Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2015! Throughout the year our newsletters will give you an insight into the teaching and learning that is taking place within the J Pod as well as reflect upon the successes we achieve over each term.

A big congratulations is owed to all of the J Pod students after a very successful transition into 2015. We have had a fantastic time over the last few days as we have been getting to know one another and the routines and expectations in the J Pod. It has been an engaging, calm and orderly environment, which is paramount to successful learning. Well done everyone!

Communication

Communication between a student’s home and school is a vital ingredient to academic and social success. If you have any questions concerning your child’s learning please feel free to contact us via a note in your child’s diary or come in for a chat. If at all possible though we ask that it not be on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening due to team meetings.

Please sign up to received updates from the J Pod blog. Visiting our blog is a great way to see what is happening in the classroom and is an opportunity for your child to share exciting news about activities and events from the J Pod.


Timetables

The J Pod students will have their specialist classes (Italian, Art, PE and Science) every Tuesday this year, so students are welcome to wear sports shoes on this day if desired. A weekly timetable will be sent home in the next week so you can see what fun learning we will be up to in the J Pod.
Visiting the library

Please take note of the day that your child’s home group attends the library so that they can be prepared to borrow/return books.

**Monday:** JPA, JPB and JPC  **Thursday:** JPD  **Friday:** JPE

School Uniform

Just a reminder that we are a sun smart school and our policy requires students to wear hats for all outdoor activities throughout Term 1. Children are expected to wear a GWPS hat, either broad brim or bucket style.

Students are also required to wear correct school uniform. Please ensure that you talk to your child about taking responsibility for their belongings to minimise items becoming lost. Also ensure that all items are labelled, including lunch boxes and drink bottles.

Home Reading and Diary Use

Reading at home is expected to be completed for at least 5-15 minutes every day, using their ‘dot books’. Please record this each day in your child’s diary. Take home books are to be swapped each morning, therefore students must bring their **hardcover reader folder** (provided in class) and **satchel** (can be purchased from the office if previous satchel has been misplaced) for book storage. The satchels will also be helpful for storing other items throughout the year. **Diaries** need to be brought to school **everyday** as the students use them in class and teachers will check them for notes each day. If a diary is lost throughout the year, replacements are available for purchase at the office.

Homework

Soon your child will bring home their homework book. The GWPS Homework policy has been written in line with DET homework guidelines which recommend that homework should take the form of reading most nights, practicing spelling and/or magic words, finishing class work, gathering materials for projects, talking with parents about project work and other school work. At GWPS we do not use work sheets, preferring
to match our teaching and learning with hands on practice and tailored work requirements which allow children to articulate and show their understandings. The homework book is provided for children to practice their maths, reading and writing skills at home and is not required to come back to school. It is designed to be used at home as extra reinforcement of skills taught at school and to ensure that all children have a handy source of homework should they not currently have project work or ‘finishing off’ work to do.

**Parent Volunteers**

As you can imagine, classrooms are very busy places and an extra set of hands is always welcomed! If you would like to become a classroom helper this term, please approach your child’s homeroom teacher. Classroom helpers must have working with children checks. If you would like to help but do not have a working with children check, these are easy and free to apply for and come in handy in many situations. For those people who haven’t been classroom helpers, we will run a program to support you in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on the GWPS newsletter for details.

**A Few Snapshots Of Our Learning**

We have been very lucky to be able to purchase some new i-pad minis this year! We have been using them to help us get to know each other by making some videos and also using them to help us establish our routines. Take a look below at some great pictures of our learning.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK – FROM THE J POD TEAM 😊