

**5/6 W**

We are a partnership……..

Where we all work together for

The benefit of your child.

The most important part of our school.

Our Class

5/6W is a Year 5 and Year 6 class, with 27 students. Each child is reminded of the different responsibilities that we each have to keep our classroom a safe, fun and happy place to stay and learn.

My role this year to is foster self-reliance, organisation and resilience in your child and to help them become **the best that they can be**. For our year 6 children to ensure that they are ready for the transition to high school, and our Year 5 children to ensure that they will be responsible senior students and be willing to take on their responsibilities for Year 6.

We are also focusing on **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CARE and CONSIDERATION**– the 4 values of the school. Our ‘**You Can Do It’** programme that promotes **~ Confidence (academic, social), Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along, and Resilience** and our **Peer Support Program** will encourage these attributes.

**Mrs Henry** on a Wednesday morning will be concentrating on **PE**- Fundamental Movement Skills for the year, and Personal Health Choices this term.

**Miss Mullins** will be teaching Science each Wednesday after lunch.

**Years 3-6** combine for Sport on a Friday morning at 9 am, for Term 1 and Term 4.

Reading

Within our classroom all types of reading occur. We have group, individual, shared, modelled and individual learning programs. We are using both **Fiction** and **Nonfiction** books to enhance our learning of the different reading strategies that we need to concentrate on this term. We will be using Read Theory, Epic, Literature Circles. Newsela for our Reading groups and also Reading Box Green, which is a graded reading scheme. This kit is made up of cards using different types of texts with comprehension activities, self-marking cards and a progress chart for students to complete. Students work on these cards individually and at their own level.

**Home Reading** will begin this term and it will be an important component of your child’s homework. Children will be encouraged to borrow library books for their home reading. I will be working with the children to ensure that they are taking home both books that are at instructional level for them and also interest books for pure enjoyment. The students have a Home Reading Log to fill out, that needs to be returned every Friday if you can.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Year 5/6W students will be taking part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. They need to read 20 books -15 of these books must be from the Premier’s Reading Challenge List. A merit award will be issued to each successful student when they have read half way and at the end of the year a certificate will be issued on their completion.

If you wish to know more you can log onto [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/rules34.html](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/rules34.html)

Spelling

All Year 5/6W children have been assessed using first 5 weeks High Frequency words from their spelling program. This ensures that the lists that your children are exposed to match their capabilities. All the words for each grade caters to individual student learning. There will be high frequency words, phonic sounds and spelling rule words for each student to learn.

Writing

All students have written a writing sample that was completely unsupported. This then helps me to assess where I can help.

Writing encompasses writing different text types –in line with the new syllabus this means informative, imaginative and persuasive texts. Each day writing is happening using Visual Prompts, similar to NAPLAN prompts. I have **One Word** writing – where students are given 60 seconds to write either a sentence or 2. This is to focus on specific attributes of their writing and to help speed up their thought processes. This term we are focussing on Imaginative and then later in the term Persuasive.

The **Sentence a Day** program is also an intricate part of our writing program. This involves students in daily practice of writing individual sentences, focusing on correct sentence structure and sentences that make sense.

NAPLAN

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| Tuesday 15  May 2017 | Wednesday 16  May 2017 | Thursday 17  May 2017 |
| Language Conventions *40 minutes*  Writing *40 minutes* | **Reading *50 minutes*** | **Numeracy *50 minutes*** |

This year my students in Year 5 will be taking part in NAPLAN. Students are assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. We have been told that the text type will be either a Narrative or Persuasive Text. This year, just like last year, they are not stipulating what it will be. You can find out more information at <http://www.naplan.edu.au/>

Speaking and Listening–

Our weekly news timetable develops confidence within the children to speak in front of their peers. We do this by having a specific topic to talk about and each child is given a fortnight to prepare their topic. All students have received this note and their days to speak.

Maths:

This year the school has again purchased the rights for 12 months to Mathletics, It is a great program that supports the K-6 maths syllabus. I am setting some of your child's homework from here. If you do not have internet access no child is disadvantaged, as I give them time in the classroom to do this part of their maths homework.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a is a student-driven digital portfolio that empowers students to independently document what they are learning at school. Students can use photos, videos, drawings, text notes, links to show what they know. Parents only get updates for their child and can only access their child's work, unless they have been mentioned in group work with others. Parents receive a unique QR code handouts for your child and it makes it easy for parents to sign up.

Class Dojo.

One of the great features of Class Dojo is that it allows me to send you a “behaviour and skills report” every Friday by email. My hope is that this will bring both of us closer together and help you better understand the progress of your student on a week to week basis.

There is a Class Dojo student app available on both the iTunes and Google Play stores – just search for class dojo student.

I will be using this if I need to confidentially talk to a parent, or you can reach me that way as well if there is anything that I need to know.

History and Geography

As we are now using the new History and Geography syllabus we are trialling , starting Term 2, grade lessons on a Thursday afternoon at 12:40 pm. That means that I will have all of year 6 and all of year 5 will go to Mr Piggott and so on.

Google Classroom (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DCOe9v9CuM)

Google classroom is a platform where students are exposed to a blended learning platform for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. It is available 24/7 so that is a child cannot come to school there is always something that can be completed at home.

Milson Island Excursion Year 5/6 – Monday 25th- Wednesday27th October 2017

Schools participate in excursions to enhance and support classroom studies. This year Stage 3 will be attending Milson Island from **Wednesday 25th October to Friday 27th October 2017**. If you need financial assistance you can arrange an appointment to discuss this confidentially with Mr Firth. Also at this stage we have not yet decided which teachers will accompany this excursion. There will also be an ‘excursion bank’ where once we know the cost you will be able to start paying this off.

Cardiff High 2016 Year 6 to 7 Transition: Activities and Dates

**Term 1**

**Japanese Lessons: Week 6 to 8**

A Japanese teacher from the high school will be coming over on a Wednesday afternoon. About 1 o’clock to deliver Japanese lessons to the class.

**Wednesday 8th March** – Cardiff High “Expo Day”: A morning of activities based on high school and the opportunities available at Cardiff High. Year 6 students to attend from 9:20am to 12:30pm. Evening meeting for parents from 7pm to 7:45pm

**Term 2**

**English Lessons: Week 1 to 5**

An English teacher from the high school will be coming over on a Wednesday afternoon. About 1 o’clock to deliver English lessons to the class.

**Wednesday 21st June** – Opportunity and Enrichment Afternoon: Year 6 students to attend from 12pm to 2:30pm

Students attend a series of classes in which they are particularly interested. Classes are led by current students of Cardiff High and showcase leadership, participation and extension opportunities at high school.

**Term 3**

**Wednesdays – weeks 1 to 8** – Year 6 Enrichment lessons – 1pm- 2:45pm.

4 selected students from each feeder PS per week to attend lessons in four subjects

**Tuesday 8th August**: Cardiff High MADD Night 7pm: Primary School opportunity to audition performances and participate.

**Wednesday 9th August 11am- 12:15pm**. Primary school Matinee as part of the transition program.

**Friday 18th August**: GATS testing at Cardiff High for entry into the 2018 class: 9am – 12:20pm

**Term 4**

**Wednesdays - weeks 1 to 6**: Year 5 Enrichment lessons. 1pm-2:45pm.

4 selected students from each PS per week to attend.

**Tuesday 5th December: Orientation Day** – 9:15am – 1pm for all Year 6 attending CHS in 2018. Evening information meeting for parents commencing 6pm. *The day’s activities culminate in:*

**Cardiff High Music Night -** 7:30pm**.** PS opportunity to audition performances and participate.

Some Useful Things to Know

Absences

This year if a child needs to leave early or arrives late you must report to the front office and fill out a leaver’s book. A small slip with your child's name, class, reason and time are entered onto this slip. This goes into Sentral our new online roll marking scheme. If a child is absent a note must be returned to the school within 7 days of the child’s return to school.

**Family Holidays during Term**

We have been informed that the procedures for approving leave for family holidays during the school term have changed.

From this term, children away due to a family holiday will be marked as absent without leave to do so.

Parents and carers need to provide the school/Principal with a satisfactory reason, indicating the educational benefits of missing school while on holiday. The DEC strongly advocates, and it is a legal requirement, that all children should be at school on every day the school is open.

The Principal will advise if the absence is in the educational interests of the child, and an “exemption – holidays” form, will be issued if this is the case. Please advise the school before leaving so that, if required, an exemption form can be issued.

We will be reinforcing the importance of children being at school, on time, at every opportunity lessons are being held.

This includes asking parents and carers to not take children out of school for family holidays unless first discussed with the Principal and the appropriate forms completed and submitted for approval, (or not). Linked to our revised Student Wellbeing Policy will be recognition for students who maintain a high level of attendance, above 90%.

Anaphylaxis, Asthma and Severe Allergies

Please be advised that it is essential that every child with the above diagnoses requires an ASCIA action plan, from their GP or specialist, and this plan needs to be given to the school. All ASCIA plans must be updated every year. Better to be safe than sorry.

Assembly

This year, every second Thursday at 2.00pm. You will be let know when it is our time to perform. Awards are also given out at these assemblies. If you can, please come and watch.

Awards

This year you will not need to collect awards or provide them to classroom teachers at the end of year. On Presentation Day, we will now be giving out class awards and book prizes to five students in each class. We will continue to give out special awards at the end of each semester to those students who achieve over 90% attendance and an award for students achieving 100% at the end of the year.

Birthday Cakes

Birthday cakes are most welcome at our school. Due to not wanting to have a knife in the classroom could they please be cupcakes?

Class Requirements

Thank you for your prompt response to these. Tissues though are a must and we definitely need more as only 2 have come in so far.

Crunch and Sip

Children can participate in a fruit /vegetable/water break during the morning session. It is meant for a quick breather and refresher before continuing with our learning. Depending on the fruit some children continue with their work while they eat. Also if it is sticky fruit would you mind sending in some **wet wipes** or something similar for the children to clean their hands after eating?

Enquiries

If you have any concerns regarding your child please contact me. If the matter needs to be discussed at length a suitable interview time can then be arranged. Straight after school I am responsible for bus duty. This year it will be quite late between 3:20 and 3:30 pm. Also on a Wednesday I have a staff meeting, My RFF times are Wednesday 10-11am and 11.40-12.40pm. If you wish to see me after school, please be patient until I have completed bus duty as the children's safety is very important.

Events for Your Calendar

**Zone Swimming**: Thursday 23rd Feb

**3 way interviews**~ start Monday 20th February and goes for 2 weeks

**Young Leaders Day**- Sydney ~ Friday 3rd March

**Clean Up Australia Day** – Friday 3rd March

**Healthy Harold Visit**- Monday 6th March

**Selective High School Test**- Thursday 9th March

**Anti-Bullying Performance**~ Tuesday 14th March

**School Photos** – Tuesday 21st March

**Harmony Day** – Wednesday 22nd March

Combined ANZAC DAY service- 4th April

Easter Hat Parade, Senior Citizen Day -

Gate Closures

Gates are closed and latched about 9:15 of a morning, (not locked), during the day. They are re-opened at 2:45pm.

iPads

These are an integral part of learning that happens in my room. All students are given the opportunity to enhance their learning, however they need to use them correctly.

Laptops

Our classroom computers are all laptops which run wirelessly . The children are getting an enormous benefit from their use and love the fact that they are not tied to a particular place in the classroom with them. This year I have enough laptops for every child.

Lunch Orders

These must be handed into the canteen before school. Please provide a paper bag with your child’s name, class, money and order written clearly on the bag.

Labels

Please label all belongings, especially pencils, hats, raincoats etc….

Library

Library borrowing has not yet been decided due to our library system being upgraded and also a class being in the library until a demountable is available**.** When we do start to borrow, if possible children should have a cloth bag so that the books can be protected.

Medicines

If your child needs to have medication at school, please have it labelled and take to the office. An indemnity form must be completed and signed at the office if your child needs medication at school.

Notes and Money

Please send these in in a clearly marked envelope. I will collect these and make sure that they get to the office.

Road Crossing Safety

To assist the school and parents in ensuring the safety of children to and from school, we have a crossing guard on duty at the pedestrian crossing morning and afternoon, and we have flashing lights to alert motorists of children crossing.

Parents and carers can play their part by ensuring that all children who live somewhere west of Wansbeck Valley Road use the pedestrian crossing to cross.

Staff will constantly remind children of the need for diligence and correct crossing, especially using the designated crossing point.

Please remember, your good example could save a life one day. It is especially dangerous to cross Wansbeck at the Fern Valley Road intersection. Please take a few extra steps to use the designated crossing.

Responsibility

Please encourage your child in this. By having everything they need for the day packed for each school day, notes and money for various events, homework completed and packed and especially their hats.

Safe Haven

Sometimes things happen out in the playground and we need to sort out what has happened. Therefore your child might be asked to attend the planning room. It is a place where they can go and talk with Mrs Westwood about what has happened and work out a plan to try and stop it from happening again. Sometimes children are asked to go there as witnesses and to sort things out. This year we are also implementing a **Safe Haven**- where children can go to the Mrs Westwood’s classroom 2nd half lunch to read, draw or just sit. There are **NO** computers at this time.

School Bulletin

This goes home every Wednesday to keep you informed of special events. You can also find a copy on our school website and our App.

SOS

Some children are asked to go and see Mrs Westwood simply to help resolve issues for others because they may have seen something that happened. Thank you to the children who come along and help sort out these issues.

Staff Development Days

Day 1- Term 1, 2, 3. Last two days of Term 4

Children are not to attend school on these days.

Uniforms

Thank you for the way your children look in their correct school uniform. Well Done. Red school hats should be worn every day.

Please make sure that everything is labelled.

Thank you

Stephanie Westwood