



**Welcome to 5/6 in 2018!**

This year is sure to be full of learning, excitement and fun for all grade 5/6 students and teachers. The children are full of enthusiasm and we are looking forward to working in partnership with parents to ensure each child in the 5/6 area has a wonderful and successful year. This year we will endeavour to provide a happy and cooperative learning environment for all students. They will be encouraged to share their experiences in an atmosphere that promotes success and a feeling of self-worth.

We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's individual needs at our Getting to Know You parent teacher interviews.



**Behaviour**

As leaders of our school, it is expected that all grade 5/6 students demonstrate exemplary behaviour and act as role models to the younger students at Launching Place.

Students have been involved in many social problem solving activities which has allowed them to discuss and explore how best to deal with conflict, arguments, moods and emotions.

Our school believes in three key ideas: 'Be a Learner', 'Be Respectful' and 'Be Safe'. No matter where children are in the school, these three key ideas apply.

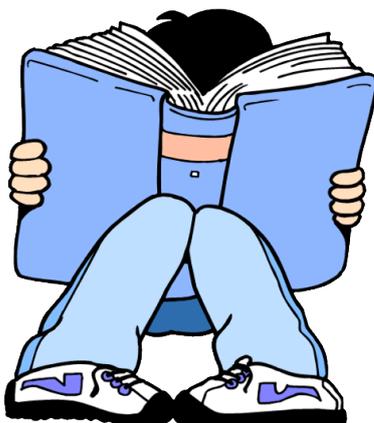
Each classroom has agreed upon a set of rules which were written in conjunction with the students, allowing them to have a say and therefore have ownership of the agreed rules and guidelines. The 5/6 team also rewards positive behaviour using green cards and individual reward's systems. With that in mind it is important to recognise that often the greatest reward your child will receive is achieving success and the satisfaction of learning and discovering new things.

**English**

**Reading**

This year we will continue to work using the Reading Workshop and CAFÉ framework.

Students have chosen 'good fit' and 'interest' books to keep in their book box. Along with these books they will also read teacher provided materials that aim to reinforce the key strategies they need to become fluent readers and develop comprehension and analytical reading skills.



*Some ideas to help your child with reading:*

- Encourage your child to select 'good fit' books using the 5 Finger Rule.
- Visit the local library and help your child select suitable books.
- Make sure that reading is an enjoyable experience for your child. Therefore if your child wants to read a difficult book he/she has an interest in, read along with them. Shared reading time is a great opportunity to discuss the content of a book and kids love the one on one time.
- Praise every effort in reading, especially if confidence is low. Don't compare your child's performance with that of relatives or friends.

## **Writing**

We will begin the school year by launching our Writing Workshop.

The goals of the Writing Workshop aim to teach students the following outcomes:

- Writers regularly collect ideas in their Writer's Notebook.
- Writers write about things that matter to them.
- Good writers follow the writing process.
- Good writers reflect on their writing.
- Good writers use the 6+1 Traits of writing to edit, reflect and improve their individual writing pieces.
- Good writers write for a specific purpose and audience and share their writing with an authentic audience.

The focus for term 1 will be to develop our Writing skills and to collect ideas in our Writer's Notebooks which we will then use to assist us in writing narratives.

## **Spelling**

Students will be involved in various spelling lessons and activities. They will be tested to determine their level of need and grouped accordingly.

All children will be involved in conducting spelling inquiries. During these inquiries they will investigate a specific sound, letter pattern, root word, word origin, prefix/suffix etc.

Students will also be involved in partner testing their own personalised spelling words, completing spelling activities and working with the teacher in focussed spelling groups which will aim to teach them at their point of need.



*"A writer's notebook is a blank book where a writer can engage in the fun, often messy job of being a writer – practicing, listening, playing with language, gathering images and insights and ideas. The purpose of such a notebook is to nourish the writer... such a notebook... is one of the most essential tools of the trade."*

Fletcher and Portalupi, *Lessons for the Writer's Notebook*, p.4



## **Speaking and Listening**

Speaking and Listening is a vital component of the English program. In order to improve their speaking and listening skills, your child will be encouraged to participate in different activities which may include:

- Circle time – Many Circle Time activities require students to take turns, listen to their peers and think on the spot.
- Reflection activities – Activities that develop oral language and presenting skills will be included in the regular reflection activities. These activities will include partner, group and whole class sharing of thoughts and ideas.
- Speaking at assembly – Students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in assembly presentations including sport's reports, school activities and other reports.
- Public speaking – Students will be provided with different opportunities to practice their public speaking skills through excursions and school events such as open nights and whole school events.
- School's In – Yarra Valley FM radio show planned and hosted by selected grade 6 students.

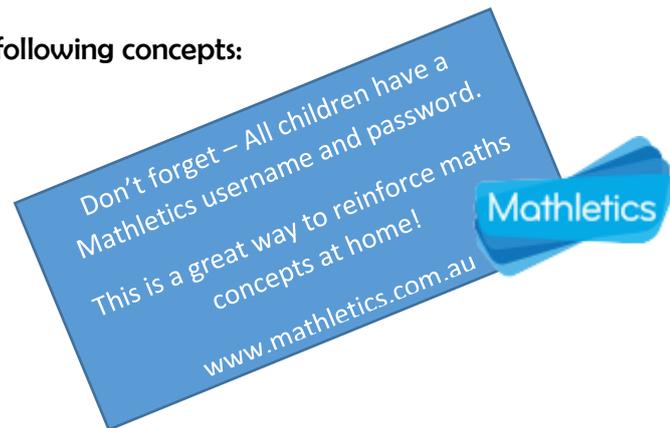
# Mathematics

To ensure all students experience success, maths classes may take several different approaches. These include group work with focussed teaching circles, hands-on, real-life activities, computers for skill building and problem solving, and open-ended, rich learning tasks.

The language of maths and developing problem solving skills will be a key component of class maths in the senior school. Students will be encouraged to participate in activities to build their maths vocabulary. They will explore and solve written, multi-step problems and develop the skill necessary to explain their thinking in order to deepen their level of understanding.

This term we will revise and build on understanding the following concepts:

- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Length
- Worded Problems
- Problem Solving Strategies
- Measurement and conversion of units



## **Automatic Recall**

Mental Maths sessions as well as Blitzmasters will allow your child to improve their speed and accuracy when recalling number facts

- Prime Numbers, Composite Numbers, Squared Numbers, Facto
- Blitzmaster levels will be carried over from last year and progress will continue to be monitored.

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# Integrated Studies

## **Discovering Australia – Our place in the world**

This term the students will explore Australian History and some of the major historical events which have helped shape our nation.



Topics studied may include:

- Our country in the present
- Multiculturalism
- Diversity (disability, socioeconomic, religious beliefs)
- Invasion/Settlement
- Indigenous rights
- Our role in the wars
- Immigration

# The Arts

This term The Arts will be held on Tuesdays. Students will receive an hour and half lesson each week that will combine elements of visual arts and performing arts, including music, drama and dance. . In visual arts, students will design and weave a pattern using a used CD. They will then use acrylic paint to etch a decorative pattern into a CD. In drama, students will participate in many improvisation acting games. They will also work in teams and use iPads to

create a film clip for a song of their choice. Their film clip must be accompanied by a detailed plan and a story map, with all members of the group spending time on both sides of the camera. These clips will be showcased at our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival during Education Week in Term 2. Students will learn a class song to be performed at assembly and they will use different instruments to explore various rhythms. During the term, the students will also be writing their own rap about themselves.

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# Japanese

This term Japanese will be held on Mondays.

The grade 5/6 children this term will learn the vocabulary for sport and how to generate simple sentences to say which sport they like and dislike in Japanese. They will also learn about the zodiac sign for this year using Hiragana (Japanese alphabet), counting and colours.

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# Physical Education

Phys Ed for these children will be held on Wednesdays (5/6L on Mondays). Hats are also a must in 1<sup>st</sup> term.

It would be great to see everyone wearing appropriate footwear on their PE days. For most games we play, whenever a shoe comes off the child will be given out so shoe laces must be done up! Children are not permitted to take their shoes off when outside.

First Term program will focus on the following:

1. Minor Games to start the year (2 weeks) which will focus on

collaboration and generate enthusiasm for the program.

2. The main focus of the term will be Athletics, concentrating on developing skills for each of the events held at our Athletics Sports in late Term 1.
3. Children will participate in an Athletics Award Program which rewards individual improvement, not necessarily outstanding achievements as this often leaves those with less skill uninterested. Records will be kept of each child's performance and compared with the previous year's results to measure improvement.

4. Through the Sporting in Schools funding we will also be having

Tennis lessons on Fridays starting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

## Other

HOMEWORK – Homework this term will be in the form of a contract book. Homework will be due every Friday.

HOME READING – Students are expected to read at home and get their diary signed by a parent to indicate their home reading.

TISSUES – Please bring in a box of tissues for your grade.

SNACK ATTACK – Please provide a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for your child to consume during snack attack time.

WATER – In order to learn at their best kids need to be hydrated. Students are encouraged to have a water bottle on their tables at all times.

### **Dates to Remember:**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parent Teacher Interviews

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Kayaking (selected students)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – District Swimming (selected students)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Yarra Valley FM School's In session (selected students)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Whole School Swimming Carnival

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Grade 6 Puberty Session

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Yarra Valley FM School's In session (selected students)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – District Athletics

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Family Maths Night

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Last Day Term 1

Thank you

Haley Rusch, Brent Smith and Ala Lorenc