



Year 4 Term 1 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new and exciting year! I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children throughout the year. The following will give you an insight into the major concepts we will be covering this term.

English

Years 4-6 will be using a new resource called *Springboard into Comprehension*. It uses print and digital resources to assist the acquisition of skills in interpreting, evaluating and critiquing ideas, information and issues. It has Interactive eBooks across a range of contexts.

In our literacy dedicated time, your child will work in small groups to complete comprehension, spelling, guided reading and grammar activities. The grammar and spelling books will also support your child's learning in literacy.

We will concentrate on developing the children's comprehension skills throughout our reading activities. As you will appreciate, it is important for your child to be able to decode the words they are reading, but it is also imperative that they understand what they are reading. Children should be able to answer literal questions about what they have read. They should also develop an ability to answer inferential questions that require them to think about the information and answer questions based on their understanding of what they have read. As you listen to your child read at home, please take some time to ask some inferential questions.



Please encourage your child to read regularly at home and I ask that you take time to sign their reading log each week. Book exchange for reading books will be on a Monday morning.

Writing

The writing genres that will be our focus are procedures and narratives.



Spelling

Our school is using the Sound Waves Spelling program, this program uses a phonemic approach to spelling. This approach uses a sound-to-letter strategy, which acknowledges that sounds can be represented in more than one way in written form. Each week your child will focus on a different sound unit. Homework words for the week will be based on this sound unit. The children will be given a list of spelling words that are appropriate for their spelling age. At the end of the week there will be a spelling and dictation test.

Your child can access games and activities for each unit of work. Please go to www.soundwaveskids.com.au

The kids log in is: toys610



Mathematics

The whole school will be using a resource called *imaths* to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Investigations and problem solving are the core of the *imaths* program. They provide the context by which students apply their knowledge and understanding of the content. The *imaths* Investigations build and develop a student's understanding of maths concepts, improve their mathematical fluency and problem solving skills, and provide real-life contexts in which they can develop higher-order reasoning.

Term 1 of the *imaths* program has a strong focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. All children are expected to regularly practice their times tables and develop instant recall of number facts. The mental mathematics book is a good way for students to develop their speed and accuracy when solving problems.

Religion

This term our units will be 'Loved and Forgiven' and 'Whispers from Within'. In preparation for their First Holy Communion, we will start class activities in Term 2.

Below is a copy of dates for First Holy Communion:

March 11th Prayer Assembly

May 11th - First Holy Communion Parent Meeting at 7:00pm will be held in the Library at Holy Spirit School



May 25th – 9:00am Reconciliation for Holy Spirit School

May 26th - First Holy Communion Rehearsal 2:00-4:00pm Holy Spirit Church Rehearsal is mandatory for all First Holy Communion Candidates. Reconciliation will be available after the rehearsal and Saturday, June 21st at 4:30 in the church. Afternoon tea will be supplied for all candidates.

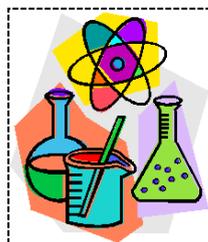
May 29th - **First Holy Communion at 10:30am** Holy Spirit Church- A morning tea celebration will follow the Mass in the Holy Spirit Hall for the candidates, their families and friends.

History

This term, we will explore the First Contact to Australia. This unit of work will be conducted over two terms. Your child will learn key topics such as the journeys of explorers to Australia, stories of the First Fleet and the nature of contact between Aboriginal people and or Torres Strait Islanders and others.

Science

The science program will focus on the Chemical Science Strand. The unit of work explores the Primary Connections book titled "Material World". Your child will participate in a variety of activities about the properties of materials, material strength and insulation of materials.



Technology and Enterprise

Your child will learn about Internet safety and searching in preparation for research work conducted throughout the year.

ART- Mrs Nancy Cassian

This term we will begin by completing a name design with 2 point perspective. This will introduce the students to vanishing points and shadow work to achieve perspective. Our main focus this term will be Sculpture. We are planning to take the class to an excursion to Sculptures By the Sea, which will complement our theme in Art and also in class with Miss Helmerhorst's Science topic.

In our Art classes, we will be learning about some famous sculptures, both ancient (e.g. the Sphinx) and modern (Maman the giant spider.) The Year 4 students will be given the task to design a garden gnome sculpture, using recycled plastic bottles and paper mache as the technique. I'm sure they will have a great experience creating their own characters, that will add some magic to the school's garden beds.

Class Rewards

Students will have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets and we will have a few raffles during the term.

Homework

Your child will be asked to complete reading, spelling and mental mathematics for homework each night. If they're unable to complete their homework, please quickly write a note in their diary or on the reading log or mental mathematics book.

Music Lessons

If your child participates in music lessons, they will miss out on various class activities. The work will be placed on your child's desk and it is their responsibility to catch up on this work at home.



Reporting

Three Way Interviews are held at the end of term one and Parent/Teacher Interviews are held in term three, on request, by the teacher or parents. Formal reports are sent home in terms two and four for students in years one to six. More information about report grading will be available soon.

Diary

Your child will be using their diary for homework. Please encourage your child to use their diary at home. I will be checking your child's diary once per week at school. A note will be made in their diary for communication purposes or if they need more time to finish a task at home.

Communication

Please write a note in your child's diary or Email helmerhorst.sarah@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Between 8:30-8:50 every morning I will be setting up the classroom for the daily activities.
If you would like a meeting please make an appointment with me before school 8:00am-8:30am or after school from 3:10pm-3:30pm

Warmest Regards,
Sarah Helmerhorst.

