

Year 5/6

Pod 3

Jim Gladstone

2017

My Aims

I want the students in my care to make progress in both school and life skills.

I want them to:

- take responsibility for their own learning, become self-disciplined and work co-operatively with each other.
- practise the skills they already have and learn the things they need to learn.
- progress as a reader, writer and mathematician.
- develop good work habits: organisation, presentation, attention to detail, persistence and asking for help when they need it.
- increase their confidence, getting along skills and resilience.
- be happy and achieve success.
- show respect for their teachers and peers.
- always try their best and strive to improve.

Behaviour Expectations

I believe that children learn best in a safe, caring, stimulating and non-threatening environment where there is mutual respect, co-operation, tolerance, positive emotional expression and conflict resolution.

Our class follows the rules which are consistent throughout our school. Some of our class rules include

- Be sure to stay on task.
- Keep it safe for yourself and others.
- Respect others.
- Respect clothing and property.
- You are responsible for your actions.

As a class we have negotiated consequences for both appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. A step chart will be used to monitor class behaviour and rewards are given for positive behaviour and consequences for inappropriate behaviour. You will always be informed if there is any behaviour to be concerned about.

Communication

Effective communication between home and school is very important if successful learning is to occur. I value parent input and appreciate parent support. If you have any concerns or queries throughout the year please contact me in person or by phone.

All children in my class are expected to use a **diary** to record homework, results, reminders and messages and needs to be signed by a parent at the end of each week.

The diary can be used by parents/teachers to write messages and notices of absences. All absences require a note in the diary or a phone-call to the school.

Homework

Homework will be given Monday to Thursdays and should take no longer than 30 minutes. It is an expectation that homework will be done as it encourages independent learning, responsibility, prepares students for high school and enables students to share their work with family members. If a child is unable to complete homework due to illness, family commitments or some other reason, e.g the child finds it too difficult, I would appreciate a note in the diary.

It would be useful if you could support your child/children in doing homework by providing adequate time and a space in which to do it.

What Do We Learn At School? In school we now have most areas of study which are aligned with the Australian Curriculum (Maths, English, Science, History etc) and the other areas which are in the process of changing over.

Mathematics Maths will be taught from all areas of the curriculum including; Number, Measurement, Algebra, Space, and Analysing Data. Students are expected to develop a sound knowledge of tables as they are fundamental to all areas of maths.

English I aim to teach the children to become proficient and confident in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

We regularly have silent reading as well as group activities that allow them to gain meaning from a variety of reading and viewing texts. Students will also be expected to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students will have a weekly spelling list and writing skills will be developed through a variety of forms (called genres) including; poetry, reports, letter writing, expositions and narratives. Prepared and informal talks will be given by the students.

Health & Phys. Ed. Students will participate in daily fitness activities plus skills lessons. SAPSASA sporting opportunities will be conducted throughout the year.

In Health we will be learning about Healthy Eating, Exercise, The Body, Protective Behaviours, Child Protection, Ready Set Go Program and making choices in our life. We will also be learning about Growth and Development in Term 1 with "Kids Biz Education" coming to school to take the sessions. Students will also be involved in no cost Hockey clinic and low cost Squash clinics in Term 1.

Humanities and Social Sciences This area explores past and present cultures and our place in the world and how society works. Current events from the 'Advertiser' and the news programmes will be discussed daily. Behind The News, an excellent TV program, will keep us up to date with current issues and help us to explore topical issues.

Children will build on their knowledge as well as their skills of collecting, recording and presenting information.

Science In this area we learn how to predict, experiment record and test our ideas about how the world works. Some topics to be covered include; The Water Cycle, Desert Survivors, Solids, Liquids and Gases, Earth's Place in Space, and Light Fantastic which are taken from the Primary Connections Science Curriculum.

The Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts and study of the Media)

Students will be participating in role-plays and assembly items.

In Visual Arts I will give the children the opportunity to explore their ideas through paint, collage, sketching and a variety of other medium. 1 lesson a week in Art / The Arts will be taken by Ms Princi.

Technology Information Technology skills will be developed through some weekly sessions in the Computer Room where the students will be accessing the Internet, creating slide shows, presenting work and researching information. Students will also be provided with opportunities to enhance their learning by using the Smart Board and working with Mr Arrowsmith.

LOTE and NIT (non- instructional time for me = lessons taken by other teachers) Students will participate in Japanese lessons with Ms Shannon Leonards for two 50 minute sessions a week. Angela Princi will have the students for one 50 minute lesson on The Arts and one 50 minute lesson on Technology.

Camps and Excursions

I have applied to attend Arbury Park Camp in the Adelaide Hills. Arbury Park is an Education Dept run campsite which requires a formal application to get accepted into as places are very limited and schools can only apply once in about every 10+ years. The camp (which is offered at a greatly reduced cost = under \$100 for 3 days) is planned for Week 7 or 8 of Term 4 and we will find out soon if we were successful with our application and if not we will find another venue.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please don't hesitate to make a time to see me. I am looking forward to working with your child.

Dates to Remember

Acquaintance Night Tues 14/2 at 6pm

Secret Garden Excursion Wed 1/3 organised by Mrs Kakoschke (more details to come)

Pupil Free Day Fri 10/3

Squash Clinics Wed 22/3, Wed 29/3 Wed 5/4 and Wed 12/4

Sports Day Fri 7/4

Last Day of Term Thurs 13/4

Good Friday Fri 14/4

Kind Regards,
Jim Gladstone