

# TERM 1, 2019

## OVERVIEW

### GRADES

#### 5/6H & 5/6S

Welcome back for 2019. We hope you all had fabulous holidays and enjoyed spending time with your families.

We are very excited to be back and have big plans for 2019!

If at any stage this year you have any concerns, PLEASE arrange a time to see us as early as possible. This way we can work together to make the problem go —not grow!

Some notices that should have come home already:

- Seesaw
- Shelter Building Incursion
- Canberra Camp Parent Helper notice



#### WELCOME BACK!

We hope you are all ready for an action-packed term, starting with some getting-to-know-you activities and finishing with our trip to Canberra! More information will be coming home about the camp in a separate notice. We will be having an incursion early in Term 1 designed to encourage team work and creativity—it should be really fun too!

#### INQUIRY

In Term 1 our Inquiry Topic is 'Identity' and we are investigating this through a unit called 'Who am I?'. Students will be learning more about their personal strengths and challenges, developing strategies, reflecting, and recording their development throughout the unit.

#### MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics this term we are consolidating students' prior knowledge in the place value, properties of numbers, addition and subtraction, time, chance and data. We will be utilising real-life examples to demonstrate the relevance of these topics, so that students understand the reason behind and the usefulness of the skills being taught. Our Mathematics lessons will comprise some ability-based group work and some open-ended inquiry tasks.

#### ENGLISH

This term we will be learning about texts that recount, reflect, describe, entertain and explain. These genres link well with our Inquiry topic and students will be both reading and writing texts from these genres. We continue to provide spelling lists each week, with individual spelling lists for each student comprising some words from our focus sound and some individual words. Students will also continue to learn explicit spelling strategies that research has shown to be effective, such as understanding the meaning or origin of the word. This year we are introducing a program called 'SMART Spelling', and you will hear more about it throughout the year.

#### SEESAW

We will be utilising Seesaw as a digital portfolio throughout the year. Please ensure you follow the instructions on the Seesaw introductory letter to access your child's Seesaw account.

#### HOMEWORK

Homework consists of daily reading (minimum 30 minutes) which is recorded in the student's diary (title, page numbers and signed by a parent), along with activities complementing and consolidating the work we have done in class in Maths and English. It is distributed on Fridays to be completed at home and returned on the following

Thursday ready for correction. Children are encouraged to complete these tasks independently but may require assistance sometimes. Homework at this level is about developing the sound habit of setting aside regular times to complete tasks in a space free from the distractions of television/devices. This a terrific work habit to develop before Secondary School.

Students who forget their homework or do not complete it satisfactorily will be required to complete the task during Friday recess break. We have encouraged students to seek help before the due date if they encounter difficulties.

### DIARIES

Students will need to have their diaries at school every day. They will be used to record important events, activities, due dates, birthdays, homework, and reading, and as a method of communication between school and home. We will be teaching students to use their diaries to help manage their time, for example balancing their homework with their other commitments, in preparation for Secondary School.

### LIBRARY

Last year we observed that the senior students were not borrowing books from the library, and further investigation revealed that the library sometimes doesn't stock the kinds of books the older students want to read. To support their reading and encourage borrowing, we established the 'Restricted Section' library in our classroom. This section of the library is only available to the 5/6 students, and has been stocked with books that have been donated or purchased second hand from library sales etc. It includes books that fall into the 'Young Adult' category and some have more mature themes, such as 'Gone' and 'Hunger Games'. If you have books at home that your child has enjoyed but will not reread, please consider donating them to our Restricted Section library. Due to the large number of books we have acquired, we have not read them all and therefore have to rely on the recommendation of others as to their content. **Please let us know if you do not wish for your child to borrow from the 'Restricted Section' or if you have concerns about any of the books.**

### HEADPHONES

Could you please send in a pair of headphones (named) for your child to use at school.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead and please feel free to approach us with any questions or concerns.

Jemima Hogg & Holly Schwind

#### Thursday 31st January

First day of term

#### Monday 18th February

EDEC Swimming

#### Tuesday 19th February

Shelter Building Incursion

#### Monday 25th February

Selby Athletic Day

#### Wednesday 27th February 11.40-1.40

5/6S Kitchen Classroom—please sign up on the sheet outside the classroom if you can help.

#### Thursday 28th February 11.40-1.40

5/6H Kitchen Classroom —please sign up on the sheet outside the classroom if you can help.

#### Friday 1st March

Curriculum Day

#### Wednesday 6th March

Division Swimming (selected students)

#### Wednesday 27th March

EDEC Athletics

#### Monday 1st—Friday 5th April

Canberra Camp

#### Friday 5th April

Last Day of Term