



February, 2018

## Dear Junior School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year for 2018, and a special welcome to our new students who have joined us at Greythorn in Year 1 and 2. Welcome also to two staff members new to our Junior School team – Mrs Karen Woods (Yr 1) and Miss Gabby Ginevra (Yr 2).

We have spent the first few weeks getting to know each other and the students are becoming familiar with our school routines. Our first term Humanities units are 'Learning to Learn' which has been focusing on reviewing our school values and the most productive behaviours needed to be a successful learner and 'Where Do I Fit In?' which focuses on developing an understanding of their place in their family and how the daily lives of families have changed over time. Our chemical science units will be different in Term 1: Year 1 - 'Bend It! Stretch it!' and Yr 2 - 'All Mixed Up!' These units allow students to develop their science skills of investigation, producing, observation, gathering evidence and evaluating.

### **Please read carefully the following important information:**

#### **MORNING ROUTINE**

The school bell rings at 8:50am each morning. When this bell rings, students are to move straight into their buildings with their bags and get organised in preparation for the start of the day. Please do not enter the corridors prior to 8:50am.

If your child arrives after 9.00am or is being collected early from school, please go to the office to sign your child in/out and collect an arrival/departure card that is to be handed to the teacher supervising your child's class at the time of arrival/departure. If your child is absent from school, please log into Compass and record this for your classroom teacher. If you are having issues with Compass, please contact the office for assistance.

#### **HATS**

Sunsmart hats are compulsory until the end of April including before and after school, recess and lunchtimes, excursions and PE sessions. Please make sure your child comes to school with their named hat each day.

#### **TISSUES**

Please provide a box of tissues for your child to use in the classroom. Thank you if you have already sent one to school.

#### **BLUE SATCHELS**

The blue satchels are to come to school each day as they are used by Junior School students to carry a reader cover, readers and notices between home and school.

#### **READERS**

Take home readers will commence in Week 3 (12<sup>th</sup> February). Take home readers should be able to be read independently by your child. Junior School students are expected to read 15 – 20 minutes aloud to an adult, at least five times a week. Students have been practising how to fill out their yellow reading journals in class, so please encourage your child to complete their daily entries independently and sign them each week for your child. Readers and journals should come to school **every Monday and Friday** for changing and signing.

### **MAGIC 100 WORDS**

Where relevant, students will continue their 'Magic 100 Words' from Foundation and move towards 'More Magic Words'. We will continue to assess your child and review their previous words to accurately determine which sets they will use. Some students may review earlier sets than their current level to ensure they have retained the sight words.

### **LIBRARY**

This year the Junior School will be having Library lessons with Mrs Kenos in Terms 2 and 4. However, in Terms 1 and 3, all students will be able to borrow for home with their class teachers on the following days: Yr 1 on Tuesday and Yr 2 on Friday.

### **FRUIT SNACK**

We encourage students to eat a fresh fruit or vegetable snack after lunch. These snacks should be small or cut up so they are finger food size and can be eaten in 5 minutes.

### **HOMEWORK**

Students will receive homework tasks on a Monday each week and will be sent home in their blue satchels. The tasks sent home will align with the student learning being undertaken in class and spelling words/activities. Homework will begin in the coming weeks.

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT**

Junior school students will participate in sport on Friday morning beginning in week 3. If your child owns a GPS house colour t-shirt they will be allowed to wear this to school on Friday. GPS house colour t-shirts can be purchased from the office.

### **ALLERGIES and ANAPHYLAXIS**

Please note that we have students in the Junior School with Anaphylaxis and food allergies. Please refer to 'Medical Matters' on the GPS website [here](#) or the Parent Handbook for more information

### **COMMUNICATION**

Please contact your class teacher directly if you have any concerns and check Compass regularly as this is the main communication platform between school and home.

We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

### **Junior School Team**

*Year 1 Teachers:*

*Mrs Lorraine Howell (Class 129), Mrs Woods (Class 128) and Ms Caitlin Shippies (Class 123)*

*Year 2 Teachers:*

*Miss Gabby Ginevra (Class 222), Miss Aliasha Power (Class 220) and Ms Elidia Rymer (Class 221)*