



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 4! The end of the year is quickly approaching and, once again, we have a busy term ahead! I hope you all had a fun and safe holiday and are ready to hit the ground running! Important dates for this term to note are: whole school assemblies in weeks 3 and 6, Christmas Concert on Thursday week 9 and the End of Year awards assembly on Thursday week 10.

Our Middle Sport is now back on Wednesdays.

We are also lucky enough to have Miss Carly Bowen in our classroom for the entire Term 4. Carly is completing her final internship for her Bachelor of Education via Curtin University. Carly will be working in collaboration and under the supervision of myself and has already proven that she is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and eager to teach. Having a pre-service teacher in the classroom is extremely beneficial as it will allow your student to be exposed to new and innovative lessons as well as extra support. Please find attached an introductory note from Carly. If you have any questions about this term 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 now be on Wednesday mornings (9:30 – 10:25am), the same as it was in first semester.

Literacy Blocks:

We 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 we will be learning a number of skills such as Procedure writing, Cause and Effect in reading, letter writing as well as re-visiting concepts from earlier in the year. Students are encouraged to continue reading at home using their Home Reader record books to track their journey. We will endeavour to check the Home Reader record books every Friday.

Mathematics:

We 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 modelling and recognising Fractions, Money and Financial maths, location and transformation of shapes, creating and interpreting maps as well as data representation and interpretation.

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS):

This term we will begin our Geography program, looking at Australia's states and territories, capital cities, neighbouring countries, natural and man-made features and climate zones. The students will also be researching Western Australia's major cities and regional centres.

Science:

Mrs Vanessa Charlton will be teaching Chemical Sciences this term. The students will be learning about how to mix two substances to make something new. Science lessons will continue to run fortnightly (ours is on every even week).

Health:

In Health, the students will be examining their own eating patterns and identifying healthier food choices. As well as our Healthy Eating unit, we will also run a 'Drug Awareness' program (with the focus on analgesics, caffeine and the dangers of passive smoke). 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: We 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 us know at your earliest convenience so we 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 Wednesdays.

Hat Policy:

The new Gingin DHS hats will be launched Week 2, please ensure that they are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

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 P&C Uniform shop 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.

Changes to spelling: You may have noticed that students now receive 5 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 5 x sight words will 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 us**. The students have been instructed to show us any communication.

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 last term with you and your child!

Miss Lindsey Gilchrist
Room 6 Teacher