Dear Yr. 5/6 Parents & Carers,

We’ve only been back for a couple of weeks but the Grade 5/6 teaching team has been impressed with the students' seamless adjustment back into the routines of school. In this Grade 5/6 News, we intend to provide a summary of the Term one happenings and some details of the remainder of the term.

We have a very busy term organized including Parent Teacher Interviews and Team Challenge Sports.

**Literacy**

**Daily Reading Hour:**
We will continue to model, discuss and practise reading strategies by reading aloud to students, reading together with students, reading in small groups through reciprocal teaching, guided reading, student/ teacher conferences and reading independently.

The reading curriculum will begin focusing on vocabulary development and reading ‘Just Right’ books. Students will be encouraged to develop their comprehension skills by making connections to the text, identifying reading structure, reading from different points of view, inferring and tips to develop fluency.

**Daily Writing Hour:**
We will continue to model, discuss and practise writing a range of text types. Our focus this term has begun with narratives. Students will exposed to lessons on plot and genre, settings and character development. Students will be engaged in the writing process by planning, drafting, editing, revising and publishing their stories.

**Word Study:**
Each week, we will continue to focus on investigating a spelling/sound pattern or other language conventions. Students will shortly begin to bring home a series of words to be reviewed at home. These words will be selected on a ‘needs’ basis in small groups to assist your child to build up their phonemic awareness.

New words will be selected each week and they will be reviewed the following week. Please encourage/ assist your child to practise these words. Each week your child will be given the opportunity to define/ review or play games with these words as part of their homework tasks.

**Daily Mathematics Hour:**
We will continue to model, discuss and practise mathematics skills and understandings and a range of strategies for solving mathematical questions.

- **Place Value**
- **Problem Solving Skills**
- **Addition**
- **Subtraction**
- **Multiplication**
- **Time**
- **Length, area and perimeter,**
- **Tessellations, Flips, slides & Turns.**
We encourage you to assist your child in practicing their times tables at home as well as at school. Students should also be given opportunities to read both analogue and digital time.

Inquiry
We have started the term with an Inquiry unit of study ‘What was life like in Victoria in the 1800’s for various groups of people and how did their perspectives differ?’

Throughout the term we will explore:

- People came to Australia for different reasons.
- Understand the Indigenous colonies that lived on the land prior to and during British settlement.
- Key historical events.
- Key historical individuals that made an impact.
- A number of people from all over the world settled in Australia

Positive Behaviours
Students will continue to be encouraged to engage in responsible, respectful, compassionate, resilient and become critical thinkers by placing marbles in the jars in the classroom. All grades will enjoy a class nominated reward to celebrate a well-earned jar full of marbles.

Homework
Students will continue to bring home a homework grid each Monday. Students are expected to work on specific tasks each night including 30mins of reading. All homework must be completed and returned to school each fortnight and due on the nominated due date (Usually a Monday).

Reminders
Tissues
It would be fantastic if each family could purchase a box of tissues and bring them to school to be used in the classroom.

Punctuality
Please assist your child to be at school by 8:50am. Late arrivals are disruptive and interfere with valuable learning time. Students can bring their bags into the school corridors and place their bags into a designated bag storage space/hook. Students will then be encouraged to leave the buildings and wait outside until the music plays.

1:1 iPad Program
Our 1:1 BYOD Program is off to a fantastic start! Students are demonstrating responsibility and respect when using their iPads in class, and are finding out how the iPad can help with their learning. Students have been exploring many of the different apps, including Popplet (a mind-mapping tool), Flashcards (which assists with memory activities) and Pages (a word processor) in class and will continue to work with different apps in the near future.

We have only scratched the surface of the potential of the iPads, and are looking forward to creating amazing things with them. The ongoing support of everybody has been greatly appreciated by the teachers, and if there are any queries please see Mat. It is truly rewarding to see how engaged our students are in their learning.