

NEWS

NAME:.....

Gormandale & District Primary School

December 19th 2017

Web site: www.gormandale.vic.edu.au

This is the final note to be sent home for 2017, there were several things that were not in the newsletter last week that were important for you to know:

Remainder of Term 4

The school will be operating until Friday at 1pm. We appreciate that your child may be tired after the concert tonight, so it would be understandable if they had a sleep in.

Thursday all staff will be attending the excursion to Healesville – if your child is not attending, you will need to make other arrangements for them.

On Friday we will be finalising all cleaning ready for the school holidays (and the start of the new year). We will be finishing at **1pm on Friday**, with the school bus leaving at this time.

First Day of 2018

The teachers will return to school (officially) on the 29th of January. If you are wishing to buy new uniforms, this would be the perfect day to drop in to purchase these.

Students return on Tuesday the 30th of January. This is an important day for all students to attend as this is when classroom rules are created (by the students in each class) and routines are set.

Wednesday off for Preps

As beginning school can be a huge adjustment for Grade Preps, Wednesdays for February will be a rest day. On the Wednesday Lexie will be undertaking testing for the Department on all students in Grade Prep, 1 and 2. Lexie will contact our Prep parents in the first week to let you know which day to attend.



Homework

There will be a change to the expectations for homework next year; the homework policy has not changed (and will not be changing), however the compulsory nature of homework will be dropped. The latest research outlines that homework for primary school students can have a negative impact on their learning (if parents are having to scream at their child to complete their homework it cannot be a positive experience).

This doesn't mean we will stop focussing on reading, spelling or maths – instead these will be focussed on in more detail in the classroom. Homework will still be an option for those that would like it, just not compulsory.

School Material Charges

At the last School Council meeting the school material charges for 2018 were set at \$131.50. This will cover all materials needed in the classroom, woodwork and cooking supplies.

I know there is always some contention about paying money towards school for teaching – for the first time the Education Department has outlined what the 'free education' covers ... free education covers the building and the teachers.

If parents don't pay school fees, this means the school has to cover these costs by cutting back on other programs (usually maths or reading supplies). Our schools runs on an incredibly tight budget, this allows us to have up to date books, computers and iPads.

As an incentive, School Council has reduced payments by 5% if paid by the end of term 1.

Swimming

This year the school charged each student \$100 to be a part of the swimming program; the actual cost to the school was \$130. The extra money was covered by the school.

In 2018 I am investigating running this as part of our Sporting Schools program (during the school day) in Term 4. I am aware of other schools that have ran it this way – this will mean that the majority of the program costs will be covered by Sporting Schools. Unfortunately I will not know if this is possible until I put the application in at the end of Term 3.

Pencil Cases

Traditionally when students reach Grade 2 students have brought their own pencil cases to school and each student has been allocated their own pencils and textas. There have been several issues with this over the years (students losing their supplies, students stealing other student's supplies, students unwilling to share), we have decided to act on this for 2018. In all classrooms in 2018 there will be no pencil cases, instead there will be communal supplies available for all students. This is usually how it ends up by the middle of the year anyway. Therefore students are **not to bring their own pencil cases** or their own stationary supplies. Any non-school supplies will be sent home.

We are already planning and looking forward to a great 2018. Have a great Christmas and break from the pressures of getting to school on time.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

