



GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: Mr Howard Gibson

NEWSLETTER 3 June 2020

Dates for your Diary

JUNE	Thu	4	Music
	Thu	4	Italian
	Mon	8	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	Tue	9	Grade 3/4/5/6 return
	Tue	9	BBQ lunch provided
	Wed	10	School Council 6:30pm
	Thu	11	Music
	Thu	11	Italian
	Wed	17	Library
	Thu	18	Music
	Thu	18	Italian
	Mon	22	Art
	Fri	26	End Term 2 2:30pm dismissal
JULY	Mon	13	Term 3 commences

Dear Parents,

Things must be returning to normal – the old format of the newsletter has returned!

What a pleasure it was for us last Tuesday to welcome back our F/1/2 students. The smiles said it all. Now we are counting down the days for the return of our Grade 3/4/5/6 students. To you the parents, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to each and every one of you. We appreciated that there were many challenges involved, and like the students, some of you found it hard whilst others enjoyed the experience. None of us had ever had experience in this area, and then to couple with your new 'teaching' role, many of you were trying to combine this with your own work commitments at home. Well done and THANK YOU. Fingers crossed we don't have to return to remote learning.

As well as thanking you, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for the amazing job that they did in providing continuity for your child's learning. It certainly wasn't easy. For example, in normal classroom situations we can easily alter the work being given to a student to make it more challenging or easier. Unfortunately this wasn't as easy with remote

learning. But without fail, each week the teaching staff would have the packs ready or work posted onto Google classrooms. Like many of you, they too were working from home and trying to juggle their Greta Valley responsibilities as well as looking after their own kids. So to my staff – THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

As a society we need to continue with many of these new practices to ensure we don't have to return to the restrictions that were placed on us – including a return to Remote Learning. Whilst social distancing doesn't apply to schools at the moment, we are still educating and reminding our students of this and also good hygiene practices. We have hand sanitiser at all entry points for them to use. Our cleaner has been employed for extra cleaning and the playground area and equipment is being sprayed daily. The Education Department is also recommending that parents do not come on site, but also not to congregate in groups in the carpark. Please use your common sense at this time.

Can you please note the following:

BBQ

To mark the return of all our students we will be cooking a BBQ lunch (sausage in bread) for them on Tuesday. There will be no cost to this. Unfortunately Department restrictions around parents being on site means that we can't invite you to join us. Hopefully next time!

After School Care

Our After School Care program is up and running again. Please contact Linda (0490 838 616) or myself if you need this service.

Hot Lunches

Our pie warmer is on each day during Terms 2 and 3 for the reheating of student's lunches. Please ensure the lunch is wrapped in foil and clearly has their name written on it.

Reading Levels

Earlier this year I advised you of the gradual transition of our levelled take home reading program. Currently our students progress through a numeric system of 1 to 30. Under the new system all our books will be leveled with a letter A through to Z. The reason for this transition is that the new system will better support our older children with their take home readers as well as developing their comprehension skills.

With the return of our F/1/2 students last week we have gone through each child to ensure they are now on the correct letter level. Please note that there is **not** a simple correlation to the number to letter, i.e. A=1, B=2, C=3. Some of our kids have found this change confusing, but will quickly get the hang of it.

There are many aspects to reading – decoding the text and comprehension of the text are two key aspects that children need to be able to do before they can progress through the levels. Please have a reread of the information

sheet I sent home last term on how you can help your child with their reading (see below).

Have a lovely long weekend – and don't forget to cross off the days on the calendar leading to next Tuesday.

Thank you

Howard Gibson
Principal

Home Reading Tips and Information for Parents

Should the books be easy or difficult?

The books that children bring home to read, should be at a slightly lower level than what they are reading in the classroom. It is meant to be an enjoyable experience for both parents and their children. Not stressful!

If your child is getting stuck on every second word, then the book is too hard for them. This can get frustrating for both you and your child which is not setting them up for a positive experience. I would suggest having a chat to their teacher if this is happening.

Make it Routine

Find a quiet, comfortable spot that is the go-to reading spot with your child. If you have other children, this can be tricky, I know! It's about finding the right time for you and your child. Whether it be just before they go to bed, or first thing in the morning. Do what works for you!

Ease In To The Book

Get your child thinking about what the book might be about by asking some questions before you start reading. Here are some examples of what you could ask:

- What do you think this book is about? Why?
- Do you think this is a story or a fact book? Why?
- Can you read the title? Does this give you some more clues?
- What can you notice about the picture on the front of the book?

Don't Tell Them, Guide Them

If you tell your child every word they get stuck on, they won't learn to use the reading strategies they are learning at school and will expect you to tell them every time. This isn't going to help them to develop and grow as readers.

Here are some basic reading strategies your child may have been taught in the classroom:

- Can they use the picture to help?
- Stretch out the word – so for the word shouted – 'sh-ou-ted'.

- Can they see for chunks in the word, or smaller words in a larger word – so for shouted – they could see ‘shout’, or ‘out’.
- Can they sound out the word?
- Get them to read to the end of the sentence for further clues. What would make sense?
- Get them to work out the first sound of the word and get their mouth ready for the word.

Make it Enjoyable!

Reading is meant to be a fun enjoyable time with your child.

If you are getting frustrated with them, this will rub off on them. If they are finding it hard or they are too tired – read a page each. Get them to follow along with you and make silly mistakes! Your children will love correcting you. Put on some silly glasses (the ones with big noses) and read the book together!

Comprehension is Important

When they have finished reading the book. Ask a few questions to check for comprehension.

Your child’s comprehension is a vital component of them learning to read. A lot of the time parents listen to the home reader and then mark it off as complete. Getting into the habit of asking some questions at the end will help your child with their comprehension skills.

They don’t have to be difficult questions, here are a few that you may like to ask:

- What was your favourite part of the book and why?
- How did you feel when you read that story?
- What did you learn from this story?
- What was the problem in the story?
- Which character did you like and why?