



2017 Grade 5/6 Term One NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year. We are looking forward to working with you to achieve the best educational outcomes possible for your children.

What a busy term we have ahead of us! We are all excited to continue with our BYOD/iPad program. Year Six students will be familiar with how this works in the classroom – but we will be revising our iPromise and expectations of safe and appropriate iPad use for the benefit of everyone. All Year Five students will have a google account set up for them in the coming days and we are sure they will be excited to use the iPad as a tool in their daily learning. You will receive an Acceptable Use Agreements for the Internet and iPads. All students must read, sign and return these before using an iPad or accessing the internet at school. It would be very helpful if students could bring their head-phones to school each day too please.

The students have now been asked to bring their school bags straight into the classroom first thing in the morning, as we feel this will be a safer option for their iPads. This worked well in 2016, although we do remind students to leave their bag in the classroom and head straight outside again. We are also able to store the iPads in lockable cupboards when they are not in use or when we are out of our classrooms.

After settling in and setting the scene for our new school year our main study focus for the term will be Cyber Safety and “Being Me”/Healthy Living.

We encourage students to bring a water bottle each day and a healthy smart snack comprised of fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, cheese etc. (NO NUTS please).

Upcoming events Term One 2017:

- Friday 3rd FEB House Captain Elections
- 6th, 7th and 9th FEB Swimming Program
- Wednesday 8th FEB Junior School Council Elections
- Friday 10th FEB House Swimming Sports
- Wednesday 15th FEB West Warrior Leader Elections
- Thursday 23rd FEB Twilight Swimming Sports
- 16th MARCH House Athletics Sports
- 31st MARCH Last day Term One

2017 Grade 5/6 Term One NEWSLETTER

Keep an eye on the newsletter and our website for the dates and booking of Parent Teacher Interviews and other events.

In early Term Two we will be undertaking an incursion with Family Life Victoria. This addresses aspects of puberty and emotional changes our students may experience in growing up. We found this to be an excellent program in 2016 with full student participation. As there is a cost to this program we will be sending home permission notes/payment details shortly and advising of the parent information session we will be offering.

Also in Term Two is our Year 5/6 Camp to Angelsea. The dates for the camp are Wednesday 21st June to Friday 23rd June. This is always a positive learning experience for our students in terms of their self-confidence, resilience and social co-operation. Further communications about camp will also be distributed later this term. Costs are yet to be finalised but you can easily start making payments towards this now if you see the office staff.

Homework

At Sunbury West we have consistent homework expectations across the 5/6 Year level. We feel that the homework is a manageable amount and important preparation for Secondary School. We encourage the students to take responsibility for their own learning and belongings but gentle reminders and guidance from you will make this a process a much easier one. This can be further discussed at Parent/Teacher interviews.

Weekly Homework Expectations

1. Spelling Activities as set by teacher
2. Maths Exercise
3. We expect that students read at least 4 times a week for a sustained time. 15-30 minutes is recommended.
4. Other as set by teacher e.g. Project work, family discussion, research etc.

This year we will be using a calendar on the iPad for recording important dates. It can be used to set reminders for homework and bringing notes etc to school also. We will be helping students learn how to use and manage their calendar in class time.

Mobile Phones

If students need to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed in at the general office on arrival at school in the morning. A Mobile Phone Policy agreement must also be signed by both student and parent.

2017 Grade 5/6 Term One NEWSLETTER

Behaviour Expectations

We will be placing emphasis on responsible and appropriate behaviour at all times both in the classroom, in the playground and outside the school precinct. We expect all our Year Five & Six students to be leaders within the school and positive role models for the younger students. This will be particularly important for the Grade 6 - Prep Buddy program and for the Grade 5 Peer Support program later in the year. We will be following the Assertive Discipline program closely and inappropriate behaviour will be documented and detentions given if need be. Three detentions in a term will have serious consequences in relation to eligibility to attend excursions, camp and sporting events.

School Uniform

School uniform is compulsory and must be worn every day. If for some reason this is not possible a note must be sent to your child's teacher. Sunsmart school hats must be worn at school until May. Jewellery, makeup and nail polish should not be worn to school.

Swimming Program

Please note that we need to have Swimming Program notices and payments returned as soon as possible so that we are able to finalise planning with the Aquatic Centre. Swimming starts Monday of next week. If you are able to walk to the pool with your child's class – we would appreciate it! Please advise your child's teacher. Each class will be leaving school for the pool at the same time each day.

- 5/6 G leave 11.30 return 1.30
- 5/6 L leave 12.30 return 2.30
- 5/6 M leave 1.30 return 3.20

We are all looking forward to a great year ahead and meeting with you at Parent/Teacher interviews in the near future.

The 5/6 Team *Sharon, Daniel & Mandy*

