



## Term 1 Parent Newsletter

### Year 3/4 Room 13 & 14

Welcome to Term 1, 2023!

Welcome to the 2023 school year! We hope that you have **all had a wonderful holiday**.

We welcome all families and students joining our St Mary's School Community this year. It has been a great first week in Year 3/4 getting to know one another and settling into our class routine. We look forward to an exciting year of learning together.

In our classrooms, we believe open lines of communication between parents, students and teachers are essential in promoting an educational climate conducive to learning. Please feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

#### Classroom Routines

Students can snack on fruit or vegetables in the middle of our morning block, which they are able to store in the classroom fridge. All students are encouraged to have a water bottle in the classroom; this can only contain water. Students' recess and lunch need to be separated as they are stored in the canteen cool room in separate tubs. We also have a fantastic school canteen; you can access the menu on our SchoolStream App.

#### Specialist Days

Library borrowing: Room 13 - Thursday Room 14 - Thursday

Performing Arts: Thursday with Mrs. Feldman

AUSLAN: Friday with Mrs Taylor

Physical Education/Health: Wednesday with Mrs Sarah Muller and Mr Lyons

Digital Technology: Tuesday with Mrs. Feldtman

#### Class Assembly

Room 13 will lead **the school assembly in Week 3**, Friday, the 17th of February.

Room 14 will lead the school assembly in Week 6, Friday, the 10th of March.

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



### **Homework**

Homework will be given to the students on a Monday and due the following Thursday (a two week cycle). Homework will begin in Week 3. Students will receive a Homework Grid to select activities from. We are working towards students' accessing the homework grids through Google Classroom, to then complete in their homework exercise books. There will be printouts of the homework grid available for students if required. Spelling list will be sent out each Monday for students to practise their words. Home reading is a vital part of our homework program and the students are encouraged to read for approximately 20 minutes per day. Homework expectations have been clearly outlined to students. Although we encourage attempting all homework tasks to help reinforce what is being taught in the classroom, we understand the importance of quality family time. That being said, homework is an agreement between you and your child; students will not be penalised for not completing their set homework.

### **Uniforms**

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform including the correct footwear, socks and school hat. The only jewellery students are able to wear are plain studded earrings, a simple cross on a plain chain necklace and/or a watch. Nail polish is not permitted. Hair accessories must be school colours. Please support us in our endeavour to adhere to our uniform guidelines, which can be found in our Parent Handbook or school webpage.

### **Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD - Years 3 - 6)**

Students in Years 3 to 6 can engage with our Bring Your Own Designated Device Program. Devices can be purchased for use at school are expected to have a device at school for classroom use that is fully charged each day. Students use devices as a tool to support learning, it does not replace the learning of key fundamental skills.

### **Contact Us**

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.

It is preferred that you arrange a meeting time if the matter needs to be discussed in depth.

The most direct way to contact us is via email:

[kelli.cocchetti@nt.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kelli.cocchetti@nt.catholic.edu.au)

[leonie.kane@nt.catholic.edu.au](mailto:leonie.kane@nt.catholic.edu.au)



## Year 3/4 Curriculum Overview Term 1

**English:** In writing, students will begin the term focusing on text structure, paragraphing and punctuation as they elaborate on their knowledge and understanding of narrative and persuasive text. The students will continue to develop their reading strategies, enhancing their ability to decode and comprehend more challenging texts. Spelling will continue to follow a systematic synthetic phonics and word approach. Spelling lists are handed out to all students on a Monday and they will be tested on Friday.

**Mathematics:** In Mathematics, students will be focusing on expanding their problem-solving skills, using a variety of mental and written strategies. Within our lessons, we incorporate areas of collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. This term we will be covering the following topics; place value of up to tens of thousands, addition and subtraction, mathematical algorithms and number lines. Students will also be exploring shapes and measurement, focusing on length and perimeter.

**Religious Education:** In Religion, students will be exploring the School Catholic Identity, God, Us and Faith, and Lent and Easter. Students will explore how we are made in the image and likeness of God and recognise that when relationships break down, God is always willing to forgive. Through religious studies, students will explore and make connections between themselves, the world around them and God.

**Integrated - Civics and Citizenship:** This term in HASS, the students will be exploring a unit known as Communities. Through this unit, the students will develop their understanding of democracy, laws, diversity and identity. They will draw on their own personal experiences and familiar contexts to understand that democracy is ruled by the people. The students will explore how individuals participate in and contribute to their community.

Students will be exploring the essential questions:

- *How are decisions made democratically?*
- *Why do we make rules?*
- *How can I participate in my community?*

Students will also be exploring Biological Sciences through a unit called 'Classification of Living Things.' Through this unit, students will learn that living things all have certain characteristics.



They will use these characteristics to differentiate between living and non-living things. The students will group plants and animals by their observable features. This unit involves the students working scientifically and using scientific thinking.

**Digital Technologies:** In Digital Technologies this term Year 3 and 4 students will be engaging in the Digital Passport™ program by Common Sense Education. The award-winning suite of six interactive games addresses key issues kids face in today's digital world. Each game teaches critical digital citizenship skills that help students learn to use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate. Later in Term 1 students will begin to learn to code in Blockly gaining an understanding of sequencing, pattern recognition, decomposition, and algorithms.

**Physical Education:** This semester, PE for Grades 3 & 4 will be held on a Wednesday. Students are required to wear their full sports uniform with correct footwear and make sure a wide-brimmed hat is available to use. This term, students will focus on developing skills and knowledge around the invasion games with a focus on modified netball and ultimate frisbee. Sportsmanship, teamwork, and following rules will also be a major focus throughout the semester. 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](mailto:sarah.muller@nt.catholic.edu.au)

**Auslan:** In Auslan this term, students will be learning different ways of communicating with their classmates about their daily routines, their interests and hobbies both at home and in school. They will learn different signs in order to help them describe, recount and express their preferences and will continue to use fingerspelling and their use of non-manual features to assist them when communicating using Auslan.



The Arts: In Performing Arts this term we will be focusing on music. Year 3 and 4 students will be exploring beat and standard notation using sixteenth notes in sets of four, whole notes and rests as well as eighth- and sixteenth-note combinations. They will apply this knowledge to the rhythm of popular music using a range of unpitched percussion instruments.

**Keeping Safe: Child Safeguarding Curriculum:** This year we will continue to integrate the Keeping Safe: Child Safeguarding Curriculum into our classroom environment. This curriculum is an evidence based, best practice curriculum developed collaboratively with child protection experts, teachers, educational leaders and other professionals. Throughout the year we will cover topics such as; Being Safe, Rights and Responsibilities, Privacy and the body and Strategies for Keeping Safe. The focus this term is on 'Being Safe'

**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**



# ST MARY'S

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.