

Holy Spirit Primary School



Year One Information Booklet 2016

Teachers:
Aleana Brennan & Sharon O'Halloran

Welcome to 'Big School' and Term One! It is wonderful to see the children so keen to start learning each day and they are settling well into the daily routine. We have a busy term ahead filled with fantastic learning opportunities, a swimming carnival and Easter celebrations. We look forward to a productive and busy term.

School times

Class begins at 8.50am. Children are encouraged to be at school 5-10minutes before the bell to establish an effective classroom routine. The classroom is opened at 8.30am.

Recess 10.40-11.00am

Lunch 12.45-1.25pm

School concludes at 3.10pm. Children may be picked up in the undercover area (outside the classroom) or from Kiss-and-Drive along Bent Street. Children will be supervised on the oval until 3.30pm and will then wait to be collected from the school office.

Absentees

If your child is absent, please complete a Student Absence Notification Form. They are available at the back of the classroom.

Late Arrivals – Early Departures

In order to satisfy the 'Duty of Care' responsibilities that require the school administration to know where all students are at any time during the school day, a late arrivals and early departures book has been placed in the school reception area. All parents who arrive late to school with their children are asked to sign the book stating the time of their arrival. Any parents needing to take children from the school before the conclusion of the school day are also asked to sign the book.

Uniforms

Children are to wear their correct school uniform and sports uniform on the appropriate days. The only jewellery that may be worn is a watch, a cross and chain and earrings are to be simple gold or silver studs.

The school has introduced a Uniform Discrepancy Notice that will be sent home with students who regularly break uniform code.

Please ensure that items are clearly labelled with your child's full name. Lost property is located in the corridor between the music room/uniform shop and computer lab.

Children are required to wear their sports uniform on **Tuesdays and Fridays**.

Buddies

Students in Year One are assigned a Year Six buddy who will help to support and guide them as they begin their school journey. We will meet with our buddies weekly. During this time the Year Six children will help their buddy with reading and other learning activities.

Birthdays

Please be aware when choosing something for your child to bring to school to share for their birthday that we are an allergy aware school and have children in the class with allergies.

Behaviour Management

We believe in focusing on the positives and giving praise for the right behaviour and strive to empower children with the ability to accept responsibility for their own actions. In our classroom this involves making choices and accepting the consequences either negative or positive. There are positive rewards for children who follow the class and school rules and negative consequences for those who don't.

Our class rules are:

1. Listen when your teacher is talking
2. Follow directions quickly
3. Raise your hand for permission to speak and to get out of your seat
4. Respect others, respect yourself, and respect your school
5. Make smart choices

Communication

It is important to sustain open communication between parents and teachers. Please feel free to make an appointment to see us if you need to discuss something about your child. It is important that you inform the school of any changes to home, work or mobile phone numbers. We can be contacted via email and will often make contact with you via email. If this is not the best way to contact you please let us know.

Please be advised that emails are unreliable for immediate attention due to teaching, duty and meeting commitments.

brennan.aleana@cathednet.wa.edu.au

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Homework Bags

Please check your child's homework bag each day. As Year Ones do not have a school diary, messages will be in their homework bag.

English

This year in English Aleana Brennan will be teaching all strands (Literacy, Literature and Language) and Sharon O'Halloran will be teaching grammar with a focus on writing in Term One.

The whole school will be using a resource called Sound Waves to support our spelling program. Sound waves is a systematic whole school word study program designed to develop spelling and reading skills using the phonemic approach.

Students will engage in stimulating activities to:

- explore phonemes

- identify and discover graphemes
- develop an awareness of spelling patterns
- develop strategies for spelling
- explore and extend vocabulary

The following are early literacy skills that we will be developing this term to assist with reading and writing:

Phonemic awareness

Ability to recognise that words are made up of individual sounds (phonemes) and use letter-sound correspondences to read and spell words.

Sight Words

Recognising common words that often cannot be sounded out and which need to be memorised, e.g. the and come.

Syllables

A unit of sound within a word. A syllable must contain a vowel or the letter y when it is acting as a vowel. Syllables usually start with a consonant: Sa-tur-day. Double consonants are usually split down the middle: hap-py.

Decoding Strategies when reading

Make predictions

Visualise

Use picture cues

Sound out the word

Look for 'chunks' in the word

Connect to a known word

Writing Behaviours

Writing left to right

Capital letter for beginning of sentences

Full stops at the end of sentences

Handwriting

Correct pencil grip

Mathematics

This year in Mathematics Aleana Brennan will be teaching Number and Algebra and Sharon O'Halloran will be teaching Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability.

The whole school will be using a resource called iMaths to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Investigations and problem solving are at the core of the iMaths program. iMaths Investigations build and develop students' 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. Students will carry out one investigation each term.

Children also have access to Mathletics, an online program that is linked to the Australian Curriculum and can be accessed from home.

Children will begin using Mathletics later this term, however, are welcome to access it from home at any time.

Religious Education – Aleana Brennan and Sharon O' Halloran

The Religious Education units to be covered this term are:

- Loving Others (Jesus)

This unit explores how our bodies are the means by which we express our inner selves. Because we have bodies, we can communicate with others.

- A Special Holy Time (Lent/Easter)

This unit allows children to wonder at the human experience of new life. Children will explore how Jesus' story teaches people about new life and introduce to children that at Easter, followers of Jesus celebrate that Jesus was raised to new life.

- Growing and Changing (Eucharist)

This unit explores God who is love, God who has given us the gift of life and the Eucharist. Every detail of who we are, of our development, every change, is part of the Creator's plan for us.

Science – Sharon O'Halloran

In science this term we will be conducting a unit of work called - *The Schoolyard safari*. Students will observe the features and behaviour of small animals, students will glimpse the diversity of animal life. We will explore small animals leading to a better understanding of how their adaptations help them survive in their habitats. Through investigations, students learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves.

Health – Sharon O'Halloran

In health this term we will be exploring the traffic light systems with food. We will also explore good food choices – sometimes foods versus everyday foods. We will explore how sugar affects us and how it is hidden in many “healthy” foods. We will explore the ways health messages are communicated through television, posters and radio. Throughout the term the children will learn actions that support a safe classroom, including moving around safely in the classroom and the playground, sharing appropriately and following class rules.

History – Aleana Brennan

This term in History we will be looking at past and present family life.

Children will be exploring:

- Differences in family structures and roles today, and how these have changed or remained the same over time.
- Differences and similarities between their own lives and life during their parents' and grandparents' childhoods.
- Identifying and describing personal and family events that have significance.
- Sequencing events in order, using everyday terms about the passing of time.

Art – Nancy Cassian

The Year One class will attend Art classes each fortnight (odd weeks) between recess and lunchtime with Mrs Nancy Cassian. You are always welcome to come and join in, assist children and be prepared to get messy!

We will begin our Art journey this year by learning about Primary and Secondary colours and using them to design our names in the style of the abstract artist Jasper Johns. The class will then be exposed to paper mache technique as they create some sculptured chickens.

Library – Alison Wilmott

Library exchange day is every Wednesday with Alison Wilmot.

Literacy with Jenny Connelly

Every Wednesday children will have a grammar and punctuation lesson with Jenny Connelly.

This term children will be encouraged to write sentences using correct punctuation, including capital letters to start a sentence and full stops to finish a sentence.

Children will be encouraged to spell known words accurately and to attempt to spell lesser known words using 'sounding out'.

Children will be encouraged to correctly form all upper and lower case letters and to use correct pencil grip to hold a pencil.

Homework – Aleana Brennan

Homework aims to:

- Foster in the child a responsible attitude towards learning
- Develop self discipline and good study habits within the child
- Improve organisational skills
- Develop study patterns, which will be important for success in later education
- Reinforce skills taught at school

In Year One children should be spending no more than 15 minutes on homework each evening. Homework will be handed out on a Monday and due back the

following Monday, this will allow children to have the weekend to complete homework tasks.

Home readers

Children need to complete their home reader each night and reading log to be completed and signed by parents.

Sight Words

Sight words are a special category of words that students are instructed to recognize automatically (i.e. without picture cues or sounding-out.) The instant recognition is important due to the frequency at which sight words occur.

'Over half of every newspaper article, textbook, children's story and novels are comprised of just 300 words.' (Fry, 2000 p4)

A complication with sight words instruction is that a proportion of the sight words do not follow regular rules. Another complication is that those words that do conform to phonic principles demand phonic knowledge that beginning readers may not have yet acquired.

Children will be given 10 sight words each week. These need to be practised daily. Children should be able to read these words fluently and immediately - no sounding out. Children will be tested every two weeks on their sight words. If they can read the words fluently then they earn a sticker for their star.

Picture book comprehension

Children will be given a picture book with an accompanying comprehension card each week. Books can be held for longer than a week if you need more time. Read the book two or three times until your child is comfortable with the content then begin asking the questions outlined on the question card. Criteria for appropriate responses are outlined. Tips can be found at the base of the card if your child is having difficulties answering the question appropriately.

Parent Help

Parent assistance with morning reading groups Monday -Thursday from 8.50am - 9.30am would be greatly appreciated. A roster will be posted at the back of the classroom later in the term. It is preferred that any younger siblings do not accompany parent helpers.

If you have any special interests or skills that you would like to share with us we would love to know.

Dates for your diary

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|---------------------------|--|
| 5 th February | P&F Icebreaker |
| 10 th February | Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass |
| 3 rd March | Swimming lessons begin – Bold Park |
| 15 th March | Excursion to Freshwater Bay Museum |
| 31 st March | Open Afternoon (3.10pm – 3.40pm) |
| 1 st April | Open Morning (8.30am - 9.00am) |
| 6 th April | Three Way Interviews – From 12.30pm |
| 8 th April | Junior Primary Swimming Carnival – Bold Park |

We look forward to a great year ahead and your anticipated support.

Aleana Brennan & Sharon O'Halloran