Welcome to a new term. We hope this newsletter finds all families safe and dry after such disastrous weather. Let’s hope too that the days ahead are dry for a while with our important commemorative events on Saturday and Monday. We extend a special welcome to the Hill Family who have returned to Gresford with their lovely boys, Jack and Lucas as well as new addition Lexie. We look forward to having them in our school again.

We hope all children will attend the Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing this Saturday. Children are asked to assemble at Everett’s garage at 10.30am, in school uniform for the march to the cenotaph. We have commemorative ribbons, purchased by the P&C, for the children to wear as well as poppies made by the CWA members. It would be appreciated if children could attach a small safety pin in readiness to attach these, as well as a sprig of rosemary pinned to their uniforms. Children are also encouraged to wear medals of relatives who served if they have them, attached to the right hand side of their uniform. We would also like them to wear their ribbon, poppy and medals (if they have them), to our service on Monday. After the service at the cenotaph, families are invited to stay on and picnic in the park where there will be entertainment and displays. Our Ensemble will be performing and the school will have a display.

Parents and friends are also invited to attend the dedication service for our Remembrance Garden on Monday, 27th April at 10.30am. We have descendants of Captain White attending as well as other invited dignitaries. There will be a special presentation to students and display of students’ work over the last term. Parents are invited to share in a morning tea following the service.

We must thank our wonderful canteen committee for supporting the Easter Hat Parade run by Year 6 at the end of last term. Year 6 are raising money for their end of year gift to the school. Some wonderful Easter hat creations were paraded. Thanks also go to the Gresford P&C Cattle Committee for their generous donation of brand new fridges for each classroom so that children can keep their food and water cold. These will be especially appreciated in the warmer weather. The rule for using the fridges is that food and water must be in containers labelled with the child’s name. We thank Jo Locke who has kindly volunteered to maintain the fridges regularly. Our dedicated P&C has worked hard to beautify our school grounds and in particular the Remembrance Garden. The addition of new garden seats has enhanced an already attractive area. These parents also conducted fund raising at the Billy Cart Derby to support the educational programs for all students. Well done and thank you to all involved.

The school has taken delivery of the latest technology in computer screen projection with the purchase of 2 Comm Boxes which use LED touch screen technology to project great quality images. These will be used as an addition to the Smartboards we have in use in classrooms. One is a mobile unit which can be used in all classrooms.

Some important dates for your diaries for this term include:

- Sports visits for Year 5/6 on 1/5, 15/5, 29/5, 12/6 and 26/6. This is a Dungog Community of Schools transition initiative. More information will be supplied closer to the dates.
- Science Excursion to the quarry at Torryburn on 4/5. This is for all classes and is to support the science unit we are studying on palaeontology.
• NAPLAN testing on 12/5, 13/5 and 14/5. Children in Years 3 and 5 are preparing for these tests.
• Other dates???

Professional learning for teachers has been in the areas of Gifted and Talented education, CPR ??? and student Well Being programs.

Kind regards,

Pauline

There are countless places, as holy as great cathedrals, far from their homeland, where lie Australia’s heroes. The gates of memory are never locked; they swing open to ever-recurrent thoughts of loved ones and heroic deeds. Every peep through them is an inspiration.

Captain Thomas Alexander White

Lest We Forget