

YEAR SIX NEWS

Term Four 2015

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a great, relaxing break. We are really looking forward to the final term of schooling for your children at Holy Spirit. It's loaded! We have Year Book preparation, Rottneest excursion, incursions, Mary Poppin's production, Christmas and Graduation celebrations – phew!

It is an exciting, emotional and at times tiring term for pupils so it's really important that the class remain focused on class, school and homework commitments. Rest up on weekends following busy school weeks. Let's remain supportive of one another as we move towards our Graduation. Here's to a fun, final term!

HOMEWORK /DIARIES

Just reminder diaries are filled in every Monday with the standard homework requirements. This includes nightly reading, Spelling activities, Mental Mathematics and a weekly math consolidation worksheet.

The students have been really good in handing in their homework and diaries each Friday to Jodi. On Mondays we then collect and mark the homework. This means that although homework is due on Fridays, your children know that it isn't checked until Monday and so they are allowed to complete it over the weekend if need be. We don't encourage this, but it is acceptable. The class understand and agree to the consequences for not completing homework. If at times homework cannot be completed, please let us know either through email or in their diaries. Could you please make sure you **sign your child's diary by Friday**.

Mental Mathematics is due EVERY day so that it can be marked and discussed ready for homework that night. These questions should be quite easy for your child and should really only take 20minutes maximum to complete. Again, it is a great revision exercise. They should be achieving at least 16 out of 20. A Mental Mathematics Test is held every Friday and these are the only results that are recorded by us and go towards their marks.

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR (unit 26-35)

Spelling and Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the week. All children work on the same Units of work from the Spelling Rules and Grammar Rules Books. Students are given less difficult or more difficult words based on their spelling level. New and more exciting ways to engage the children during both Spelling and Grammar is always being thought of and some of the best ideas can come from the children themselves! We are introducing small group and whole class games, the interactive white board, ipads, quizzes and mini

whiteboards where applicable. Spelling and Dictation Tests are held every Friday and these results go towards their literacy marks.

READING AND WRITING

Our aim is to link Guided Reading and Writing Genres together. In doing this, the students are exposed to the features of the written genre through their reading texts. This allows for a more explicit form of teaching and a better understanding and appreciation of the purpose of different texts.

Ms Newton is reading a class novel about coping with change in our lives called 'Who Moved My Cheese' by Spencer Johnson MD. A topical, practical and engaging read associated with the changes associated with new schools, friendship networks and the like.

Newspaper Writing

We will be reading, writing and interpreting different newspaper texts(both hardcopy and online). Students will be examining the literacy techniques required to read and write informative texts. Skills like headline writing, the 5 W's and opinion verses fact will be examined.

Narrative Writing

Children will be reading and completing work related to Fantasy texts. We will be developing their creative writing skills and literacy techniques related to this style of writing. Consolidating all forms of punctuation will be a focus.

MATHEMATICS

The IMaths programme consists of Investigations and Topics. Students are given time to learn new concepts and then apply these to an investigation. This term we'll be studying pyramids and pharaohs. Times Tables quizzes will be carried out fortnightly and should be practised at home.

This Term, the following concepts will be covered:

Multiplication of decimals

Metric systems of measurement

Investigating squares and rectangles

Nets of prisms and pyramids

Skeletal models

Measuring angles 0-360 degrees

Using scale

Positive and negative numbers

Line, column and bar graphs

Probability, judgements and bias

GEOGRAPHY /SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT

There's still a little more to complete with our program of work on Australia and our connectedness with neighbouring countries. Our Trade Fair will showcase our work

(Hall Fri 23 Oct 2-3pm). You are warmly welcome to engage in questioning stall organizers about their country and relationship with Australia. Please vote for your favourite country!

We will take a close look at bushfires often associated with seasonal changes to Australia's environment. The children will be involved in accessing reliable information from specific fire agencies and websites. Activities will focus on:

- Mapping the location, frequency and severity of bushfires in Australia
- Investigating the causes and effects of bushfires
- Identifying people's responsibilities for the prevention of and recovery after a bushfire

Mr Versteegen also enjoys sharing some research surrounding the history of Rottnest prior to our visit on Thur Dec 3.

SCIENCE Life and Living -Marvellous Micro organisms -

We'll move onto investigating Life and living - the harmful and helpful effects of micro-organisms. We'll explore the good, bad, ugly and interesting facts surrounding micro-organisms such as bacteria, yeast, mould, decay, pathogens, yoghurt, bread making, beer, wine and penicillin. Hopefully we won't be struck by the plague for Graduation!

We also have Robogals coming to do a session with robotics (Thur Nov 26).

For a bit of fun we'll be involved in researching gastropods in readiness for our Melbourne Cup snail race. So, start searching for your prize winning slime machine now! More details will follow.

RELIGION

[Advent Christmas](#)

[Loving Like Jesus – Baptism](#)

[Guided Through Prayer – Prayer](#)

Each Unit covers Three Steps:

1. Wondering at the Creator
2. Christian Response
3. The Promise of Christian Salvation

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

Birralee Aged Care Excursion Friday 16 Oct 1:45-2:45pm

Interschool team games afternoon Fri Oct 30

Graduation Wed Dec 9 @ 6pm

Yr 1 & 6 Buddy Christmas gift giving and morning tea Thur Dec 10

Rottnest Thur Dec 3

We are always happy to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. You can communicate with us via email or arrange a meeting. Our door is always open! You are also more than welcome to pop in between 8:30 – 8:50am! We are looking forward to this busy, fun, final term – enjoy!

Kindest Regards

Nicole and Jodi