you and your child!

Miss Lindsey Gilchrist
Room 6 Teacher