



EDGEWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL
An Independent Public School

CLASS INFORMATION

BOOKLET

2018



Room 8 Year 5
Mrs Bailly

Welcome to Year 5, 2018

I would like to welcome both students and family members to Year 5 in 2018. I aim to establish a harmonious classroom atmosphere with emphasis on co-operation, consideration and individual effort. Attention will be given to developing a healthy self-image with the aim of improving/enhancing confidence and independence in all aspects of primary school life in preparation for their next big step, that of entering the secondary level of education.

I will encourage enthusiastic participation without denying the rights/needs of other children to learn without disruption and without impinging on my rights/needs as a teacher.

The focus for teaching and Learning in Year 5 (upper primary) is to develop enthusiastic and confident learners who can call on a range of strategies to tackle new learning. Learners who see themselves as readers, mathematicians, scientists, artists etc (or all of the above), and recognise their own and others talents. The basic essentials of each learning area, such as word attack skills and spelling in literacy and instant recall of tables, place value, telling the time and money in mathematics, that is already part of their knowledge, will be reinforced and built on so that children confidently access new learning.

Independence is highly valued in upper primary and students are given many opportunities in a day to develop independence. For example students are expected to take homework home, complete and return it, and to remember to have a drink bottle, a hat and wear their faction t-shirt on sport day each week. While library and sport days may still be marked on the fridge, and reminders may be needed, increasingly students will do these things independently and even automatically.

Work-rate becomes very important in Year 5. Students recognise that there are different rates for learning, however whether it takes a day, a week or a month, students will learn. This can mean that their best friend finishes their homework in 15 minutes and they take 30 minutes – that's OK! The important thing is the learning and improving, having the personal expectation of themselves that they will constantly progress in learning and in work rate.

CLASSROOM ORGANISATION

Cooperative Learning

I wholeheartedly believe in cooperative learning in the classroom. I like to place the students in mixed ability groups so they can help each other during the learning process. Research has shown that all students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn valuable social skills they will need throughout life.

Values

'Values' is always a focus and as such an emphasis will be placed on bullying, reminding students about it and discussing the elements of many values including tolerance, consideration, honesty, trust, caring and respect. I will also be looking at 'Rights and Responsibilities', 'Problem Solving' and 'Active Listening'. I would like to encourage parents to reinforce these elements in the home environment.

Independence and Responsibility

In Year 5, students are expected to become more independent and responsible for their actions and effort. It is the perfect time to start preparation for high school life. We encourage students to rely less on parents to do things for them in regards to school and to be organised for school each day. We also promote students becoming more responsible for getting homework done on time, placing items of need into their school bags and making sure parents receive information on the day it is sent home.

Resources and Equipment

It would be appreciated if parents could check with students on a regular basis throughout the year regarding the quality and quantity of personal equipment and resources – eg pens, pencils, glue, sharpener, calculator etc. It is very frustrating when work time is compromised due to lack of basic equipment and necessary resources. Unfortunately students often don't remember to ask parents for replacements and only remember their needs when they require them - which is too late!

Snack & Sip

I have found it beneficial for the class to have a water bottle on their desk to prevent dehydration. Plain water is the only beverage permitted, and the bottle must have a secure lid. Water bottles should be taken home regularly to be cleaned. Studies have shown that when students eat a good breakfast in the morning, they do better in school. We also realise that some students have difficulty eating a good breakfast due to lack of time or lack of hunger early in the morning. Students may bring a small fruit or vegetable snack to eat in the classroom during the first morning session. (nothing sticky or messy). Fresh fruit and vegetables cut into small pieces are best.

TEACHING METHODS

MATHS

Mathematics is separated into 3 components: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. NAPLAN tests give equal weighting to the first two areas and always have at least 6 questions for Statistics. In my experience, students cannot move on to higher level reasoning in mathematics until they master their basic math facts. In addition to regular math assignments, your child will be performing daily drills until he or she has mastered the basic facts. You can help them prepare by studying with flashcards or having them spend 15 minutes a day revising their times tables and any other area that requires revision. Students have free access to the online 'Oxford Maths' support pages. These pages support the classroom work which is based on investigations and problem solving. **StudyLadder** is another very useful free internet site which students can use to reinforce maths concepts. You can even call out math facts to your child while driving in the car or waiting in line at the supermarket. Mastering times tables is particularly challenging; so when everyone knows their times tables we will celebrate!

Math Word Problems, Calculator Use

Students will be learning to solve increasingly complex mathematical word problems this year. It's important that they learn to use a calculator as a problem solving tool. Students may use calculators to complete math homework problems that involve geometry, fractions, word problems, etc. However, students may not use calculators for skill drills and basic computation.

ENGLISH

Reading

Guided reading forms one part of the instructional side of teaching reading. This approach involves the teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and can all read similar levels of texts. The text is easy enough for students to read with teacher support and easy enough for students to read with some fluency. Students focus on meaning but use problem-solving strategies to figure out words they don't know, deal with difficult sentence structure, and understand concepts or ideas they have never before encountered in print. Guided reading gives students the chance to apply the strategies they already know to new text. The ultimate goal is independent reading. Students need to try to read for a minimum of 120 minutes (or 2 hours) per week. I encourage students to read a variety of books. They can even read magazines and newspaper articles! If you see an article in the paper that might interest your child, please clip it out and share it with them.

Class Novel studies are undertaken in Years 5. Student memory from chapter to chapter is practised and supports learning across all curriculum areas. Enjoyment is critical as students will complete at least one novel study every year of schooling from here.

Spelling

Spelling is taught on a fortnightly rotation with the first week introducing the words, looking at the various rules and phonic patterns and teaching the students how to remember to spell each word. The second week is spent consolidating and testing for understanding.

Writing

All forms of writing will be taught with an emphasis on Narrative (story) and Persuasive writing. Students will focus on elaborating their thoughts and ideas to make it interesting for the reader and looking at the different purposes for writing.

Science

Semester 1 – Physical Sciences

Semester 2 – Earth and Space Sciences

Humanities

Humanities include the subjects of History, Geography, Economics and Civics Citizenship.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

The specialist teachers will be sending home more information about their particular program in the near future. Room 8 students will have the following specialist classes.

Phys Ed

Students must wear appropriate clothing and footwear for these classes. Our Phys Ed class is on Mondays and Sport is on Fridays. If you feel they should not participate in P.E. on a particular day, please write a note stating the reason. All children will be expected to participate unless they have a note excusing them.

Art

Students need to bring an art shirt to use to cover their school clothes. Art is on Wednesdays.

ICT/Computer

ICT is on Thursdays in the Cluster 2 computer lab.

During our computer sessions we will be completing some activities on cybersafety to ensure that students understand how important this is when accessing the Internet, both here and at home.

We will be learning computer coding using materials sourced from code.org. Students will learn through problem-solving how to write code in order to have the computer do something that they have planned. The computers will also be used for research, word processing and coding as well as NAPLAN.

Music

Music is on Fridays.

Assessment

Assessment is about feedback for learning and students are encouraged to celebrate their success and see errors as opportunities to learn. Assessment can be anything from verbal feedback to a group presentation to an interactive ICT quiz.

“What do I know now and what do I have to work on”

Your child is expected and encouraged to take ownership of these life skills in order to progress “Be Your Best”

CLASS ORGANISATION

Daily Schedule

Class Begins - 8:45 Recess - 10:45 -11:05 Lunch - 1:05 - 1:50 School Ends - 3:00

Students place their bags outside the classroom under the benches. At 8.30am the door will usually be open for students to bring their belongings inside and prepare for the day. (Put their books/belongings away) They may sit and read or talk quietly with their friends until the first siren, after which they will be expected to sit at their desk in readiness to start the day.

Supporting Positive Student Behaviour

The school motto is **CARING**. A caring attitude will be continually encouraged and reinforced both in the classroom and within the playground. Inconsiderate behaviour towards others will not be accepted and appropriate behaviour modification procedures will be implemented. Our class rule is **RESPECT**.

Rationale

All children have the right to learn. Classroom management is about engaging children in learning.

In line with this, the class developed a purpose statement:

"We come to school to learn, make friends, have fun, and practice behaviours that will help us in the future."

An Individual Behaviour Management Plan will be developed for children who have continued behaviour issues. This will be done in consultation with the parents, teachers, the School Psychologist, and Associate Principal and/or Principal.

Home or school factors may affect your child's behaviour or performance, so please don't hesitate to discuss issues with me - your child's well being is important to me. School rules will be reinforced to ensure that children completely understand what is expected of them. Playground misdemeanours are dealt with by the teachers on duty and/or Administration personnel. Again, you will be notified of repeat offences. Having a CARING & SAFE environment for ALL is very important.

If you become aware that your child has a problem at school, **PLEASE** let me know and we will endeavour to assist in sorting things out or seek assistance from our Administration Team and/or Chaplain - Don't let it fester at home and become a major problem.

Bullying/graffiti

The school has a zero-tolerance policy to both bullying and graffiti. In the case of the former, please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance if you believe that it is occurring. The sooner we know about it the sooner we can deal with it.

Socialisation

It is common for children in this age group to have formed some strong friendships but occasionally there are dramatic "break - ups" which cut deep and emotions run high. From past experience I can only say that it is wise to listen and hurt along with your child should this happen, but try to **AVOID** becoming involved if at all possible. **USUALLY** the problems can be best dealt with by the children themselves. As most of these situations arise in the playground we are often unaware of what is happening. A note, email or phone call to inform me of this type of situation or any other emotional problems/upsets is welcomed so we can "understand and hopefully best support your child's needs.

Incursions/Swimming/Excursions

These occur from time to time during the year and payment should be made as soon as possible with the return of any permission slips. See the Contributions and Charges sheet on the school website for more details.

Homework/Classwork

I believe homework is necessary for practising skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. On the other hand, I don't believe in overloading students! I will generally provide regular homework on a weekly basis with some supplementary finishing off, Design and Technology or research tasks. In some cases, homework will include class work that was not finished at school. I try to give ample time in class for the completion of assignments, but some students work more slowly and may need to finish it at home.

Each child will be expected to have completed the week's homework by **Monday** morning before school.

The students are given an activity book in which to do their homework and it would be appreciated if parents could check that the homework has been completed and presented neatly.

It may be a good opportunity at this stage if you have not already done so, to:

1. Set up an area where your child is able to sit and do their homework carefully (rather than on the bed or floor).
2. Establish a timetable of after school activities ensuring there is sufficient time to complete homework as well as enter into leisure activities.

If a student fails to hand in completed homework on more than two occasions, parents may be contacted to ask for their support in reinforcing the importance of completing future homework on time or to offer suggestions as to why the homework is not being done.

A minimum of 15 minutes of reading each night as well as practising times tables and basic number combinations is welcomed as part of the evening's routine. (If for some reason formal homework is not given then the above activity times should be lengthened.)

Consistently failing to hand in homework will be noted on school reports.

Organisation is the key to success!

If a student is unable to do their homework for a particular reason, it would be appreciated if parents could **send a note excusing their child from completing the homework**. This way we have an understanding that the homework was not done due to circumstances rather than just forgetfulness or laziness.

I would be happy to speak to any parent who does not want their child to participate in regular homework practices or who feels their child will be unable to fulfil the homework requirements.

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is critical to the learning process. Our school day officially starts at 8:45am, however the classroom door will be open at 8.30am so students can get ready for the day. When your child is absent, he or she misses valuable instructional time. We ask that you consider carefully before taking your child on holidays during school terms. Any absence from school must be supported by an explanation – this can be by note, email, phone call to the office (9405 4007), or by using our online absentee form from the link on the home page of our website. Explanations must be made within three days of the student returning to school. Family holidays during term time must be notified in advance and in writing to the principal.

Leaving School

It is school policy that in the interests of your child's safety, should a child be required to leave the school for an appointment or any other reason after they have arrived at school, a parent or other supervising adult must sign the student out. A note of intention at the start of the day will give the teacher notice, however it is not sufficient in itself. To sign a student out parents/carers **must first** complete a form at **the front office** and take it to the child's teacher before the child will be released. Students may not leave the school alone during school hours for any reason once they have arrived for the day.

School Website

The school website is your 'one stop' shop for information about the school, including events, upcoming activities and online forms.

Connect

As part of our communication plan we will be using Connect. If you do not have your log on details, please contact the office. We will have a class Connect page this year and I will be sending you information on a regular basis about our class and some of the activities that we will be doing. If you download the Connect Now app to your smartphone, you will be able to access the information easily.

Newsletters

These are published on the website fortnightly on Friday commencing in Week 2. If we have your email address on file you will receive an email alert to indicate that the newsletter has been published and links to it. Important information is always placed in the newsletter.

Canteen

The canteen is open from Monday to Friday at recess and lunch times. Orders can be made online or at school. Please see the website for more details.

Uniform and School Hats

School uniforms must be worn each day. They are available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. On Phys Ed and Sports days, students are permitted to wear their faction T-Shirt. It is compulsory for students to wear a hat when they are outdoors. The school has a *no-no play in the sun* policy – only bucket, broad-brimmed or Legionnaires styles are permitted. Caps are no longer part of the school uniform. We encourage the student to apply sunscreen before coming to school and then reapplying at lunch time. Each classroom has a pump bottle of sunscreen that students can use if they don't have their own.

Contacting the School/Teacher

During the course of the year there may be times when you feel a problem has arisen involving your child's school. Please don't hesitate to send a note, email or ring the school secretary to arrange a meeting with me, so I can work toward resolving the matter.

I may make contact with you at home, during the evening if I feel it is important to do so. Often problems are not obvious as students are very good at disguising situations for fear of retribution from their peers.

Remember, I can't help if I don't know about a problem. If you feel any matter requires urgent attention, please contact me as soon as possible.

I look forward to a happy, successful and rewarding year in 2018.

Kind regards

Gail Bailly

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