Dear Families,

Welcome to another busy and exciting term.

In this letter we will briefly explain some of the engaging programs that will be happening this term as well as inform you of a few changes and housekeeping matters to support you and your child’s return to school for a new term.

**English**
This term we will be covering skills appropriate to this age level, as determined by the content descriptors from the Australian Curriculum.

*Reading Workshop*
Through readers workshop students will develop an understanding of how to maintain their reading stamina, using post it notes to write down their thoughts and feelings while reading and using the dictionary to look up unknown words to find out their meaning. They will continue to develop their fluency when reading through the use of whisper phones and continue to develop their understanding of reading strategies required for competent independent reading. Students will have the opportunity to experience various text types and styles through reading workshops.

*Writing* - This term, students will be writing an explanation text and it will be linked specifically to our history unit on Gold Panning. Students will be learning what the language and structural features are of an explanation text and self-assessing their own work.

*Literacy* – Students will continue to encompass grammar, spelling and handwriting in their literacy activities.

**Mathematics**
This term in mathematics we will have a revised focus on strategies for solving multiplication and division problems. A key focus area for number is ordering decimals on a number line. In measurement we will be looking at volume and mass and in geometry we will focus on measuring angles. Our data focus will link to fitness rotations in PE and students will be given the opportunity to list outcomes of chance experiments.

**Social Skills and Health**
Students will be continuing their study of healthy eating and analysing product labels to discover what is in the food we eat. As part of the Mind Up program students will focus on building positive relationships in the classroom. We will be using mindfulness activities to empower students to be able to deal with difficult situations that may arise in a positive manner.

**Physical Education**
Classroom teachers will be working collaboratively with our specialist PE teacher to further develop fundamental motor skills. Fitness rotations will be incorporated twice a week and students will be analysing their progress from week 1 to week 8.
Science
This term we will have a science focus on States of Matter. Students will observe how solids, liquids and gases have observable properties and that they behave in different ways.

History
Our history lessons will be built around the idea of how significant events such as the Gold Rush and Eureka Stockade impacted on the Australian colony.

Visual Arts and Performing Arts
Ms Christine Trull will be focusing on creating sock and finger puppets. In class, we will be supporting the learning of the arts with a visual arts focus.

Housekeeping
A reminder that the year 5 camp will be in Week 3 this term, from October 26 to October 28. We would also like to welcome Natasha Kapantais to the year 5 unit as our pre-service teacher. She will be with us for the first two Tuesdays of the term and then for a block from Weeks 7-10. Please remind students to bring their sun smart hats to school and bring a water bottle as the weather warms up.

Visual and Performing Arts, PE and Spanish
Our specialist visual and performing arts, PE and Spanish lessons will continue to be on Thursdays in the morning sessions.

Library
The year five library sessions continues to be on Wednesdays. At this time students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library.

Fruit break
Each day, students will have fruit break during the morning session. This is an opportunity for the students to give their brains a boost to help them concentrate through until Break 1. Students will need to bring fresh fruit or vegetables, ideally cut up, which is easy for them to manage and eat in approximately 10 minutes.

Finally, if you would like to meet with us to further discuss your child’s learning, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment. We can be contacted via the front office or email:

  donna.lin@ed.act.edu.au       kirstin.brown@ed.act.edu.au

Kind Regards

Donna Lin and Kirstin Brown
Year 5 Teachers