

Welcome to 2016. We look forward to the journey that we will take together this year.

Teaching Philosophy and Beliefs

We believe that children learn best in a **nurturing and supportive environment**.

We aim to provide a classroom environment where the children will feel safe to grow as individuals and enjoy learning. Our hope is to help prepare the children for their journey into secondary school.

Social Skills

It is really important to have a **positive, supportive environment** where students are **comfortable to communicate** and get to know each other better. They are taught specific social skills, such as team work, conflict resolution, being positive, showing empathy and maintaining friendships.

Daily Routine

Children are expected to come to class each day **prepared** and with a morning greeting! Between 8:30 and 8:50 in the morning the students need to unpack their bag and attend to any messages. This is also a wonderful opportunity to interact with their peers, play board games and complete unfinished work. At 8:50am children are expected to be standing at their desk as we start our day with a greeting and prayer.

Diary & Communication

Students need to bring their diary to school every day and also read it every night. We use our diary as an organiser so that we can plan for the week ahead. Parents are required to read their child's diary at the beginning of each week and sign at the end of each week. The children's diary is used as a communication tool and as a link between home and school. If they have a message in their diary then they will need to show either of us in the morning.

*We are happy for you to contact us via email.

Classroom Jobs

Each week the classroom jobs are given to students. They take turns with jobs and all have an equal opportunity to participate in them. (Class helpers, Windows, Message Bags, Computers)

Leadership Committees

The Year Six students will hold the leadership responsibilities throughout the school. Committees for this term have been selected and students are very excited about taking up the challenges of fulfilling these responsibilities. Committees will rotate each term. The committees are; Environment, Pastoral/Liturgy, Communication and Sport.

Buddies

Each year six student is assigned to a year **one buddy/buddies**. They have the opportunity to support and guide the year ones as they begin their school journey. It is a really special bond between the two year levels. At this stage we will occasionally carry out buddy activities on a Friday afternoon.

Learning Areas

Religion

There are 8 units that will be covered throughout the year. Our first two units of work are; 'Celebrate Jesus as Lord' (Lent/Easter) and 'Empowered by the Spirit' (Confirmation). The students will also have the opportunity to participate in class and Whole School Masses as the year progresses.

Sacramental

Dates:

February 20th Commitment and enrolment Mass 2016 – All Sacraments

April 27th, 1st Confirmation Parent Meeting with Father Emmanuel - 7pm Parish Centre

May 4th Confirmation Parent Meeting – Parish Centre 7pm

May 6th Confirmation Retreat 8:30-2:30pm

May 12th Confirmation Rehearsal Parish Centre 2-4pm

May 15th Confirmation Mass at 10am

Confirmation

*Children will soon be asked to choose a Saint's Name- Need to be a Saint that the candidate can relate to and see as a role model. Ideally candidates need to be able to answer this question: "What do you most admire, and hope to imitate in your Christian life, in your Saint?"

*Sponsors are chosen by the candidates and their families because they have the following qualities:

- *Over the age of 16

- * Is a member of the Catholic Church and have undergone their own Christian Initiation through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

- *Ideally the sponsor should be their **Godparents**, if possible, to emphasise the unity of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation

- *Only one sponsor is required.

English

There are four areas in the English curriculum that we teach the students. These are Reading, Writing, Viewing and Speaking and Listening. Spelling and grammar form part of the writing area. In spelling it is important for the students to know word meanings so they can use the words correctly in context. Sound Waves is a new Spelling Programme that the school has decided to implement from PP-Y6. Children will be working at their own spelling levels. They will be given a pre test each week and this will determine their words for the week. Children will complete activities around those words. Partner and weekly tests will be held every Friday.

The Year Six class has a Literacy Time Block. Explicit Teaching and Whole Class Instruction will be carried out every Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday will be dedicated to Literacy Rotations. During this time, children will be involved in various activities such as guided reading, genre writing, interactive reading tasks, and comprehension activities. There is a rotation schedule so over the week every group will have the opportunity to work with myself.

In reading, the children are encouraged to independently read from a variety of text types. Fiction and non fiction texts are analysed throughout the year. Reading comprehension is also taught and regularly assessed.

Students complete 2-3 sessions of silent reading / writing a week where they are encouraged to read good quality literature and are able to engage in free writing.

In writing, the children will be writing much more in terms of quality and quantity. All genres will be covered, including expositions, poetry, narratives, reports, descriptions etc. Children will be developing their skills of using correct grammar and spelling, using planning frameworks to organise their writing and making use of editing checklists.

Mathematics

The whole school will be using an IMaths resource to support the Australian Curriculum. This program is directly linked to the Australian Curriculum and fosters an investigative/problem solving approach to mathematics. The IMaths Investigations build and develop a student's understanding of the maths concepts, improve their mathematical fluency and problem solving skills, and provide real-life contexts in which they can develop higher-order reasoning.

Our mathematics learning is focused around the three learning strands of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Students are encouraged to share their personal methods, discoveries or challenges that they experience during maths lessons. They are also invited to access Mathletics at home, especially the online help and support feature.

Learning timestables will also be a continued focus throughout the term. An automatic and fast recall of these basic number facts is essential as they underpin many of the higher order mathematics concepts that are

covered in the curriculum.

The Mathematics Programme will run very similar to the Literacy Block. Mondays will be dedicated to Explicit Teaching and Whole Class Instruction, while rotations will be run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Children will participate in activities that involve concept work, problem solving, investigations, guided maths sessions, differentiation sheets and Mathletics.

Generally topics to be covered this term include:

Place Value

Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division

The four operations

Prime, composite, square and triangular numbers

Divisibility rules

Measurement of angles

Pie charts and Dot plots

The problem solving strategies we cover throughout the year are:

Make a table or chart

Find a pattern or use a rule

Find smaller parts of a large problem

Guess and check

Act out the problem

Check for relevant and irrelevant information

Draw a picture or diagram

Work backwards

Backtrack

HEALTH (Ms Newton)

Health lessons occur once a week as well as being integrated within other subjects. A range of topics will be covered during the year. During Term One we will focus on resilience, successful people in the field of health and medicine (past/present) and if time allows some work on drug education.

- Promoting resilience e.g. Understanding emotions, calming strategies, positive thinking, managing relationships and friends, seeking help.
- Develop student's knowledge, attitude and skills to enable them to make informed, responsible decisions about drug use as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Identify /define common drugs/alcohol – analgesics, prescription, OTC medicines.
- Effects of drugs on the body (harmful and helpful).
- Risk taking behaviour and strategies to reduce the harm associated with drug taking.
- Facts about alcohol and cannabis.
- Controversial arguments related to drugs and media surrounding the use/abuse of drugs.

Art

This will be taught by Mrs. Nancy Cassian on Thursdays from 11:00 to 12:30. Children need to bring in an art shirt for their weekly art lessons.

Physical Education

This will be taught by Ms Jodi Newton. Children need to take a water bottle to their sport lessons. Children have sport on Mondays at 1:30-2:10 Mondays.

LOTE (Italian)

This will be taught from 2:00 until 3:00 on Wednesday afternoons. Children will use a text book.

HUMANITIES – HISTORY/SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT/GEOGRAPHY

During Term One the focus will be on Citizenship and Civics and the role of leaders within our community/nation / world. We will also incorporate and learn about effective study skills such as note taking, summaries, information reports and paragraphing which will support further projects and research throughout the year and beyond. We also hope to spend some time acknowledging our ANZAC Day History.

A project about Australian leaders will be set shortly and will be due late in term.

Our Year Six class novel which will complement our humanity studies is **The Lighthouse Girl** by D. Wolfer.

Science (Ms Newton)

CHEMICAL SCIENCE (Term One)

'Change Detectives'- This unit of work will explore how changes to materials can be reversible, such as melting, freezing, evaporating or irreversible, such as burning and rusting.

- Please send in jars and stackable containers (eg. baby jars, pasta sauce bottles, salsa jars, yoghurt/icecream containers)
- A visit to Scitech is booked early in Term Two to further investigate and culminate understanding of Chemical changes and introduce our Term Two topic (Earth and Space Sciences)

Library

Children will swap their library books in a Wednesday 10:10-10:40am. They are now allowed to take out two books. Children need to be responsible in remembering their books and their library bag. Mrs. Wilmot will be supporting our class Humanities subjects.

Testing

Mental maths, spelling words and times tables will be tested routinely on most Friday mornings. Learning Area assessments will be held throughout the term and children will be told prior to the assessment.

Homework

We believe that the purpose of home practice in Year Six is for children to develop the habit of planning and completing their work. We therefore do not believe that this work should be either excessive or difficult for children to complete.

Parents are encouraged to help their children get into a routine and to find a study space in the home that works for their child. Every child is different. Some like to work alone in silence, while others enjoy some background noise and prefer to sit at the kitchen table.

It is the expectation that students complete around 60 minutes of home practice each evening. This includes 20 minutes of reading. There are a wide variety of novels available in the classrooms that the students are encouraged to borrow from, as well as weekly borrowing from the library. Reading for pleasure is to be encouraged by both school and home. Please sign your child's Reading Log.

Home practice is meant to reinforce key concepts and should never cause tears or frustration. We understand that family life can be hectic, thus a note from parents for any incomplete work would be greatly appreciated.

Technology/USB

It is important for the children to be able to access the internet in their homes. Quite often class works/projects is saved on a USB or if a child doesn't have it at school that day than work gets emailed using their email address from school. Having the internet is useful for assignments and accessing Mathletics. Please check the USB drives regularly for viruses.

Absentees

If your child is absent please ring the school on the day. It is required by law that a note must be given when a child misses a day of school. Please use the performa provided to write absentee notes on or on a loose piece of paper and send it with your child when he or she returns back to school. Please ensure you sign in and out if you are taking your child/ren from the school.

Behaviour Management System

We believe that discipline in the classroom should concentrate on positive actions rather than negative. The children will be encouraged to monitor and control their behaviours through gentle reminders and the praise of positive behaviour. It is hoped that they are intrinsically motivated rather than relying of extrinsic factors. However as part of our Mathematics programme we like to use the bank book system. The children receive money when displaying appropriate and positive actions and then participate in an auction at the end of the week. We auction small items approximately every fortnight.

The children are encouraged to think about their actions. Consequences negative behavior include: verbal warnings, 'time out' and 'think sheets'

Some general rules are:

1. Take responsibility for our belongings and school property.
2. Listen to the speaker
3. Be honest in our conversations and with our actions.
4. Show good sportsmanship and look after each other.
5. Treat and respect others in the manner that you would like to be treated and respected.

Positive Behaviour:

- Verbal encouragement and praise
- Merit Awards
- Auctions

Camp

As you are aware this year the Year Sixes will attend camp at the Catholic Youth Camp, Busselton from 23rd - 25th March. Cost of camp is \$350. A handout with further details will follow shortly.

Please let us know if your child has any medical or dietary requirements.

Reporting

At Holy Spirit we report in a number of ways. Three Way Interviews are held at the end of term one and Parent/Teacher Interviews are held in term three. Meetings can also occur upon request by the teacher or parents. Formal reports are sent home in Term Two and Term Four for students in years one to six.

Parent Communication

Please feel very welcome to come in and discuss any area of your child's progress with us at any time. Email is the most effective form of communication or alternatively write a note in your child's diary. and we will contact you regarding an appointment time. We are available before school (Nicole M-W & Jodi M,Tu, Th, Fri).

Many thanks for attending tonight and we look forward to a wonderful year with you and your child in Year Six.

Mrs Nicole Sanders and Ms Jodi Newton

