



Term 1 Parent Newsletter

Year 5/6

Welcome to Term 1, 2023!

A warm welcome back to you all and a special welcome to new families in our school community. As a team, we look forward to working in partnership with you and your child throughout the year and aim to make it a memorable one for them.

Clare Nolan, Courtney O'Mara and Sarah Muller

Classroom Routines

Students are able to snack on fruit in the middle of our morning block. All students are encouraged to have a water bottle in the classroom, this can only contain water. Any dry or packaged snacks can remain in students' bags. Recess and fruit is stored in the classroom and lunches are stored in the canteen cool room. Please see the canteen menu for lunch options.

Children are required to place their personal phones and smart watches in the green bag in the morning. This will be sent to the front office for the duration of the school day and collected prior to home time.

Children are supplied with all stationery at the beginning of the year. We encourage children not to bring in additional items. However, if children wish to bring their own belongings they are responsible for these.

Specialist Days

Library borrowing: Wednesday - Room 16, Friday - Room 11

Performing Arts: Friday with Mrs Shannon Feldtman

AUSLAN: Friday with Mrs Taylor

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

Digital Technology: Wednesday with Mrs Shannon Feldtman

Class Assembly

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

Room 11 - Week 4 Ash Wednesday Liturgy 22nd February

Room 16 - Week 9 Holy Week Liturgy 31st March



Homework

We understand the importance of quality family time and outside of school hours activities. We believe that homework completion is an agreement between you and your child. Each week we encourage children to practise weekly spelling, read for enjoyment and practise maths skills such as timetable recall. Unfinished work set in class or additional revision work may be sent home for completion.

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)

Students in Grade 3/4/5/6 at St. Mary's are expected to bring their own designate device to use for in class activities. Overall we are very pleased with the Year 5/6 students' engagement with the BYODD program. If your child does not have a device to use at school, please contact your child's teacher for more information. A reminder that it is expected that students bring in their designated device to school every day fully charged.

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:

Room 16: courtney.o'mara@nt.catholic.edu.au

Room 11: clare.nolan@nt.catholic.edu.au or sarah.muller@nt.catholic.edu.au

Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview

Term 1

English: In English we focus on the three areas of Writing, Reading and Spelling. As a whole school we will be using Science of Reading to structure our Literacy Block. Within our literacy block will encapsulate the five essential components that make up reading.

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

We follow the sequence of the spelling program Sound Waves. This is a program that is a systematic synthetic phonics and word study program proven to teach spelling and reading skills effectively.

In reading, children will have the opportunity to read a variety of different text types and respond to these in various forms. Children will complete independent, small group and whole class tasks throughout the term, accompanied by their home reading for enjoyment. Our writing focus will explore language for social interaction, concepts of print and screen, texts and contexts in which they are used. Children will achieve this through creating a variety of written text and text types.

Mathematics: This term in Mathematics we continue to focus on a 'Back to Front' numeracy approach as a whole school. Within our Mathematics lessons we incorporate developing children's problem solving, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills. We will implement and use Essential Assessment to help support individual needs. We will be covering the following areas:

Number and Algebra:

1. Place value
2. Addition & Subtraction
3. Algorithms
4. Number lines

Measurement and Geometry:

5. Length & Perimeter
6. Shape

We will continue to revise all mathematical concepts covered this year through weekly investigations.



Religious Education: To begin, we focus on our school identity before beginning our Journey in Faith units. Religion this term begins by exploring the unit God Us and Faith. In this unit, students will explain the Christian belief in One God, who is a Trinity of Love. They will explain the action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and discuss that Christians believe they are created in the image of God and each person is sacred and unique. Students will then focus on the upcoming season of Lent and Easter.

HASS – History: Students will investigate the formation of an Australian Federation by using a variety of learning strategies, such as cooperative learning activities and inquiry-based tasks. They will study the origins of our system of national government and learn about the key figures and reasons for uniting as a nation. Students will identify the key elements of our system of government and investigate its origins.

Science: Students will focus on biological science this term with their focus question 'How do physical conditions of the environment affect the survival of living things?' Students will investigate how physical conditions of the environment affect the survival of living things. Investigating organisms that live in extreme environments, students will learn that changes in physical conditions will affect the behaviour and survival of living things, including animals that migrate or hibernate and mould growth. Students will investigate how changing the physical conditions for plants impacts on their growth and survival and understand that Aboriginal Peoples' knowledge of the physical conditions necessary for the survival of living things helps them protect the natural environment.

Digital Technologies: In Digital Technologies this term Year 5 and 6 students will be exploring the skills required to become safe, respectful and informed digital citizens. They will learn about information privacy, password practices, digital footprints, scam avoidance and encryption through Grok Academy. Later in Term 1 students will begin to learn to code in Python, designing algorithms involving complex branching and iteration to control a micro:bit computer.

The Arts: In Performing Arts this term we will be focusing on music. Year 5 and 6 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 high energy drumming routines.

Physical Education: This semester, PE for Grades 5 and 6 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 knowledge, skills and playing the sports of 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.

Auslan: In Auslan this term, students will share ideas and feelings about their daily lives, social activities and school. They will develop confidence when asking and answering questions and will work with classmates to present information about their own and others identity, including those who identify as belonging to the Deaf community. Students will continue to use non-manual features and fingerspelling to assist their communication in Auslan.

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Keeping Safe: Child Safeguarding Curriculum: This term our focus will be on the right to be safe. Within this focus area children will explore the following topics:

The right to be safe

Topic 1: Warning signs

Topic 2: Risk-taking and emergencies

Topic 3: Psychological pressure and manipulation

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

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL): PBL is an evidence based, whole school approach to teaching and managing behaviours. It is designed to:

- increase academic performance
- improve safety
- decrease problem behaviour
- establish a positive school culture.



It teaches these behaviours by consistent and frequent acknowledgment of appropriate behaviour and constructively and specifically addressing problem behaviour.

St. Mary's School-Wide Expectations

Be Resilient

Be Ready to Learn

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

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.