

# St Francis of Assisi Primary School

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Dear Parents of Year Four students,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year with your children!

In Term 1 we will be covering the following topics:

## Religion

Our school focus this year is 'Together we grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus'. We will develop students' understanding of prayer, Christian service and Social Justice Teachings of the Church. This term, Year Four students will learn about God's Earth and our responsibility to care for it. They will be reminded about the importance and significance of Ash Wednesday and Lent leading up to Easter. Students will identify ways the community prepares for Easter, recall the events of Holy Week and express an understanding of prayer, reconciliation and good works as a part of the Catholic Church's season of Lent. Our Opening Mass will be held on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> in the school hall.

This year is a sacramental year for Yr 4 and our students will be learning about the Sacrament of Eucharist in Term 2 in preparation to receive the Sacrament in Term 3 at Holy Family Church. More information about this will come home during the year.

## English

Our main focus for this year is to build a love of literature in your child. To do this we will be reading a broad range of books and we would encourage you to do the same with your child –it doesn't matter what it is: novels, cookbooks, magazines, comics, sporting summaries, whatever, as long as they are reading a range of text types.

Our writing tasks for the year will be focussed upon learning to write for a purpose. Whether it is writing to entertain, inform, persuade or describe we aim to build your child's repertoire of writing styles so that they can achieve a variety of purposes with their writing.

Accurate spelling is an important component of writing and it will be embedded into all of our literacy activities. However, it will also be taught explicitly during Spelling activities and during these times your child will learn to use a variety of strategies to spell words correctly including using visual (how the word looks), sound (what sounds do you hear in the word and what letters could make those sounds), word meanings (is this word derived from a base word e.g. laughter comes from laugh, does this help you to spell it?) and word connections (do you know other words that might have a similar spelling pattern e.g. rough/tough/enough. A spelling list developed for the individual level of your child will come home each Monday for practice as part of their daily homework routine.

## Numeracy

Our major focus this year will be to continue to build greater Number sense in our Year Four students. A deep understanding of Number (place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, mental calculation strategies) is essential if we want students to be able to use their Mathematics knowledge in the real world. To assist with this we will be setting weekly tasks using the Maths Online program for homework. We would encourage you to take every opportunity to work on your child's ability to instantly recall their addition and subtraction facts to twenty e.g. ask them addition and subtraction questions whilst you are doing everyday tasks like driving in the car, preparing dinner, washing up etc.

## Science

Our first unit 'Plants in Action' studies the importance of plants in our world, types of plants, lifecycles, uses etc. Through hands-on activities, students investigate the interdependence of living organisms on our planet. They will identify when science is used to ask questions and make predictions. Mr Collins, our Science teacher, will be teaching this subject this year.

## **History, Geography, Sustainability and Asian Studies**

Our History units will be looking at change, continuity and the important roles played by members of our society in the development of our community with a special focus upon the contributions of Indigenous people. We will also learn about the significance of the special celebrations that our Australian communities enjoy.

## **Personal Development and Health**

Students will learn about being Sunsmart, how to develop their interpersonal skills, positive thinking, how to identify bullying and strategies to deal with it.

## **Physical Education**

Sport is on Tuesday and Thursday. Children need to wear their sports uniforms on these days. This term we will be developing skipping, throwing and catching skills as well as a focus on fitness.

## **Art**

Students will develop a capacity to create, present and appreciate a range of art forms. In Visual Art, students will develop and refine their creative skills by exploring possibilities and experimenting with techniques and ideas. This unit is integrated with English, Religion, Science and History.

## **Music and Dancing**

Mrs Dimmock, our Music teacher will prepare the students for participating in singing at the Opening Mass as well as learning the skills of musical notation, musical appreciation and dancing.

## **Library**

Mrs Cossettini, our teacher- librarian, will teach Library lessons including literature appreciation and ICT. Library days are: 4W – Tuesday 4E – Wednesday 4F - Tuesday

## **Classroom Organisation**

4 Water – Miss Southwell Monday to Friday and one day per fortnight Early Careers Release.

4 Earth – Mrs Shean Monday to Friday.

4 Fire- Mr Kemp teaches on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and Mrs Neit on Wednesday and Thursday.

## **Homework**

**Every** week your child will have the following activities to complete:

- ✓ Maths Online activities related to the topics being covered in class. Remember, if your child finds the homework too challenging or too easy then they can complete the same activity from the Year level below or above i.e. Yr 3 or Yr 5. Also, they are not restricted to just the set task, they can do more if they wish. After all, we would never stop our kids from reading when they are engrossed in a book so why stop them if they are enjoying Maths activities?
- ✓ Reading for at least 10 minutes a night. PLEASE read with your child (take it in turns to read a page, do some Echo reading or discuss the events in the book you are reading) as often as you can. It is essential that they have good reading behaviours modelled to them by teachers and parents as often as we can provide it.
- ✓ Spelling homework- at this stage we are looking to trial a fortnightly spelling activity tailored to your child's individual level. This activity will look to develop your child's knowledge of the four domains of spelling i.e. phonemic (sounds), visual (how the word looks), morphemic (how the word can be added to through prefixes and suffixes, word families etc.) and etymological (word origins and history).
- ✓ Other occasional homework relevant to the units we are teaching.
- ✓ Regularly touch base with the Speed Skills portal on Maths Online. This gives your child practice in the vital area of mental computation (being able to recall addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts without having to use fingers or count on in your mind). Sometimes this will be set as Maths Online homework but it is always useful for your child to practice these strategies.

We are always available via email or phone so please contact your child's class teacher first if you have any questions about anything to do with their education.

Looking forward to working with you this year,

Rachel Southwell, Jamie Kemp, Antonietta Shean and Melissa Neit