



Year 1/2 Room 5 & 6

Term 1 Parent Newsletter

Welcome to Term 1, 2023!

We welcome new families and returning families to the 2023 new school year. We are both very excited for the term ahead. All important dates and events will be communicated via the School Stream App. We believe it takes a village to raise a child and a successful partnership with parents helps us achieve successful outcomes for every student. We ask that you keep us informed where possible on things that may help your child here at school. We will be maintaining consistent behaviour expectations within our classrooms and will be expecting students to be Respectful, Responsible, Resilient and Ready to learn.

Mel Bolwell and Chloe Tiss

Snacks and Drink Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring a fruit or veggie snack to school and place it in the appropriate tub for 'Sip and Crunch' each morning. Please also have separate containers for morning tea and lunch, as they are stored in separate locations in the school. Students are also encouraged to bring a water bottle into class to keep hydrated throughout the day. Please ensure all recess, lunch and fruit break containers are clearly labelled with your child's name.

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

Class Assembly

Assembly starts promptly at 8.30am in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All families are encouraged to attend.

Room 6 Assembly - 3rd of March

Room 5 Assembly- 24th of March



Homework Reading: 'Read to me' is the approach to reading we are encouraging this term for homework as we implement Read Write Inc. Please read with child for at least 20 minutes every night. **Please ensure ALL library books are returned on Mondays. If they are not returned students will not be allowed to borrow new books for the week.**

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.

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

Your child's learning and well-being is our priority! We are always happy to meet if you have any questions or concerns. However, we ask that unless it is urgent, that all matters are discussed after school as the mornings can be busy preparing for the day ahead.

The most direct way to contact us is via email:

mel.bolwell@nt.catholic.edu.au

chloe.tiss@nt.catholic.edu.au

Year 1/2 teachers,

Mel Bolwell and Chloe Tiss



Year 1/2 Term 1 Curriculum Overview

English: This year St Mary's Catholic Primary School will be implementing a phonics scheme, Read Write Inc, in the early years' classrooms. This will provide our students with a structured and systematic approach to teaching literacy. We aim to offer parents an information evening about the scheme later in Term 1, however for those wishing to learn more, please follow the link below <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide>

Mathematics: This term Year 1 and 2 students will participate in activities involving place value, addition and subtraction, number lines, length, 2D shapes and 3D objects. We will continue to develop the students' mathematical understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning.

Religious Education: This term we will be completing the Journey in Faith unit, God Us and Faith. We will discover God's love through examples of Jesus. We will also look at Lent and Easter, which will be celebrated during the term.

Integrated Unit - Belonging: This integrated unit incorporates English, History, Geography and Science lessons. The children will explore groups we belong too, their environments and our local community.

Science - Earth and Space: Students will engage in the unit *Look Up and Around*, where they will investigate observable changes that occur in the sky and on the land.

Digital Technologies: In Digital Technologies this term, Year 1 and Year 2 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: Students 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-feet jumping, and other



locomotor skills 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

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 on Thursdays.

Auslan: In Auslan this term, students will be learning how to sign about themselves, their families and their classmates. They will learn how to describe important things in their lives that contribute to their identity, such as their favourite 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. Year 1 and 2 students will be reviewing the concept of a steady beat and identifying steady beats in short listening examples. Through a range of unpitched instruments students will explore quarter notes and quarter rests, paired eighth notes as well as half notes and half rests.

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.

This term students will be looking at focus areas of Feelings, Being Safe, Warning Signs and Risk-taking and Emergencies. We will explore strategies to identify feelings and a safe space, introduce warning signs and define an emergency. We will investigate clues about risks, define an emergency and define thoughts and feeling in an emergency.

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

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.