Dear Parents,

Blogs in Year 1

Our main focus for home/school communication will be our class blog. This is a place where you can become a part of our day in the classroom. The children will share their work with you through text and photos.

About blogs
If you are unfamiliar with blogs, they are like online journals. Essentially, blogs are websites where administrators (or teachers and students) can add posts which are displayed in reverse chronological order. We will use our blog to add information about what is happening in the grade and for students to add work and photos.

Where to find the blogs
You can access the Year 1 blogs by clicking on the 'About Us' tab at the top of the New Gisborne Primary School Website [http://www.newgisps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.newgisps.vic.edu.au/). Scroll down to each grade’s class blog or simply type in the web address:

- Grade 1A: [http://noeleneward.global2.vic.edu.au/](http://noeleneward.global2.vic.edu.au/)
- Grade 1B: [http://jessicaferaro.global2.vic.edu.au/](http://jessicaferaro.global2.vic.edu.au/)

Why blog?
Blogs are great because you can share things with a wide audience. Instead of teachers just seeing the students’ work, parents can view the work and leave comments. Using blogs is also a great way for students to improve their ICT skills and get experience using an emerging technology. Students improve their literacy skills while blogging and it is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about appropriate online behaviours.

Commenting
Keeping our blog interesting and enjoyable are the comments that are left by parents and children. We encourage you to comment on our blog and encourage students to look at it regularly. In the coming weeks the children will be taught how to leave an appropriate comment on the blog. Here are a few examples:

- **Lachlan says:**
  September 20, 2011 at 11:14 pm (EDT)
  I liked School Pride Day because I was in the group I wanted to be in because I wanted to do weeding. It was fun because I got to work in two people.
  Reply

- **Ann mile says:**
  September 23, 2011 at 7:31 am (EDT)
  Dear Miss Humdchen,
  My favourite part of school pride day was raking the leaves and playing on the playground.
  Our courtyard looks really nice now.
  Love Ann.
  Reply

- **Emily from 1B says:**
  September 24, 2011 at 5:15 pm (EDT)
  Dear Miss Humdchen,
  My favourite part was the weeding because we found a snail. When we had finished we put it back in the garden.
  Our courtyard looks better than before.
  From Emily.
  Reply
Commenting is fun and easy! Here's how:

1. Find the post that you would like to comment on.
2. Click on the link 'No Comments' or eg '2 Comments' (which indicates 2 previous comments have been made) at the bottom of the post.
3. This will take you to a new screen similar to this:

4. Type your first name only in the 'Name' box as this will help protect our students' privacy.
5. Type your email address and the anti-spam word in the boxes following. You are now ready to write your comment.
6. Once your comment is complete press the 'Submit Comment' button
7. Your comment is now waiting for approval by the Year 1 teachers before appearing on the blog.
8. We are aiming for students in Year 1 to leave at least one comment per week. Please assist us by regularly visiting our blog and encouraging your child to comment on the questions in each post.

Subscribe to our Blog
On the right hand side of our blog under the revolving map you will find 'Subscribe to the Grade 1 blog'. By subscribing to our blog you will receive notifications when a new post has been added.

Safety
The following guidelines have been established to ensure our blog is kept secure:

- Students will only be identified by their first name.
- Students will not publish personal details about themselves.
- Student posts are checked by a teacher before they are saved onto the blog.
- All comments submitted will be approved by the teachers before they are included on the blog.
- The class will thoroughly discuss blogging rules.
- Photos of your child’s face will only be used if you have given permission.

If you would like any more information or help with blogging please come in and see us.

HAPPY BLOGGING!

Prue, Belinda, Kerry and Jess
Year 1 Teachers