Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to welcome you and your child to Year 6 for 2016. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to work with your child this year.

Currently we have 21 students in Year 6 but it is important to remember that we are part of Stage 3 that also embraces Year 5 students and at times we will be working together and this is particularly so for Maths, History and Science lessons.

Mr Cross, the Year 5 teacher, and myself have wound up our assessments to determine the placement of children in graded learning sessions for Maths, which will begin this week. Mr Cross will teach the Year 6 content and I will teach the Year 5 content. At this stage, the children will be staying in the Year 6 classroom for English activities.

As Year 6 students are involved in many activities it is important that you read the Grapevine each week to keep abreast of these. Homework will be sent home each week – usually Monday. Homework completion is encouraged and expected and is most beneficial to your child if you help out by reading the sheet with him/her and ensuring that it is understood. This way, you are also informed as to the types of things that we are doing in class and how your child is coping with the work.

Activities that relate specifically to Year 6 are as follows:

My teacher release time for this term has been broken into two sessions: Tuesday from 12.00 – 1.00pm and Wednesday mornings 9.00 – 10am. I am available to discuss your child’s progress during these times. Please phone the school to make an appointment.

Library borrowing time is Wednesday morning from 9.00 – 10.00am but students are able to borrow and return books during lunch time on Tuesday and Wednesday when the library is open.

Scripture will be held on Friday mornings. If you do not wish your child to be involved in Scripture you must supply a note exempting your child from these sessions. Your child will be given appropriate class work to complete in a supervised environment if not attending Scripture. Scripture will begin in Week 3.

Year 6 students run the whole school assembly each Friday between 12.15 – 1.00pm. You are cordially invited to attend these assemblies where we celebrate the children’s effort and successes.

Sport is Friday afternoon.
School hats are compulsory. Please encourage your child to wear his/her hat even on cloudy days. As the leaders of the school they are expected to be 5C role models.

Your child is expected to have a book of interest that he/she will read during CHAIR time each day. By the end of the year, Year 6 students are expected to be able to sit and read for 30 minutes without distraction. If your child is a reluctant reader you can support him/her by helping to choose appropriate books, talking to him/her about the book she/he is reading and even reading the book together.

Your child is expected to have the following **equipment** in preparation for lessons each day:

1. A red, black and blue pen.
2. A lead pencil, sharpener, rubber and ruler.
3. Coloured pencils and textas (PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR CHILD TO A PACK OF 20 TEXTAS ONLY).
4. A book or folder for Homework activities.
5. A box or two of tissues
6. Two or three glue sticks that will be collected for general classroom use.
7. A pair of scissors (if possible).

Our major unit of work this term is Crescent Head – History and Landscape. This unit involves compulsory activities that will be undertaken at school as well as a selection of topics that students will complete at home as part of their homework.

Our PD/Health unit of work is Healthy Living & Road Safety which will be put into practise at our school camp at Delicate Nobby in March. Information about this camp will be provided later in the term.

Melville High School will be providing many opportunities to make the transition to high school a positive experience. These events will be advertised in the Grapevine.

Our major excursion this year is to Canberra during Term 3.

I look forward to meeting you at our Parent Information night which will be held on Wednesday 10th February. I urge your attendance at this meeting as we will be giving information about the Delicate Nobby camp, Canberra excursion and routines and suggestions to make Year 6 a rewarding year for your child. Please refer to the Grapevine for further information concerning this meeting.

Kind regards

Di Marks

Year 6 Teacher