



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year for year 5/6! We, Miss Bowen and Mrs Watson, would like to welcome Room 8 students and families and trust that together we will have an enjoyable and productive year of learning at Gingin District High. We will be working hard to encourage students to strive for excellence and develop personal responsibility, resilience and empathy for their peers. We will be collaborating regularly with Mr Beard to ensure consistency in planning of program content; 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 8.

### **Literacy Blocks:**

At Gingin District High School each Primary class is involved in Literacy Blocks. Literacy Blocks are very 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. We will also look at viewing and work on our listening and speaking skills. Our focus in Writing this term will be Narratives and Expositions (Persuasive writing) as these are the likely choices in the NAPLAN assessment. In Reading, we are focusing on responding to texts, identifying the main idea and comparing and contrasting opinions. Spelling will be conducted on a regular basis with words being sent home to practise for homework as well as in class.

### **Drama/Speaking and Listening:**

Mrs Watson will be running weekly lessons focusing on developing oral debating skills, role playing, and improvising.

### **Mathematics:**

In Maths, we will be looking at the National 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 first term.

This term we will be covering the following topics;

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

### **Society & Environment (Miss Bowen):**

Miss Bowen has aligned the creation of class rules to the Humanities and social sciences learning area of Civics and Citizenship exploring Laws and Citizens. We will study the voting process in conjunction with the school Faction Captain Elections in order to provide students with opportunities to connect their learning to meaningful, real-life situations.

### **Science (Mrs Watson, Mrs Anderson):**

Mrs Anderson will continue to work with the Primary students in Science, teaching the Science Enquiry Skills strand. Mrs Watson will teach the Science Understanding strand. This term we are exploring the Physical Science strand developing an understanding of light from source forms i.e. shadows.

### **Health:**

This term the students will be following the SDERA Challenges and Choices program which is from the National Curriculum. The unit is 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 and the students will study the individual components of the computer and the role they play in the processing and representation of data.

### **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.

**Hat Policy:**

GDHS has a year-round policy where each student must wear a hat in order to participate in Physical Education, Senior Sport, plus activities at recess and lunch, all year round. Please ensure your 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. Please ensure your child's name is in all their clothing, as well as their hat. Our Lost Property bin overflows!

**Library:**

Our library session will continue this term. 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 a library bag. Library bags can be purchased from the school in faction colours. Our library day is Tuesday.

**Homework Requirements:**

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

1. **Spelling:** It will consist of 20 spelling words. The spelling words will be the ones the students will be focusing on throughout the fortnight in Spelling. The students are required to practise their spelling every night using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check (LSCWC) strategy.
2. **Reading:** Students should be reading at least 20 minutes a night, every night. Sometimes this should be out loud so students can practise fluency, pronunciation and expression while they can hear themselves reading.
3. **Uncompleted work:** Students may also be sent home with work that was not completed in the class time given, to be finished at home and returned the following day. 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 and appreciate your support with this also. 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.
4. **Projects:** A few projects will be given throughout the year which may require some extra work at home.

**Classroom Management:**

Our class will be using Class Dojos as our classroom reward system. Each student has their own 'Dojo' avatar that represents them. The system works on the Interactive Whiteboard and collects points for the students when they are seen to be following our Gingin DHS expectations; Care, Respect, Try and Responsible. The points tally and can be cashed in at various stages for rewards such as computer time, getting the comfy chair or even having the teacher's desk for a day and can cumulate towards a class reward if everyone gets enough dojos. We also follow the whole primary school reward program using C.R.T.R. cards. Our classroom Dojos work alongside the C.R.T.R. cards (1 dojo=1 C.R.T.R. card).

6 x C.R.T.R. cards = 1 Goldie.

6 x Goldie's = Merit certificate at appropriate level.

Each day all students commence on the gold level of the class behaviour ladder. Students' accountability for misbehaviours is reflected when students move down the rungs of the ladder to green, orange or red levels, (aligned with the school's PBS system).

**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. We have discussed with students that it is their responsibility to bring their diaries in each day and record correspondence.

**Teacher Contact Details:**

In an effort to ensure we are on the same page regarding your child's learning, we are 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.**

We look forward to a productive and happy year in Room 8!

Kind Regards,

Miss Carly Bowen & Mrs Roseanne Watson