

Respect  
Ambition  
Community  
Confidence



Feb 2024

5/6W Term 1 Newsletter

### Dates Term 1

**13th Feb** – Kaboom Sports  
**16th February** – National Young Leaders Day (Year 6 Only)  
**20th February** – ‘Meat n Greet’  
3:30 – 5:00pm  
**23rd February** - Eltham District Swim Sports - WaterMarc  
**1st March** - Assembly  
**11th March** - Labour Day  
**13th – 18th March** – NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5)  
**15th Mar** - Assembly  
**12th, 19th & 26th March** – Health & Human Relations (Yr 5 & 6)  
**21st March** - Parent Teacher Student Interviews  
**28th Mar – Last Day of Term 1**  
Assembly  
**School finishes at 2:30pm**  
**29th March** – Good Friday

### Term 2

**15th April** – Term 2 Begins

Dear Parents,

*Welcome to Grade 5/6W at Research Primary School, 2024. My name is Jocelyn Watts. I have been at Research for a few years now and believe this school and its community are wonderful. I have a love of the outdoors and travel.*

*5/6W has had a wonderful, seamless start to the year, as students rekindled old friendships and made new ones. This year will be exciting, challenging and rewarding through our combined efforts and hard work.*

*This newsletter provides an overview of the programs and class procedures for 5/6W in 2024. The aim for the year ahead is to offer learning experiences that enable the students to develop independence, resilience, responsibility for their own learning, which promotes leadership skills. We have established a shared vision and ways of learning for the year.*

*The following staff will be working closely with your child, facilitating many new, stimulating, and challenging experiences throughout the year at Research Primary School.*

**5/6 W** Ms Jocelyn Watts

**Specialists** Mr O'Halloran (PE)  
Mrs Maryanne Skeen (Science & Technology & Library)  
Ms Krista Kepitis (Art & Japanese)

**NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5)** will be administered between 9 & 11am on these dates – Wed 13th, Thurs 14th, Fri 15th & Mon 18th March 2024. To support your child during NAPLAN, please ensure they are rested and on time to school.

**ENGLISH** The English program focuses on the development and extension of Reading, Writing as well as Speaking and Listening skills and involves the students working both independently and in groups to build upon their individual skills.

### Reading

This year we will continue Independent Reading by providing students with dedicated time to practice reading strategies learnt in class. Students will use a range of student selected and teacher selected texts during this time. In preparation for Independent Reading, students will focus on how to pick a ‘Good Fit’ book and build their reading stamina.

The reading strategies we are focusing on this term are: Making Connections, Predicting, Summarising, Inferring and an Author Study. All students will have access to Reading Eggspress.

### Writing

In Grade 5/6W, the students will be involved in daily writing sessions. Through engaging in conversations and discussions, the students are prompted to expand and enhance their vocabulary skills. Engaging and interactive activities assist in fostering grammar and structure skills. Inspiring prompts and story creation lessons help spark the student’s creativity and imagination.

This term we are focusing on narrative and persuasive writing.

### Mathematics

Students will participate in daily mathematics sessions and will explore the new learning through differentiated activities appropriate to their level of ability for each topic. The areas we will cover this term are: Place Value, Patterns, Space (shape) and Measurement (angles). Students will also be provided with opportunities to apply their mathematical knowledge to a variety of situations. Please continue to practice timetables at home.

All students will also have access both at school and at home to Mathletics on-line to support our Numeracy program.

## Integrated Studies

Our Integrated Studies unit this term is "There's Nothing Better Than a Good Friend – Acceptance and Friendship." The students will explore the expression of emotions and how this can impact the relationships with others. They will also consider the characteristics of respectful relationships in managing both self-awareness and social awareness.

Later in the term, Year 5 and 6 students will also participate in Health & Human Relations sessions provided by Sex Education Australia (SEA). The programs offer students an opportunity to gain age-appropriate information about body safety, anatomy, reproduction and puberty. SEA are inclusive and respectful of the diverse values and beliefs held by families.

## Home Learning

Home Learning is a part of the classroom program and allows students to develop positive work habits and to manage their time effectively. Home Learning will be handed out on **Friday** and due back on the following **Wednesday**. The aim of home learning is for students to take Personal Responsibility for their learning at home. Parents are asked to encourage their child to establish a Home Learning routine.

Term 1 Home Learning will commence in week 4.

## Spotlight Project

To continue building a community of learners in our classrooms, this term, the Years 3 – 6 students will be working on a 'Spotlight' project. The students will be putting the spotlight on themselves and exploring a passion. 'Do more of what makes you awesome!' This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their creativity, imagination, and knowledge about a topic they are passionate about and are currently doing or would like to do in the future.

This project will guide our students in understanding themselves as learners and identifying areas where they may benefit from guidance. The project will culminate in an Expo showcasing their hard work. More details later.

## Specialists Classes

Your child will be participating in the following specialist classes this year:

**Art** - In Art this term Grade 5/6W will investigate portrait drawing and complete a whole school collaborative artwork. They will also design and create a mosaic on mesh, with the finished pieces to be installed in the school.

**Physical Education** – In Years 5 and 6 our focus will be on the fundamentals and rules of field hockey, tennis, and cricket. We will welcome two coaches from Research Tennis Club who will be leading three tennis sessions. Throughout the year in PE we'll emphasise the importance of teamwork, fun and fair play.

**Library** – During library sessions, Year 5/6 students will be evaluating the theme or plot of the stories we read and providing reasons for their personal preferences of literature. As students have commenced borrowing, this is a friendly reminder that library books are on loan for 2 weeks.

**Science and Technology** – In Science this term, students will be building their knowledge about human body systems in our Superhuman Challenge – "Could superheroes really exist?". This project involves creating a human being with an astonishing power by including an adaptation that turns the ordinary into extraordinary.

## Home – School Communication With Classroom Teachers

I am more than happy to discuss the learning progress of your child with you throughout the year, or any other issues or concerns. I can be emailed through Compass online. Please try to avoid catching me after 8.50am in the morning as I am busy preparing for the day. Also, I am unavailable after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to staff training.

## With the School or Office

The following are the school's contact details:

1570 Main Road Research 3095

Tel: 9437 1917

[research.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:research.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

## Wellbeing

The purpose of wellbeing sessions is to address and discuss any issues that may arise in class or in the yard. Through creating an environment of open communication, we aim to improve the wellbeing and mental health of our students with a focus on emotions, thoughts, and self-esteem. In these sessions, students will explore strategies that will help them in challenging situations and continue developing resilience. For example: exploring Cybersafety, self-regulation, conflict resolution, gratitude, and mindfulness.



*Thank you for taking the time to read the 5/6W's Term 1 Newsletter. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, or email the school directly. I look forward to working successfully with you and your child this year.*

Kind Regards  
Jocelyn Watts

*"It always seems impossible until it's done." Nelson Mandela*