



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year for year 5/6. I would like to welcome Room 7 students and families and trust that together we will have an enjoyable and productive year of learning at Gingin District High. I will be working hard to encourage students to strive for excellence and develop personal responsibility, resilience and empathy for their peers. I will be collaborating regularly with Miss Bowen and Mrs Watson to ensure consistency in planning of program content and to ensure all 5/6s are exposed to similar learning experiences. Below is an outline of what is planned for Year 5/6 students in Room 7.

### **Literacy Blocks:**

At Gingin District High School each Primary class is involved in Literacy Blocks. Literacy Blocks are structured with tasks and texts selected to suit the learning needs of the group and individual to ensure a differentiated curriculum is being presented. Tasks and texts are explicitly presented in a learning session with follow-up tasks directly linked to the strategy being targeted in the session. Our Literacy Blocks include writing, reading, spelling and grammar. In later terms aspects of viewing and listening and speaking skills will take place. Our focus in writing this term will be Narratives and Expositions (Persuasive writing) as these are the likely choices in the NAPLAN assessment. During Reading the students will be involved in developing reading process strategies including, predicting, connecting, asking questions and summarising. These strategies will assist with comprehending texts and the students will be asked to interpret both the main ideas and characters and use content to infer. Spelling will be conducted over a fortnightly cycle with words being sent home to study as part of a homework package.

### **Mathematics:**

In Maths I will be looking at the WA Curriculum strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and focusing our learning towards covering concepts that may be covered in the NAPLAN assessment.

This term we will be covering the following topics;

- Properties of numbers including place value and fractions
- Number skills using all four operations
- Measuring perimeter, area and mass
- Exploring angles

### **HASS**

In conjunction with both the school Faction Captain Elections and Student Council Elections the 5/6's will be studying Civics and Citizenship which includes the voting process and Australia's system of government.

### **Science (Mrs Anderson, Mr Beard):**

Mrs Anderson will continue to work with the Primary students in Science, teaching the Science Enquiry Skills strand. I will teach the Science Understanding strand. This term the students are exploring the Physical Science strand and will develop an understanding of light energy.

### **Health:**

This term the students will be following the Challenges and Choices program with the first unit being Resilience and Wellbeing. The skills and attitudes that develop from resilience and wellbeing also promote academic success, better mental and physical health, and social responsibility.

### **Technology and Enterprise:**

The term focus is Digital Technologies where the students will use a spread sheet programme to organise data on candidates in the upcoming State elections. This is a link to the HASS programme and provides connections to the real world.

### **Visual Arts (Mrs Watson):**

Please refer to the unit outline. This term the students will be examining Australian artists and artworks. The theme for the Term is "Art Under the Sun".

### **Physical Education (Mr Chipchase):**

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. Physical education occurs on Tuesday, Friday and Upper Sport on Wednesday.

**Hat Policy:**

GDHS has a year-round policy where each student must wear a hat in order to participate in Physical Education, Upper Sport, plus during recess and lunch. Please ensure your child has a hat as it is not only a GDHS rule, but it can help prevent skin cancer. Hats are to be placed in the student's bag after recess and lunch. Please ensure your child's name is on all their clothing, as well as their hat. Our Lost Property bin overflows!

**Library:**

These sessions are important as it is one of the only times students have to borrow books. Students will borrow up to two books and can be used as a home reader. Parents are asked to sign diaries indicating how many pages have been read each night. Please make sure your child brings a library bag. Library bags can be purchased from the school in faction colours. Our library day is Monday.

**Homework Requirements:**

Homework will commence after swimming and will be given out every Monday, to be returned the following Monday.

1. **Spelling:** It will consist of 20 spelling words. These spelling words will be the ones that the students will be focusing on throughout the fortnight in Spelling. The students are required to study their spelling every night using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check (LSCWC) strategy.
2. **Reading:** Students should be reading at least 20 mins a night, see library details. Sometimes this should be out loud so students can practise fluency, pronunciation and expression. Recording reading on devices allows students to immediately review their performance and share with you.
3. **Uncompleted work:** Students may also be sent home with work that was not completed in class time, to be finished off at home and returned the following day.
4. **Projects:** A few projects will be given throughout the year which may require some extra work at home.
5. Students that have extra roles in the school such as Faction Captains or Councillors, who could potentially miss out on class work, will be expected to catch up on missed lessons in their own time.
6. We are encouraging all students to complete their homework each week to support their learning and ensure they do not miss out on any extra curricula activities and I appreciate your support with this.

**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. Each day, students commence on the neutral level on the behaviour ladder. As the students move up they are rewarded with CRTR cards. As the children move down there is a warning, note home to parents and occasionally a community circle. Both a Reflection Sheet and The community circle allows your child to reflect on what they did, explain who they affected and allows for the feelings of others to be heard.

**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. I have a class helper who records the diaries coming to class so please be mindful of notes to me of a personal nature. I reward those who have been most successful at completing home reading at the end of each week.

**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.

I look forward to a productive and rewarding year with your child.

Kind Regards,  
Mr Beard