



Transition & Year 1 Room 7

Term 1 Parent Newsletter

Welcome to Term 1, 2023!

The **Transition** students have settled quickly and enjoyed catching up with each other, making new friends and doing a range of activities the past week. I will be setting clear routines and behaviour expectations within our classroom so that all children can be safe, active learners who learn to be responsible and take initiative. I believe successful partnerships with parents helps to achieve successful outcomes. **Year 1** students have done an excellent job sliding back into the new school year, and helping the Transition children with routine and class expectations. I look forward to building a relationship with everyone and working together throughout the year. Attached to this letter is a curriculum overview for Transition and Year 1 for this term, as well as the school calendar for Term 1.

Classroom Routines

We have Fruit Break at approximately 9:30am every morning. Please provide your child with three separate clearly labelled containers for their Fruit Break, Recess and Lunch. This is important to alleviate any confusion between students as their lunch boxes are kept in the canteen cool room, until lunchtime. There are labelled tubs outside the classroom for students to unpack their bags into, each morning. We encourage students to take responsibility to unpack their own belongings in the mornings.

Specialist Days

Library borrowing: Monday

Performing Arts: Thursday with Mrs Feldtman

AUSLAN: Thursday with Mrs Taylor

Physical Education/Health: Thursday with Mrs Muller and Mr Lyons

Digital Technology: Tuesday with Mrs Feldtman



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Class Assembly

Assembly starts promptly at 8.30am in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All families are encouraged to attend. Room 7 will not be leading an assembly this term.

Homework

A Family Homework grid will be sent home at the start of this Term. The homework grid encourages students to engage in a variety of activities with their family and have fun playing, exploring and getting recharged for the next day. Home readers will not be sent home this term as children continue to develop their phonic knowledge. I encourage you to read with your child every night and make reading fun with your child. The books read can be selected by you and your child together based on interest and enjoyment.

Uniforms

Children will need to wear their sports uniform every **Thursday**. All students are required to wear a labelled school hat following our Sun Smart policy.

Reminders

- Children will need to bring a library bag every Monday to borrow from the library.
- Children must bring a hat to school everyday.

Newsletter and Term 1 School Events

We have many exciting events planned for the term. Please take the time to review our *Term 1 Parent Calendar*, which is attached to this letter. All event details are updated on the SchoolStream App. Please refer to the EVENTS tab for full event details and to add events directly to your own calendar. The link to our *school newsletter* is also sent out every Thursday afternoon via the SchoolStream App. Please ensure you read our weekly newsletter to stay up to date with the latest happening in our school.

Contact

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email (listed below) or phone, leaving a message with the Front Office (8981 9796). I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Year Transition/Year 1 teacher,

Laura Shortis

laura.shortis@nt.catholic.edu.au



Transition and Year 1 Term 1 Curriculum Overview

English: This term the **Transition** students will be focussing on concepts of print and alphabet and phonic knowledge. They will respond to a range of picture books and demonstrate beginning reading and writing concepts. They will engage with the Read Write inc program daily, focussing initially on exploring sounds. **Year 1** students will be focusing on a range of genres. Students will explore various aspects that add meaning to written structures. Such as;

- sentence structure
- parts of speech
- punctuation and grammar
- handwriting: using the correct pencil grip, learning how each letter is constructed including where to start and the direction to follow and writing words legibly using unjoined print script of consistent size. Students will learn and understand that communication and language is formed in various ways other than verbal communication.

Mathematics: This term, **Transition** students will be comparing and matching the size of collections to at least 20 for a purpose in Number and Algebra. They will be exploring length and shape in Measurement and Geometry. **Year 1** students will be problem solving various areas of the math curriculum including; place value, partitioning, addition and subtraction, number lines, length and 2D and 3D objects. They will extend their counting skills to skip count by twos, fives and tens starting from zero, then any given number.

Religious Education: This term **Transition** students will be focusing on describing some ways in which God fills the world with love. The students will be able to identify a variety of ways in which God's love can be experienced through caring relationships. **Year 1 students** will be exploring the unit 'Where is God?' Students will explore where they find God in our school and home environments.

Integrated: This term **Transition** and **Year 1** students will be focusing on the theme of 'Belonging' looking at exploring their own story and place in the world. The unit is titled "My Story" and incorporates English, History, Geography and Science lessons and outcomes. Students will be investigating the places they live in and belong to, what places are special to them and why.



Digital Technologies: In Digital Technologies this term, Transition and Year 1 students will be introduced to digital technologies concepts through playful, unplugged activities. They will engage in the text "Hello Ruby: Adventures in coding" through a story about a little girl who goes on an adventure and encounters many computer science concepts along the way, and then by playing a game to navigate a robotic dog. The goal is for students to combine their creativity with content, to make their learning memorable and personally meaningful. Students will engage in design, hardware, and big computational thinking topics: sequencing, pattern recognition, decomposition, and algorithms. They will also meet Arms, Legs, Guts, Feet, Heart, and Head; digital citizenship characters to address foundational digital citizenship concepts, ensuring students are safe, respectful and ethical online citizens.

Physical Education: This semester, PE for Transition and Year 1, will be held on a Thursday. Students are required to wear their full sports uniform with correct footwear and make sure a wide-brimmed hat and drink bottle is available to use. We will continue to work in partnership with the University of Western Australia to implement the Fundamental Movement Program - KIDDO which is specifically designed to develop and enhance Fundamental Movement Skills. This term students will focus on the skills of balance, running for speed, and 2-foot jumping, through a variety of games and activities. In weeks 9 & 10, students will participate in a whole school swimming program. More information will be provided later in the term. Lastly, if your child is unable to participate in PE sessions for any reason please send a note or email to sarah.muller@nt.catholic.edu.au

AUSLAN: In Auslan this term Transition students will be learning to sign basic greetings and how to talk about themselves, their families and friends. They will be introduced to the Auslan alphabet and begin learning how to fingerspell each letter correctly. Students will participate in a range of games and activities and learn the importance of using facial expression and gesture in Auslan. Year1 students will learn how to describe important things in their lives that contribute to their identity, such as their favorite places. Students will develop their fingerspelling skills and use of non-manual features such as facial expression and gesture in order to communicate with others in the class through a range of activities.

The Arts: In Performing Arts this term we will be focusing on music. Transition and Year 1 students will be exploring the concept of steady beat through a range of unpitched instruments. Transition will focus on iconic representation of sounds and beats and identifying steady beats in short listening examples. Year 1 will explore standard notion of quarter notes and quarter rests as well as paired eighth notes.



Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum: This curriculum is an evidence based, best practice curriculum developed collaboratively with child protection experts, teachers, educational leaders and other professionals. It teaches young people to recognise abuse, tell a trusted adult, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and ways of keeping themselves safe.

The focus this term is on the *right to be safe* and is taught through the following topics.

1. Feelings
2. Being Safe
3. Warning signs

Making Jesus Real: Making Jesus Real (MJR) is centred around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all people around us. We are His representatives and our actions should reflect His values. At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, MJR is not seen as an 'extra thing' to 'do'. It is a values based philosophy, it becomes 'the way' we do all things. MJR filters through everything we do and say during the course of any given day. MJR aligns with the school Religious Education curriculum and Values Education/ Wellbeing/ Social Emotional Learning.

Our themes for this term include:

- What is Making Jesus Real?
- Spirit of Jesus
- G.T.S
- W.E.S.T
- Attitude of Gratitude
- Values and Attitudes

The Spirit of St Mary's: At St Mary's Catholic Primary we are focused on developing and educating the whole person within safe, supportive and respectful environments. Student learning and well-being is centred around quality evidence-based pastoral care and well-being practices that are modelled on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and ensure students gain essential social and emotional skills for life. One of the ways that we promote student well-being and positive behaviour is through the 'Spirit of St Mary's. The spirit of St Mary's encompasses our Making Jesus Real philosophy, the gospel values and the Four R's;

At St Mary's we are expected to be:

- **Responsible**
- **Respectful**
- **Resilient**
- **Ready to Learn**



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We adapt a Positive Behaviour For Learning whole school approach to teaching and managing behaviours. It is designed to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behaviour and establish a positive school culture. It teaches these behaviours by consistent and frequent acknowledgment of appropriate behaviour and constructively and specifically addressing negative behaviour.

We use digital Spirit Cup Tokens to celebrate and reinforce positive behaviours and the Spirit of St Mary's. Students will receive points through a school app when they show the Four R's or they 'Make Jesus Real'. Each term, the school works towards a Spirit Cup Fun day where students take part in various fun activities such as waterslides, free dress, movies and popcorn, robotics.