

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3! The aim of this newsletter is to give you an overview of the learning that will be taking place in the Senior Block this term. We have also included some general information about the term and general reminders.

Much of this content is repeated from past curriculum notes, however sections coloured **red** are important updates.

Elephant in the Room

Mr Swan has unfortunately been called up for jury duty for most of Term 3. However, we are thrilled to have Mr Truong in Room 1 for Tuesday-Friday each week until Mr Swan returns, as well as Mrs Forbes in on Mondays. Mrs Forbes will also be teaching Room 3 on Tuesdays from recess, which replaces the fortnightly Thursday release day that Mr Truong had been undertaking throughout Semester 1.

Although it was not the news we expected to hear in Week 1, we are very proud of the students and how they have handled the change. All lessons and activities are progressing as expected and we will update you with any changes if they occur.

Compass and New Attendance System

If your child is absent from school, please email white gumvalley.ps@education.wa.edu.au with the reason for the absence so that the office staff can update the attendance roll accurately. This will prevent absence letters from needing to be sent home. If you are taking an in-term holiday, please fill in the form available on our school website so that it is registered as an approved absence.

Signing Students Out of School

If you are needing to take your child to an appointment or off school grounds during the school day, please ensure you sign them out at the office each time. Students need to return to the office once they return to school to update attendance. If someone other than the registered primary contact for your child is collecting, please call ahead of time and inform the office to provide authorisation.

Illness

We have had an incredibly high level of students unwell since coming back from holidays, mostly due to the combination of a bad flu season and increased indoor time from wet weather conditions. Where possible, we have windows open, and we are consistently reminding about hygiene practices like frequent handwashing and sneezing/coughing into elbows.

However, if students are still displaying symptoms of being unwell, please keep them home until they are no longer spreading any illness. This will allow other students and staff to remain as healthy as possible and reduce overall disruptions to learning programs.

Interviews

On Thursday of Week 4, the school will be closed from 12:00pm for parent check-ins. Please see the Connect notice for your class teacher's booking details and whether this kind of meeting is appropriate for your context.

These are **not** compulsory and if you do not feel the need to meet at this time you do not need to book. If you would like to meet but need more than the 10-minute time allocation, please email to organise a time that is more suitable.

Please ensure you have returned the slip informing us how your child will be going home that day.

Email Contact

We are all available via email to touch base or organise meetings, however if you are needing to send a time-sensitive email (i.e. students going home with other families or a reminder for students) then please call the office instead of emailing, as we may not see the email until after school finishes.

Homework

All students are encouraged to read for at least 15 mins per day, including reading aloud and being read to, as well as regular practise of their times tables. We would also like to encourage all children, where possible, to practise their typing skills using [typing.com](https://www.typing.com). We encourage regular practice of multiplication and division facts through the Times Tables Rockstar app or in browser. Smaller more frequent practice sessions are ideal to consolidate and build upon student fluency.

Mobile Phones and Smartwatches

Mobile phones and any other technology devices must be handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning and collected again at home time. Smartwatches need to be turned onto flight mode and only used as a watch on school grounds. Phones are not to be used on the school grounds as per the Department of Education policy. If your child needs to contact you, please encourage them to see their teacher or go to a duty teacher if it is at break time. If you need to pass along a message, please call the office to ensure the message gets to all intended parties safely and promptly.

Uniform Policy

It is important that students come to school dressed in full school uniform. As the weather is still very cold and often wet, jumpers and hats tend to be left around the school. If students do not have a hat, they will need to play in the Undercover Area or go to the Library during break sessions. Please ensure all pieces are labelled so students can keep track of their items.

- **Shirts/Jumpers:** Jumpers are included in the school uniform. If students don't have a school jumper, they can purchase one from the Uniform Shop or wear a red jumper with no visible logos until a school jumper is available. Students should only wear their faction shirts on Sport days or on Fridays for Senior Sport.
- **Shoes:** For safety reasons, appropriate shoes must be worn. Sport shoes need to be supportive of the foot and provide enough grip to take part in all sporting activities.
- **Hats:** As part of our uniform policy, hats are compulsory for students to participate in sporting and play activities as well as being in the sun during recess and lunch. Our School Board supports caps with a back flap as well as bucket and wide brimmed styles, both being available from the uniform shop which is open on Mondays. Students without hats can play in the Undercover Area or go to the Library.
- **Hair:** All shoulder length hair needs to be tied back regardless of gender for safety.
- **Makeup and jewellery:** No makeup is a part of our School Policy and nail polish is considered makeup. To ensure the safety of students whilst playing, earrings must be small studs or sleepers. Religious jewellery may be worn, but no other jewellery including rings or necklaces.

<https://whitegumvalley.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WGV-PS-Dress-Code.pdf>

Communication

Our main form of communication is via Connect. We use this to share any Senior Block notices. It will also be used for the submission section, which allows students to submit their digital work to teachers. You should be automatically added to the correct room page, but please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Cristy Coulson (cristy.coulson@education.wa.edu.au) to reset your login if needed. We always endeavour to meet promptly with parents to discuss any issues, so please do not hesitate to email if you have any queries or concerns.

Curriculum Summary

English	<p>Reading: We will be reading Morris Gleitzman's <i>Once</i> and following a whole-term unit on texts whose main purpose is to inform rather than entertain. <i>Once</i> tells the story of Felix, a young boy living in Poland during 1942 and his experience looking for his family. This connects with our HASS focus of Geography and the global connections between countries throughout history. Students will also compare how different print, visual, and digital media represent ideas in different ways.</p> <p>Writing: Students will be focusing on information reports. We will learn how to provide greater detail and clarity using technical vocabulary and diagrams to support written information. We will continue to enhance our writing using complex sentences and expanding sentences through the choice of engaging and sophisticated vocabulary.</p> <p>Handwriting: In Years 5 and 6, students are required to develop a consolidated handwriting style that is legible, fluent and automatic, and that can support sustained writing. We recommend cursive, as once learned, it is effective for longer-form written responses. Handwriting skills and muscle strength are better developed if practised in more regular and shorter sessions. Students will be undertaking short regular handwriting practice sessions each week.</p> <p>Spelling: We will be continuing our Spelling Mastery program four times a week. This program is comprised of smaller and more intensive sessions focused on accumulation of skills over the year. Spelling Mastery revolves around understanding parts of words, such as base words, prefixes and suffixes, to build word families.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Both Year 5 and 6 students will be focusing on gaining skills and deepening their understanding of fractions and decimals, grid coordinates, and angles. They will revisit a range of Semester 1 topics through daily reviews and take part in Powerful Problem-Solving activities to develop problem-solving and teamworking skills.</p> <p>Each Friday, Mr Truong runs a Numero club in Room 2. It starts at 8:15am and is open to all interested students.</p>
HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)	<p>What are Australia's global connections? This topic examines some of the different connections Australia has with other countries. Areas of study include Australia's overseas connections through the Antarctic Treaty system, official organisations, tourism and sister cities. NGOs and government aid are researched and the effects of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 are analysed.</p> <p>How do people's connections to places affect their perception of them? This section contains two lessons which explore perceptions, stereotypes and generalisations about places. Students begin by looking at examples in India and Ethiopia and consider how these perceptions came about and what effect they may have on these places and the people who inhabit them. A separate session is dedicated to examining the perceptions Australians and New Zealanders have of each other's country and which connections shaped these ideas.</p>
Science	<p>How do the physical conditions of the environment affect the survival of living things? In science lessons, students will investigate how physical conditions of the environment affect the survival of living things. Investigating organisms that live in extreme environments, students will learn that changes in physical conditions will affect the</p>

	behaviour and survival of living things, including animals that migrate or hibernate, and mould growth. Students will investigate how changing the physical conditions for plants impacts on their growth and survival and understand that First Nations Peoples' knowledge of the physical conditions necessary for the survival of living things helps them to protect the natural environment.
Health	<p>In Term 3, our focus is on Protective Behaviours. We will be looking at how to keep safe physically, mentally and emotionally. The topics involved this term are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes that occur during puberty - Keeping a growth mindset and the importance of resilience - Body Bright sessions exploring self-esteem and healthy strategies for coping with times of change - Handling peer pressure and how we can effectively communicate consent, including giving and denying consent in a range of age-appropriate situations. - Interpreting verbal and non-verbal communication from people. - Drug safety education

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or queries regarding your child's learning this term.

Miss Ashleigh Richards, Mr Eric Truong, and Miss Amy Edmonds