

Grade 5/6 Area Newsletter, Term 3 2020

Welcome

Dear students, parents and caregivers.



We hope you have settled in well into another term of Remote and Flexible Learning. These times are challenging for all and we hope that we see the light at the end of this very long tunnel soon. Students seem to be more independent this time round, completing most tasks and submitting work accurately. Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience as we know that many of you are juggling your own work as well as assisting your children with their school tasks. Please be aware that we will not be able to give feedback on all work submitted but will give selective feedback as we go. Remember that the times shown on the timetable are flexible. Please plan the day with a schedule that works best for you. The school has protocols and guidelines for teachers, students and parents on appropriate video conferencing platforms. We have timetabled virtual contact on a daily basis from 10.15am - 11.00am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday).

Please be sure that your child is present for these timetabled sessions.

Delivery of Remote & Flexible Daily Plan

A detailed Flexible and Remote plan with all tasks, is posted the afternoon before on Google Classroom by 3.30pm. Please note that the class will be muted from commenting on the set work until 9.00am on the day for which the work is intended, (so it will still appear at the top of the feed). Monday's work will be posted on the FRIDAY prior.

We have made this change in response to parent feedback, to allow for home organisation and flexibility in completion of work. We encourage students to begin at 9.00am on the day it is scheduled for.

Subjects will include; Reading, Writing, Numeracy, Inquiry (Science and History), Values, and Specialists (Visual Art, Performing Arts, Languages, PE and Digital Technologies).

A range of applications and platforms will be utilized, including but not limited to Manga High, Behind the News, Clickview, Readworks, Kidnews, Pobble 365, and Studyladder. Links and clear directions for these will be placed in the Google Classroom Stream as well as located in the Classwork folder.

Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Feedback (student and teacher) and Reflections will be incorporated into lessons. We will provide a range of tasks to engage students including explicit teaching, practice drills, open and closed tasks, and passion projects. All work is to be shared with the classroom teacher via Google Classroom.

Feedback

The 5/6 team set work as assignments so they can be submitted and stored in Google Classroom, and feedback can be given via each student's Gmail. We are receiving multiple pieces of work on a daily basis, and endeavouring to give meaningful, considered and helpful feedback to our students.

Feedback is a two-way street, and we encourage students to respond to feedback, to improve their work and extend their understanding. Students are encouraged to 'resolve' a suggestion left of a piece of work before resubmitting, they are also provided with clear and easy to understand marking rubrics and success criteria expectations daily so please encourage them to refer to these before turning work in.

Health & Cyber Safety

All students have signed the school *Digitech Agreement for the Responsible use of Technology* and read through it with their parents. Parents, where possible, please monitor what your child is doing online.

We ask that you keep Google Classroom chat school related, and that you are respectful and caring in your comments and feedback to others. Classes will establish their own norms in relation to shared platforms.

This will apply to video conferencing too. Be mindful of screen time and use it purposefully. Have a ten minute break every hour and incorporate some physical activity into each day. It is important to keep up your regular sleeping habits so that you can function well the next day.

Being An Effective and Independent Student with Remote Learning Means:

1. Keeping the stream unclogged of unnecessary chat and
2. Using polite interactions at all times and
3. Following agreed class rules/norms for video conferencing.
4. Navigating remote learning on a daily basis and
5. Reading the planner and instructions three times
6. Watching video tutorials that are put up to assist, along the way
7. Requesting help when needed and persevering in all tasks
8. Submitting work in the correct manner and going back
9. Finishing work from a previous day or week
10. Handing in work of a standard that you are proud of
11. Responding to edits and conferencing from your teacher
12. Organising the day so it is as productive as possible and looking after your health so you are ready to learn

Your Child can find extension work when needed in:

- Manga High
- Passion/SOLE projects
- Do some exercise (e.g. go for a run/walk/bike ride)
- Do some independent reading
- Work on your critical and creative thinking assignment

Semester 1

Looking back, we have many things to celebrate and be grateful for in Semester 1; Grade 6 Camp, the prep buddies' program, interschool sport, an engaging science incursion, and the outstanding dedication shown from our school leadership group, house sports captains and SRC representatives.

Looking forward, we know that students will embrace the challenges of the second round of Remote and Flexible Learning and we look forward to supporting each other as a school and as a community, throughout these times.

Welcome Ms Fonte De Vos

We welcome Natasha (Tash) Fonte De Vos who has stepped in to replace Simone Meagher who has taken leave this term. We wish Simone a speedy recovery and hope she is able to return soon.

A huge thank you to Tash for her work and enthusiasm in guiding the students in 5/6M during this second remote learning phase. Tash has worked at CWPS during the course of the year and is familiar with many of our students.

Contact

If you have any questions, remember to use Google Classroom to contact classroom teachers or send an email via the school email address.

coburg.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

As you can imagine, it has been necessary to modify the delivery of our work programs, but we still plan to cover the same curriculum content. You can find more detail about the specific curriculum areas to be covered below.

Kind regards,
The Grade 5/6 Team

Curriculum Areas

VALUES

We know that every 5/6 student will endeavour to display and support our school values, even though we will be working from home, and not at school. Most importantly, we will still be teaching and learning together, just in a different way.

Our values are:

We are learners

We are safe

We care about each other

We are respectful

This term, the Grade 5 /6 focus will be on **We are Learners**. We suggest you discuss how this might apply to remote learning, instead of classroom- based learning. We will be providing activities to explore what good learners do.

Teachers and students will be learning new things and sometimes feel outside of our comfort zones. We will face these challenges and learn together. The main thing is to keep trying.

Our Values teaching will be embedded in all our learning across the week. We have a dedicated wellbeing day every Wednesday coordinated by our specialist teacher Jo Rigby.

Students will reflect on themselves as learners and set SMART goals to keep track of their learning, take responsibility for their learning and hopefully effect positive change.

Each **LEARNER** is *CURIOUS*, **COMPETENT** plus able to take an **ACTIVE ROLE** in their own learning.

Effective **EDUCATORS EMPOWER** ALL LEARNERS TO ACHIEVE *personal excellence by being* **OPEN, FLEXIBLE** and responsive to their needs.

A POSITIVE, INNOVATIVE **LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** empowers all of us to *GROW* through **RICH, AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS** both locally & globally.

Together as a **COMMUNITY** of families, educators and leaders we share responsibility to *INSPIRE* our modern learners to be **ACTIVE, CRITICALLY ENGAGED, GLOBAL CITIZENS.**



English

Reading and Viewing

Students will continue to learn and practise a range of reading strategies and skills to support their learning. We will continue to focus on exploring vocabulary, making inferences, interpreting explicit information and developing the ability to make connections between the text, personal experiences and the world around us.

The students will do this by exploring a variety of reading materials including guided readers, posters, diagrams, newspaper articles, electronic media, and complete tasks independently.

Through remote learning we will be engaging with Literature Circle Roles where students will present their understandings in small groups on a weekly basis. Each reading lesson will also include independent reading to promote engaged reading, student agency and organisational skills in all students.

We aim to improve reading stamina and critical thinking skills through timely goal setting and reflection. This term, students will develop their ability to confidently respond to texts through the teaching of explicit strategies, with the aim of being able to use them independently in the future.



Writing

Students will explore information and narrative text types. We will focus on grammar and spelling depending on the needs of the students.

The writing process of Planning, Composing, Recording, Revising, Editing, Publishing and Conferencing will continue to be revised. Students will create pieces of work in both written and electronic form with the purpose of sharing their work with their peers.

The elements of writing including grammar, spelling and vocabulary will continue to be explored through the writing process. There will be a celebration of their narrative writing abilities at the end of this term with our Writer's Festival.



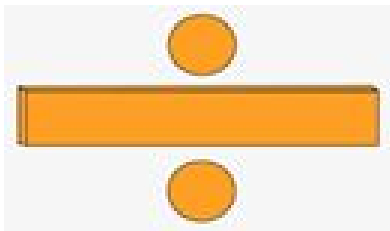
Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening are necessary for effective communication. Students will have the opportunity to explore and practice important skills that include the ability to share and clarify their ideas depending on the context and purpose, eg. entertaining, informing and/or influencing others. They will also explore and develop the spoken language features such as pace, pitch and pronunciation to enhance meaning. This will become part of our program during video conferencing in remote learning.



Maths

In Term 3, students will consolidate their multiplication of large numbers to prepare them for dividing with and without remainders. They will further develop their written and mental computation skills, and choose their own strategies to solve problems in real life contexts and explain their mathematical reasoning.



Later in the term we will move into fractions: finding a fraction of a quantity, comparing fractions with related denominators, and ordering fractions on a number line. A proficient recall of number facts and mental computation will support students greatly.

In Measurement, students will work on converting between and selecting appropriate units of measurement when calculating and solving problems for capacity and mass. In Statistics and Probability, students will explore probability; categorising events both as words (likely, unlikely, certain) and as a fraction.

You can support your child by testing multiplication facts, and getting them involved in every-day maths such as budgeting for the weekly grocery shop, how long it takes to travel somewhere, organising the daily schedule, or discussing the probability of rain the next day.



Manga High

All students in Grade 5/6 have their own login to MangaHigh and can access tasks to practise skills (consolidate knowledge), explore new learning (extend), improve their speed and knowledge of number facts (mental computation), and work towards gaining points. It is a perfect tool to consolidate learning in a stimulating and engaging platform.

This sophisticated platform adjusts the level of difficulty in real time, based on your child's performance in either games or Prodigy challenges. Students, teachers and parents can track individual student progress in Assignments, Effort, Achievement, and Independent Activities.

Students will receive assigned tasks that are set by the teachers.

These tasks will be used to inform teaching and reporting so it is important to encourage students to do their best with these.



Inquiry

For Inquiry this term, the students in 5/6 will be learning about the Australian Government. This will include aspects of the key institutions and traditions of Australia's democratic system of government based on the Westminster system, including the monarchy, parliaments, and courts.



The students will also be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of the three levels of government, including shared roles and responsibilities within Australia's federal system.

They will also look at how state/territory and federal laws are initiated and passed through parliament. To culminate this unit of work, the students will have the opportunity to choose a system of government from around the world, research it and present their work in the form of an information report.

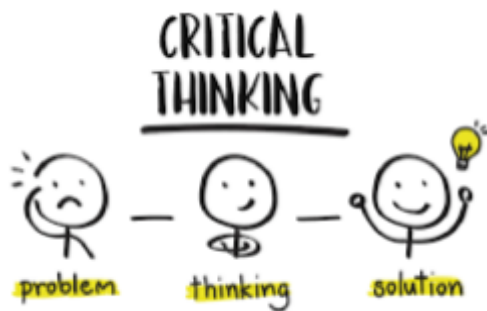


Critical and Creative Thinking

To complement the comprehensive curriculum this term, students will have opportunities to engage with student-centred investigative approaches to learning through a variety of topics.

This will take the form of weekly challenges that aim to span across a wide variety of curriculum areas including Maths, Writing, Reading, Digital Technologies, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

These tasks have been designed to foster critical and creative thinking amongst students through encountering real-life problems and presenting their solution in a creative way.



Highschool Transition

Due to Term 2 and 3 Remote and Flexible learning, many high schools are adapting all school programs to online platforms. This includes the parent information nights, school tours and Q and A sessions that high schools would usually provide for students transitioning to high school in 2021.

High school transition is well underway and we are communicating with a wide range of schools to support them through this process remotely. We ask you for your continued patience in this time as we coordinate without usual norms in place.

Kind regards,

The Grade 5/6 Team