

# Grade 5/6 – Term 2, 2018

## Welcome to Term 2!

Dear Parents / Guardians,  
Welcome to Term 2 at Westmeadows Primary School. We would like to welcome Mr Luke O'Sullivan into 5/6Q, he has settled in well and is looking forward to getting to know all of the students better as the term progresses. We are all prepared for the busy term ahead with Grade 6 Camp, NAPLAN and 3-Way Conferences. *We are looking forward to an exciting term together.*

### Reading:

Students have now all been assessed against the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmarking System and teachers are enthusiastically working with students to improve their comprehension, targeted at individual and small group needs. Students will continue to set individual goals for their reading development and update these on Fresh Grade throughout the term. We continue to encourage families to read with their child and have detailed discussions about the texts.

### Writing:

This term students will be writing narratives, expositions, factual recounts, imaginative recounts and picture story books. Classes will have a strong focus on text structure and up-levelling. Thursday will be the day in which students complete a Big Write. Talk homework slips will continue to go out the night before. Please make sure you discuss the topic with your child as it sets them up for writing.

### Mathematics:

Throughout the second term students will be focusing on shape and geometry, measurement (length, area and time), representing and interpreting data and pattern and algebra. After our one-on-one testing last term teachers have identified personalised areas for improvement for all students. Students have also been working hard on their multiplication facts both for homework and during the classroom, students will be tested each term to monitor their progress.

### Inquiry Unit:

This term our Inquiry unit is 'Stand and Deliver', which focuses on early Australian history. Students explore early settlement, the effects of colonisation on

Indigenous Australians, immigration (Gold Rush) and Federation. This unit ties in well the Grade 6 visit to Sovereign Hill.

### Habits of Mind:

Students are continuing to utilise their knowledge of Habits of Mind in their own classrooms, during specialist sessions and outside in the playground. All classrooms have a clear display of the Habits of Mind which is referred to throughout class sessions.

### Performing Arts:

During Term 2 the **Grade 5/6** students will be basing their Performing Arts studies around the theme of Gold. Activities they will be engaged in include: playing instruments as though they are members of a bush band, learning a traditional, colonial dance from the goldfields days called The Haymaker's Jig, acting out scenes from the goldfields and making a silent movie. Also, the children will choreograph their own dance routine for the Art Show and, if there is time, we will be doing some Zumba dancing.

### Physical Education:

Term 2: Focus sports for the term will be Soccer, Netball and Athletics. Students will learn about different defensive strategies and try to implement them in a game situation. We will look forward to House Athletics and work on the basic skills required to improve performance in both Track and Field events.

### Visual Arts:

In Term 2 for Visual Arts we will recognise the Art work of traditional Aboriginal painting. We will explore the skills and techniques used to create a dot painting using traditional representations of Aboriginal symbols.

We will also be using our knowledge of weaving to create an art piece using the map of Australia as a base.

Our joint task for the term will be to work as a team, cooperatively to make a mural of a sporting event and the characters in it.

We will further be developing our skills in cooperative group work, safe use of materials and organisation of clean up and preparation tasks.

### **LOTE:**

During Term 2 in Italian class Grade 5/6 students will focus on the topic of La Scuola (School). They will look at school life in Italy and compare it to what school life is like in Australia. They will explore questions such as: What is school like in Italy? How is it the same/different to our school? Students will also focus on learning the definite and indefinite article and applying them to objects that are used in the classroom. Students will work through various Languages Online activities to learn about La Scuola.

### **Science:**

In Term 2 for Science, Grade 5/6 students will be completing a unit of work called 'Desert Survivors.' Throughout this unit we will explore the features of a desert and what makes it such an extreme environment for plants and animals to survive in. Students will participate in hands-on shared experiences to develop an understanding of the structural features and adaptations that plants and animals need to survive and thrive in this unique habitat.

### **General Housekeeping:**

#### **Camp:**

This term in Week 3 our Grade 6 students are heading off to Beaufort for a four night/five day camp. The students are very excited and thrilled that they will be enjoying a range of activities including canoeing, abseiling and bike riding. The added trip to Sovereign Hill is also going to be an enjoyable experience.

#### **Fresh Grade:**

If you have not yet logged on to your child's Fresh Grade, please try and log on early this term as we are planning on uploading a snippet of your child's learning every few weeks. The students really enjoy when parents comment and leave feedback on their posts.

#### **Interschool Sport –**

Summer sports, including finals will be completed after Week 2 this term.

Winter sports will begin on our return from camp in Week 4. The Winter sports available are: netball, European Handball, soccer, touch rugby.

Students who are not in an interschool sports team will participate in weekly sport and skill development sessions.

### **Homework:**

- Homework will be handed out each **Friday**.
- It needs to be completed and returned each **Thursday**.
- It will consist of ten spelling words to be learnt for the weekly spelling test as well as other tasks to revise concepts learnt in class.
- If your child has any questions about their homework, it is *their* responsibility to ask the teacher to clarify the task **during the week**.
- Students who do not complete their homework by the due date or who do not complete it to the expected standard will miss out on part of their lunchtime or Friday Sport.
- Those who consistently complete their homework will be rewarded for their efforts.
- Students are also able to attend homework club to make a start on their homework.

### **Home Reading:**

- As part of their homework, students are expected to complete regular home reading.
- This will consist of **20 minutes reading, 5 nights a week**.
- Students should record the book, author, pages read and duration of reading time in their diaries **each night**.
- We ask that you sign this diary nightly to acknowledge that your child completed their reading requirements.
- We ask that parents listen to their child read and ask questions about the texts to gauge comprehension.
- Students may read a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction; reading the newspaper is also encouraged.

*Miss Nicole Anda, Miss Jessica Johnson, Miss Melissa Krecul, Mr Luke O'Sullivan and Miss McCann.*