



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely relaxing holiday.

Curriculum

Inquiry

This term our overarching theme for inquiry is 'Sharing the Planet'.

It covers a very wide area including;

- our rights and responsibilities to have equal opportunities
- space exploration, future focus for humanity
- sun/shadows/ moon phases/tides/space exploration, water cycle, geography-landforms

Each year group and class will follow a different path depending on where the students want to take their study.

Reading Strategies

Our primary teaching emphasis in Year 5 and 6 is on teaching reading strategies which help develop comprehension no matter what level a child is working at.

"Proficient readers are active readers. They actively engage with the text using a number of strategies to gain meaning from it." (Cameron, 2009).

These strategies include: predicting, questioning, making connections, visualising, finding and summarising important ideas or information. Nine to eleven year olds still enjoy sharing their books with important adults in their lives. They should be encouraged to talk about how using one of their reading strategies can help overcome challenges they face with new texts. They also love to be read to and we encourage you to explore books together. Book talk of all kinds will continue to motivate children to read.

Writing

It is in the senior school that our students begin to really show their new learning through writing. There are several things we are looking for in successful writing by the end of Year 6 including:

- writing for a range of audiences and purposes
- a variety of sentence structures
- precise vocabulary choices
- use a range of written features to engage the audience; e.g. metaphors
similes and onomatopoeia
- a simple but effective overall text structure
- success in spelling of words on the seven essential word lists
- paragraphs

These elements will be taught and practised in class daily. In writing lessons we will explore a variety of effective texts and use them as a basis for our own writing. Over the course of a week or over several weeks children may write stories, persuasive arguments, factual reports, instructions or recounts from a particular perspective.

Mathematics

There will be a big focus on basic facts, so along with number strategies, which is taught in learning groups, there will be a big push for children to be able to instantly recall basic facts. This includes addition and subtraction equations to 20, and times tables to 10. This can also be something that the children practise at home.

PE/Fitness

Students will be focusing on increasing their fitness through middle distance running. They will be monitoring their running efforts and trying to better each performance. This will culminate in the senior school cross country running event on Tuesday 1st June which will be held at Wainoni Park.

For Cross Country practise this year we will be training within the school grounds due to the amount of roadworks going on in Greenhithe.

We also have a specialist dance teacher coming in every Wednesday to teach our Y5&6 students a choreographed dance in preparation for our school production next term. This is a fabulous opportunity for our students. Part of our activity fee is used for this.

Y6 CAMP!

Just a reminder that the Year 6 classes are going to camp in week 8. The dates are Monday 21st - 23rd June Y6 camp Rm 21 & 23 and Wednesday 23rd - 25th June Y6 camp Rm 22 & 24. A modified gear list will come out soon that will include some winter woollies for colder days (beanies, jumpers, gloves, jacket). Something to get excited about!

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

Before School

Students are allowed into their classroom when the bell rings at 8:30am. Any students arriving before this time will need to wait at the school gates until they are opened. Teachers are busy and are not always in their classrooms to supervise your child before school. At 8.45am another bell will ring and this indicates for students to go to their classroom to prepare themselves for the day. It is a settling in time and an opportunity for students to talk to their classroom teacher.

Tissues

Thank you to those that have already brought in a box of tissues. We would appreciate it if your child could bring a box of tissues to school, as there tend to be a lot of sniffles and sneezes at this time of the year. Please help us to reduce the spread of coughs and colds by keeping children at home if they are unwell.

Clothing

Please ensure that your child comes to school every day with suitable footwear for cross country training. It is recommended that your child comes to school with a named school sweatshirt to wear, as classrooms can be cold first thing in the morning.

Activity Fee

There is a \$35 activity fee per term, per child, you can pay this directly to the office or it can also be paid through internet banking. This activity fee covers the cost of trips and other extracurricular activities such as our specialist dance teacher from 'Footsteps' and 'Starlab' who will be educating the students later in the term. Please ensure that payments are kept up to date. School Bank Account Number: 12 3109 0011698 00 (Please put your child's name as a reference if paying directly into the school bank account).

2021 Term 2 Future Dates To Note:

Week 2:	Friday 14th May Vision Hearing test (for students new to our school or ring the office to see if your child can be tested if you have concerns)
Week 3	Thursday 20th May Rm19, Friday 21st May Rm17&20 EOTC-Millennium Trip.
Week 4	Tuesday 25th May Walk through Cross Country Friday 28th May Whanau Day
Week 5	Monday 31st Wainoni Planting Day Y6 Tuesday 1st June Cross Country Y4-6 Thursday 3rd June Cross Country Saver Day
Week 6	Monday 7th June Queen's Birthday public holiday Tuesday 8th June Teacher Only Day Friday June 11th PTA Disco Juniors 5-6pm Seniors 6.30-7.30pm
Week 7	Tuesday 15th Y6 visit to AJHS Wednesday 16th Bays Performing Arts Bruce Mason Thursday 17th Coatesville Cross Country
Week 8	Monday 21st - 23th June Y6 camp Rm 21&23 Wednesday 23rd - 25th June Y6 camp Rm 22&24
Week 9	Monday 28 June Teacher Only Day Wednesday 30th June Northern Bays Cross Country Thursday 1st July Rippa Tournament
Week 10	Monday 5th July Reports go home Tuesday 6th July Saver Day Rippa Tournament Wednesday 7th July 3.30 - 7.30pm Parent Interviews Thursday 8th July 3.30-5.30pm Parent Interviews Thursday 8th July Saver Day Northern Bays Cross Country Thursday 8th July Sports Assembly

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Senior Syndicate