

YEAR SIX NEWS

Term Three 2017

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a well deserved holiday, I certainly did! Natalie and I are really looking forward to another productive term. Now that your children and I really know each other and the classroom routine, we can get straight into our learning programmes from Day One!

Just to remind you, Natalie's main teaching areas are Health, Science and Economics and Business, whilst I am responsible for Religion, Literacy and Numeracy. Of course subjects overlap, but if you have a concern in any of these areas please feel free to contact us.

HOMEWORK /DIARIES

Diaries are filled in every Monday with the standard homework requirements. This includes a reading log, spelling sheet, mathletics and mental mathematics. Students are expected to be reading daily and I will be checking their blue Reading Log sheets every Monday.

Most students have been handing in their homework each Monday. Please continue to sign these sheets as it keeps everyone on track. If homework is unable to be completed, please just send me a quick email or write on the purple sheet. I have spoken to the class about the consequences of not completing homework. As of this Term, if homework is incomplete, it is then completed at lunchtime on Mondays.

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. This is a great consolidation exercise. They should be achieving no less than 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

Spelling and Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the week. All children work on the same Units of work from the Sound Waves Programme and Grammar Books. Students are given less difficult or more difficult words based on their spelling level. Spelling Tests are held every Friday and these results go towards their literacy marks.

READING AND WRITING

My 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.

Exploring Newspapers

We will be investigating newspapers and all the skills associated with creating different forms of news articles. Students will be examining the literacy techniques required to read and write informative texts. These include: report writing, advertising, editorials, point of view, persuasive and figurative language. Social Media and visual news will also be a big focus.

Fantasy Writing

We will be reading a class novel, *The Indian in the Cupboard* and learning about how to write a fantasy text. We will also have the opportunity to watch the movie so that comparisons can be made between the text and the movie. Children will be marked on their understanding of the features of each genre, their use of grammar and their level of depth and complexity in their writing. My philosophy is that it is better to write one piece of each genre properly than rushing through the process.

Reading Comprehension

The Springboards Programme will be used to explicitly teach the different comprehension skills. This will include a Big Book on the interactive whiteboard, reading texts and interactive activities on the computer. The class will rotate through these activities in small groups over a two week period. This allows the students to be taught the necessary skills and practise these skills in a non- threatening environment before they are tested. These test results will go towards their literacy results.

MATHEMATICS

The IMaths 6 book will be used throughout the year. We will be working directly from the programme as this is linked directly to the Australia and Western Australian Curriculum.

The programme consists of Investigations and Topics. Students are given time to learn new concepts and then apply these to an investigation. I have created a blue Maths Investigations Booklet, where children can work either individually, with partners or in small groups. This booklet is intended to develop problem solving skills and are hands on. It allows children to work at their own pace and at their own level.

Times Tables quizzes will be carried out fortnightly and should be practised at home.

This term, the following concepts will be covered:

Order of operations

Chance and probability

Area and Perimeter of composite rectangles

Decimals: division, multiplication, addition and subtraction.

Number: patterns, general rules and estimation strategies

Position, Transformations, Co-ordinates and Scale

Investigating rectangles and squares

RELIGION

The two Religious Education topics for this term are:

1. Stirred Through Emotions: (Bible)
2. God Provides For All: (Eucharist)

Each Unit covers Three Steps:

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

HEALTH

During Term Three the class will be involved in The Protective Behaviours Program which is also been done as a whole school focus. The Protective Behaviours Program teaches and promotes concepts of emotional literacy, empowerment, assertiveness, problem solving and an understanding of safety. In teaching these concepts and strategies Protective Behaviours aims to prevent abuse, increase safety and reduce violence.

We will also be looking at media influences and advertising campaigns that specifically target adolescents and how that may affect a person's health in a variety of ways.

SCIENCE – ESSENTIAL ENERGY

We will be exploring how energy is used to make changes to our surrounding by heating, freezing and communicating using light, sound and electricity. Power stations and batteries provide electrical energy that machines transform into useful energies. We will learn about the many different ways we use Earth's resources to generate energies we require and desire. Sun, water, wind and chemical energy will be investigated through the study of water wheels and simple household made batteries. It is also National Science Week beginning August 14th. There is a whole school Science Incursion on Thursday 17th August. The class will be invited to work individually or in pairs to create an experiment to share with their Year One buddies.

HASS-GEOGRAPHY will be taught by Miss Connelly

Geography will be taught in Semester Two.

The main inquiry questions are:

How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?

What are Australia's global connections between people and places?

How do people's connections to places affect their perception of them?

HASS-ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS will be taught by Mrs Sims

Economics and Business will be taught in Semester Two.

The main inquiry questions are:

Why are there trade-offs associated with making decisions?

What are the possible effects of my consumer and financial choices?

Why do businesses exist and what are the different ways they provide goods and services?

The students will have an opportunity to work in groups to create a business plan and design a website for their business that will be held on St Dominic's Day in Week Four. The website activity will be due towards the end of this term. A separate note with more details will be sent home at a later date.

Natalie and I are always happy to discuss any issues or concerns you may have no matter how small they may be. 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! I know together we can all achieve the best for your child!

Kindest Regards

Nicole and Natalie
Year Six Teachers