

# **YEAR SIX NEWS**

## **Term Three 2015**

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a well deserved holiday, I certainly did! Jodi and I are really looking forward to another busy and productive term. Now that your children and I really know each other and the classroom routine, we can get straight into our learning programmes from Day One!

Just to remind you, Jodi's main teaching areas are Health, Science and History, whilst I am responsible for Religion, Literacy and Numeracy. Of course subjects overlap, but if you have a concern in any of these areas please feel free to contact us.

### **HOMEWORK /DIARIES**

Diaries are filled in every Monday with the standard homework requirements. This includes Reading, Spelling and Mental Mathematics. This Term, I am not setting Reading Log activities. I do expect the students to be reading daily and I will be checking their diaries to see if they have recorded the Book Title and Author of what they are reading each week. Instead of Reading activities, I am going to include a general English Revision worksheet. This is really a practise of general literacy skills that the children should already know, but don't necessarily apply to their writing. They may appear basic, but please be assured they are at a Year Six level and the next two term will be their last opportunity to develop and refine these basic skills in readiness for high school. I will also be including a Mathematics Problem Solving sheet. This sheet is to encourage children to use the problem solving skills they have learnt in class. I encourage you to help your child to complete these questions.

The students have been really good in handing in their homework and diaries each Friday to Jodi. On Mondays I then collect and mark the homework. This means that although homework is due on Fridays, your children know that it isn't checked until Monday and so they are allowed to complete it over the weekend if need be. I don't encourage this, but it is acceptable. I have spoken to the class about the consequences of not completing homework. As of this Term, if homework is incomplete, it is then completed at lunchtime on Mondays. The children have all agreed to this. If at times homework can not be completed, please let me know either through email or in their diaries. Could you please make sure you sign your child's diary by Friday.

Mental Mathematics is due EVERY day so that it can be marked and discussed ready for homework that night. These questions should be quite easy for your child and should really only take 20minutes maximum to complete. Again, it is a great revision exercise. They

should be achieving at least 16 out of 20. A Mental Mathematics Test is held every Friday and these are the only results that are recorded by us and go towards their marks.

### **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR**

Spelling and Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the week. All children work on the same Units of work from the Spelling Rules and Grammar Rules Books. Students are given less difficult or more difficult words based on their spelling level. New and more exciting ways to engage the children during both Spelling and Grammar is always being thought of and some of the best ideas can come from the children themselves! We are introducing small group and whole class games, the interactive white board, ipads, quizzes and mini whiteboards where applicable. Spelling and Dictation Tests are held every Friday and these results go towards their literacy marks.

### **READING AND WRITING**

My aim is to link Guided Reading and Writing Genres together. In doing this, the students are exposed to the features of the written genre through their reading texts. This allows for a more explicit form of teaching and a better understanding and appreciation of the purpose of different texts.

#### **Poetry**

We will be reciting poem, comprehending, analysing the different literary techniques (metaphor, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia, rhyme) and of course writing many poems in different formats. If you have any poetry books, please feel free to bring them in to class.

#### **Expository Writing**

We will be reading, writing and interpreting expository texts. Students will be examining the literacy techniques required to read and write informative and instructive texts. We will be planning, researching, organising and revising material. Skills like paragraphing, writing the main idea and punctuating will also be taught.

#### **Reader's Theatre**

To end the term, we will be exploring Drama, script writing, props and stage setting.

The writing process from reading, examining, creating, drafting, editing and publishing can take many lessons. My philosophy is that it is better to write one piece of each genre properly than rushing through the process. Children will be marked on their understanding of the features of each genre, their use of grammar and their level of depth and complexity in their writing.

Reading Comprehension tests will be carried out fortnightly. This allows the students to be taught the necessary skills and practise these skills in a non threatening environment over the two weeks before they are tested. These test results will go towards their literacy results.

## **MATHEMATICS**

The IMaths 6 book will be used throughout the year. We will be working directly from the programme as this is linked directly to the Australia and Western Australian Curriculum.

The programme consists of Investigations and Topics. Students are given time to learn new concepts and then apply these to an investigation. Two Investigations will be carried out this Term: Fantasy Flight and Hungry Hippos.

Times Tables quizzes will be carried out fortnight and should be practised at home.

This Term, the following concepts will be covered:

Money: the four operations, discounts

Timetables: reading and interpreting them, time zones, longitude and Latitude

Decimals: division, multiplications, addition and subtractions.

Number: patterns, general rules and estimation strategies

Transformations, Co-ordinates and Scale

Investigating rectangles and squares

## **GEOGRAPHY ( term 3 & 4)**

The Geography Unit will be covered across Term Three and Term Four.

Topic: Asia

Australia's engagement with Asia: cultural, religious, geographical, economic, political, language, historical, migration.

Students develop an awareness of the social and cultural perspectives of other people. They learn about societies and environments from the local to the global. The global emphasis provides students with a grasp of the roles of societies and nations in the world and an understanding of ecological, economic, social and political interdependence.

Project: The class will prepare a student Fair. Students will be responsible for researching and presenting an Asian region to share with parents and peers. This will be conducted in the final week of Term 3 or beginning of Term 4.

## **SCIENCE**

Topic: Essential Energy

Area: ( Physical Science)

Pupils analyse requirements for the transfer of electricity and describe how energy can be transformed from one form to another to generate electricity.

Electrical circuits provide a means of transferring and transforming electricity. Energy from a variety of sources can be used to generate electricity.

## **RELIGION**

The two Religious Education topics for this term are:

1. Stirred Through Emotions: (Bible)
2. God Provides For All: (Eucharist)

Each Unit covers Three Steps:

1. Wondering at the Creator
2. Christian Response
3. The Promise of Christian Salvation

Jodi and I are always happy to discuss any issues or concerns you may have no matter how small they may be. You can communicate with us via email or arrange a meeting. Our door is always open! You are also more than welcome to pop in between 8:30 – 8:50am! I know together we can all achieve the best for your child!

Kindest Regards

Nicole and Jodi

