

# Class Newsletter

Term 1, 2021



5B

Dear Parents /Caregivers

Welcome to 5A for 2021. My name is Miss Mikaela Bull and I am pleased to be your child's class teacher. As a new teacher at Geebung State School, I am looking forward to working with you, and ensuring that your child feels safe, supported and happy in my class. If I have not yet met you, it would be wonderful if you were able to attend our upcoming information evening and parent/carer interviews.

As we move into a new term together, I would like to provide you with a brief glimpse into my interests, beliefs and passions. As my family lives in Sydney, I enjoy visiting them in the holidays. I am also very passionate about sports, and believe that remaining active is an essential aspect of positive mental wellbeing. I am looking forward to watching the 2021 Olympic games, particularly the Rhythmic Gymnastics.

*"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all" – Aristotle.*

As a teacher, I believe in a holistic approach to learning that nurtures a child's social, emotional and cognitive needs. I value learning that provides students with the greatest opportunity to succeed, through instruction that meets their individual capabilities. I have high expectations of my students, and strongly align with the whole school belief that each and every student can and will achieve.

In regards to homework, I believe it is an important component of a child's learning that promotes time management, independence, and responsibility. I understand that homework may be tricky at times, and do not expect that you are experts on concepts. Instead, I would like for you to view homework as wonderful opportunity to become involved in your child's education, and provide a positive environment for them to reflect on their understandings. Homework will be distributed on a Monday, and is expected to be completed and returned on Friday each week. I ask that you please sign the homework sheet weekly to assist with your child's success.

## Weekly Routine

Monday	9:30 – 10:30 12:00 – 1:00	Problem Solving Hour Japanese
Tuesday	10:00 – 11:00 2:15 – 2:45	Writing Hour Assembly
Wednesday		
Thursday	2:00 – 2:30	Music
Friday	12:30 – 1:00	PE/Swimming

## REMINDERS

### Brain Break

Students may bring a healthy snack every day for brain break at 10am. Fruit and vegetables are accepted.

### NO HAT NO PLAY

Students are required to bring their school hat every day.

### Drink Bottles

Drink bottles are essential every day of the school year. Students are allowed to leave them in the classroom for easy access.

### Library

It is an expectation that all students will borrow from the library each week on a Friday.

### Bells

Children are to be lined up when the first bell goes at 8:45am. Parents are to wait in the eating area for collection at the end of the day.

### Belongings

Please ensure all jumpers, hats, bags, lunch boxes etc are clearly named to avoid confusion about ownership and so they may be returned if misplaced or left in the classroom.



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## Curriculum Term One

This term, your child will be working through units covering English, Maths, HASS, Science, Health, Technology and The Arts.

**English:** Students will be participating in whole school literacy programs to further develop reading and writing skills such as the reading comprehension programs, 'Seven Steps to Writing' and the 'Sound Waves' spelling program. In writing, students will be focusing on narratives. They will examine and deconstruct a fantasy novel and create a 'good' and 'evil' character, and establish setting. Students will also continue to develop their literacy skills in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**MATHS:** Students will be learning and investigating mathematical concepts in whole and decimal number, measurement of time, perimeter and area, chance and data. They will be participating in a weekly problem solving hour, number talks and mini maths focusing on number fact strategies.

**HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences):** In the unit, 'People and the environment' students will explore how people and environments influence one another. They will examine the characteristics of places in Europe and North Americas in relation to Australia and describe their location at a national scale. Students will organise data, identify simple patterns and trends and be able to draw conclusions about their preferred places to live.

**SCIENCE:** In the unit, 'Survival in the Environment', students will analyse the structural features and behavioural adaptations that assist living things to survive in their environment. They understand that science involves using evidence and comparing data to develop explanations. Students investigate the relationships between the factors that influence how plants and animals survive in their environments, including those that survive in extreme environments, and use this knowledge to design creatures with adaptations that are suitable for survival in prescribed environments.

**HEALTH:** In the unit, 'Healthy Habits' students explore the concepts of health and wellbeing and the importance of healthy habits as a preventative measure. They identify good habits and how they contribute to overall health and wellbeing.

**TECHNOLOGY:** In the unit, 'Harvesting Good Health', students will explore how competing factors and technologies influence the design of a sustainable service that provides a plant for the preparation of a healthy food product.

**THE ARTS:** In the unit, 'What's the Story', students will create a documentary style film to tell the personal story of someone in the school community. They will explore documentaries and experiment with media technology and collaborative production processes to write a script, storyboard, film, edit, manipulate sound and text to create mood, atmosphere and communicate a point of view.



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## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT:

Expectations for classroom behaviour and work standards are high. The school has developed a behaviour management policy for both the classroom and playground in line with the Departmental Code of Conduct. In all classrooms, the students will learn to self-regulate their behaviour and be able to articulate the Zones of Regulation. Students will learn to identify their 'zone' as either blue, green, yellow or red and develop strategies to cope to enable them to maintain or re-establish their 'green zone' for optimal learning potential. In addition, students will also follow the High 5 strategy in the playground.

If your child is unable to self-regulate their own behaviour, and it is affecting their learning or the learning of others, they will receive a reminder and they will be asked what they need to do in order to be ready for learning. Should the inappropriate behaviours continue, they will be provided with a choice, where they are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and make a positive decision. If the inappropriate behaviour were to continue, a time out in the classroom will be issued, followed by time in buddy classroom. Further escalation of the behaviour would result in contact with Administration, and a referral to the Reflective Thinking Classroom (RTC) in their lunch time. I will notify you at the earliest available time to discuss the inappropriate behaviour and the consequences that followed, and work with you and your child to ensure measures are in place to reduce the loss of learning time.

## COMMUNICATION:

Please read our school newsletter fortnightly to ensure you are aware of important events. Parent/career information sessions will be held in Week 3 on Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Please remember, the door to 5A is always open. If you need to see me for any reason please do not hesitate to organise a meeting where we can discuss any concerns or issues together. Afternoon meetings are preferred, as I will be busy preparing for the day in the mornings. I can be contacted directly or by email [mjbul0@eq.edu.au](mailto:mjbul0@eq.edu.au), and I will call you immediately if I have any academic or behaviour concerns regarding your child.

I look forward to your support and working in partnership with you and your child throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

Mikaela Bull  
Class Teacher

Tracey Douglas  
Principal



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