Inquiry topic: HSG (History, Science or Geography) This term students are investigating 'We are Australia', year 5 focusing on 'Gold' and year 6 on 'Federation'.

As all of our students have their own netbooks, some activities/research will be set as homework. All students need to bring netbooks to school each day, fully charged, so they can be used for any incidental IT activities in English, Maths or HSG.

Students need to have their chargers well named as we often have problems with them being mixed up, borrowed or 'lost'.

Level 6 staff: Robin Nicolson, & Zaim Zeneli (year 6)
Kate Pilgrim & Gillian Brown (year 5)

Phillip Island camp dates: Monday, May 25 to Friday, May 29

Homework:
year 5: Various tasks, depending on what we’re doing in Maths/English/HSG; sent on a Monday, due back on the Friday
year 6: same format as yr 5, but at yr 6 level

Communication: parents can email class teachers or send in a written note, but for urgent messages, please ring the office as staff don’t always have time to check emails whilst teaching. Absences can be entered straight onto the school website.

Family Conferences: 23 & 24 Feb for year 6; 23 & 25 Feb for year 5

Gala days: Netball on March 6 (at Duncan McKinnon Park). We need parents to assist with the teams. Let us know if you can come along, as parents are really important for sports days. Students need to wear their sports tops and have a hat & drink bottle for all sports days.

Swimming Sports: (Friday 13 Feb at Prahran Pool) We really do rely on parent helpers — if you can help out, please let us know ASAP.

Visual Arts: Yr 5 & 6 lessons—Wednesdays by Lucy Gorman
Performing Arts: Yr 5 & 6 lessons—Tuesdays by Lisa Vollugi
Italian: Yr 5 & 6 lessons—Tuesdays by Vita Vampatella
Phys Ed: Yr 5 & 6 lessons—Wednesdays by Peter Cracknell

Curriculum Planning is done together, so that both year 5 or year 6 classes follow the same curriculum and use the same resources. Although our classrooms are separate this year we try to have students working across classes, to share resources and teachers etc.

Maths: during term 1, both year levels are concentrating on place value, from hundredths to millions (yr 6) & from tenths to ten thousands (yr 5), including estimation, factors & multiples, mental & written strategies for problem solving, fractions and decimals & timetables. Students have their Mathletics log-ins & should be using it as a homework task, even if not set.

English: yr 5 focus in Writing is on persuasive text and narratives, in preparation for Naplan in May. Year 6 focus will be information reports. Both year levels will be emphasising the use of appropriate vocabulary and complex sentences—to explain or elaborate on ideas, adding detail or justifying opinions. We are also focusing on effective editing strategies and Spelling. Students have their Reading Eggspress log-ins & should be using it as a homework task, even if not set.

Assessment: during term 1, all students across yrs 5 & 6 will be completing assessment tasks (especially in English and Maths), in order for staff to moderate their work, in preparation for group allocation in reading/writing/maths and also for student goal setting. Students will be creating their own electronic Student Portfolios on their netbooks, showcasing their learning goals & achievements, Parents will be able to check these during the year, as students add information & work samples to them.

Mobile Phones
No student should be using a phone whilst at school, unless given specific permission by a staff member. SMS messages can be checked at 3.30pm, not during the day.