Welcome back to Term 1. We have an exciting term ahead and we look forward to teaching your child this year.

**Religious Education**

**THE YEAR OF MERCY**

This year Pittwater Parish celebrates the Year of Mercy in line with Pope Francis’ declaration of the Jubilee of Mercy for 2016. The Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. It is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. There are no walls or distances which can prevent the Father’s mercy from reaching and embracing us. The Holy Door is now open in Rome and in all the dioceses of the world. The children will analyse scripture passages related to mercy and explore ways to apply the message of mercy to our daily lives.

**EUCHARIST NOURISHES US FOR THE JOURNEY**

In this module students will examine the celebration of the Eucharist as both a memorial sacrifice and memorial meal. Students will focus on how Christ nourishes us through the celebration of the Eucharist through the gift of himself present in the assembly, celebrant, Word and Eucharistic elements.

**LENT to EASTER**

In this module students will explore the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way with an in-depth analysis of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Students will explore Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and its relationship with his divine mission and develop an understanding of its relationship to the liturgy of Passion Sunday. For their continuing journey into the Easter season students will focus on the great joy, intense hope and the positive impact that the news of Jesus’ resurrection brings to believers of the Catholic faith. Through participation and involvement in the module as well as in whole school Lent and Easter activities and celebrations, students will gain an awareness of the stories, actions and symbols of Lent and Easter.

**English**

**Reading and Viewing**

Children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is instructing a focus group. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily. Some of the aspects we will be looking closely at this term are:

- Reading a variety of texts
- Vocabulary building
- Exploring a range of comprehension strategies (summarising, inferencing, synthesising)

**Spelling**

We will continue to develop our use of the five Effective Spelling Strategies (Sound, Visual, Meaning, Connecting, Checking) to explore a variety of vocabulary and extend our spelling skills. The Sound Waves spelling program continues to provide our weekly sound focus and contributes to the children’s
weekly word lists. Individualised weekly spelling lists will be based on the weekly sound, thematic words and tricky words determined from children's own writing.

Sound – focusing on sound

Visual – focusing on how words look

Meaning – thinking about word meaning

Connecting – making connections with other words

Checking – using a variety of resources to check spelling

**Handwriting**

Children have focused handwriting lessons each week based on the scope and sequence presented in the *Handwriting Conventions* text. We expect a high standard of bookwork from the children at all times and cursive handwriting will be encouraged in all areas of the curriculum.

**Writing and Composing**

In class the children are involved in construction of shared and independent texts. There will be both class and small group focus to examine how we compose texts and how children can improve their writing. Grammar conventions and punctuation will also be taught. Text types to be covered this term are Information Report, Persuasive Writing (Exposition), Historical Recount and Personal Response. Proof reading and editing skills are an important part of the writing process and will be a focus throughout the year.

**Mathematics**

Over the whole of Term 1, Year 6 will be covering the following mathematical strands in numeracy:

- **Whole number**
  - Recognise the location of negative numbers in relation to zero on a number line
  - Identify and describe prime and composite numbers
  - Model and describe square and triangular numbers

- **Addition and Subtraction**
  - Select and apply efficient mental, written and calculator strategies to solve word problems and record the strategy used
Length
- Record lengths and distances using decimal notation to three decimal places
- Convert between kilometres, metres, centimetres and millimetres
- Solve problems involving lengths and perimeter

2D space
- Identify, describe, compare and draw diagonals of two-dimensional shapes
- Identify and name parts of circles
- Identify, use and describe combinations of translations, reflections and rotations

Angles
- Identify and name angle types formed by the intersection of straight lines, including ‘angles on a straight line’, ‘angles at a point’ and ‘vertically opposite angles’
- Use known angle results to find unknown angles in diagrams

Position
- Use grid-referenced maps to locate and describe positions
- Follow a sequence of directions, including compass directions, to find a particular location on a map
- Describe routes using landmarks and directional language

History
This topic provides a study of colonial Australia in the 1800s. Students look at the founding of British colonies and the development of a colony. They learn about what life was like for different groups in the colonial period. They examine significant events and people, political and economic developments, social structures and settlement patterns. This term we will focus on two main questions:

- What do we know about the lives of people in Australia’s colonial past and how do we know?
- How did an Australian colony develop over time and why?

Science
Living Things - Amazing Adaptations in Antarctica (Science)
We will look at the global environment of Antarctica in depth, to identify where it is situated on the globe and what this environment is like. We will investigate animals and organisms that make up the Antarctic food chain and how human habitation has created issues relating to the care of Antarctica. We will investigate global warming and observe how it is affecting this pristine and fragile environment.

Guest speaker, Chris Olsen from Adventure Presentations, will also give a presentation entitled A Journey to Antarctica to assist the children first hand in their learning through his experiences as an adventurer in Antarctica.

Creative Arts (in class)
We will be studying the artwork of Lucia DeLeiris who accompanied an expedition to Antarctica during 1998-99, sponsored by the US National Science Foundation. From her journals, drawings and paintings documenting the remarkable ecosystem we will introduce the children to the worlds above and beneath the pack ice, the ocean lying just below the ice and on the narrow strip of coastline.
Creative writing, visual arts, design and make and drama tasks will be designed to link to the Multiple Intelligence model of thinking and creating relating to the Antarctic theme.

**Technology**

Computer skills are integrated across the curriculum. The children will further develop their skills in computer operations, concepts, word processing, graphics, research and cyber safety skills associated with Internet use. We have set up our Year 6 Blog, which will be a great way for students to share their learning with their families as well as provide students easy access to regularly visited websites. The blog can be accessed at www.6dw2016.blogspot.com. Students have new passwords for Study Ladder and these are noted in their homework books for use at home. We will continue to make use of this site at school as well as World Book Encyclopaedia, BBC Learning and a range of other sites to explore Literacy, Maths and other Key Learning Areas (some of which are linked on the blog). Students will continue to use their Diocese of Broken Bay email account. A separate note has been sent home regarding this. Please ensure that your child has returned their Internet Agreement note signed by a parent giving them permission to access the internet from school.

**Class Sport**

Soccer skills will be taught this term in preparation for the Soccer Gala Day which will be held at the end of the term. Manly United Soccer will provide skills sessions for Years 3-6 from Week 5 for 6 weeks. Class sport will be held on Monday for both classes. Mrs Kerr will teach PE lessons on Thursday for 6D and Friday for 6W. Children should wear full sport uniform on their allocated sport days only including white sports shoes with white laces.

**Creative Arts**

Ms Rudd will conduct weekly music and drama classes with the students developing music and drama skills every Thursday for 6W and Friday for 6D.

**Library** - Children can borrow and exchange books each Tuesday for 6D and Thursday for 6W with Mrs Harrison.

**Personal Development and Health**

**Positive Relationships**

This unit assists the children to identify and deal with issues/conflict in relationships. This unit will enable students to develop resilience and strategies for dealing with others in a positive and empowering way.

**Positive Behaviours for Learning**

Cyber Safety is a prime area of focus as we start the year, and all children will engage in interactive activities in the classroom discussing appropriate behaviour and information that should be revealed on the web and how to protect their privacy and safety. Our PBL lessons will cover our school value of RESPECT and the school rule of RESPECT FOR SELF, OTHERS and the ENVIRONMENT and focus on rewarding children positively with Reasons to Smile awards and class incentives. Children will also look at modeled behaviours that assist classroom learning, playground behaviour and caring for others in our school community.
**Homework**

Weekly homework will consist of:

- nightly reading
- spelling practice and activities
- Maths Mentals unit
- Maths Counting activities - students will be allocated a series of counting activities at the beginning of the term that are specifically suited to their own level as ascertained through the beginning of year Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI). The aim of these activities is to enhance students’ counting skills to mastery of their age appropriate level. A separate note will be provided in your child’s homework book in the early weeks of term explaining the process for these activities in detail.
- Additional variety of writing and research tasks/assignments related to current curriculum areas.

Homework is given each Monday and is to be returned the following Friday. **Please send a note** in your child’s *diary* if he/she has not completed homework by the due date.

**Things to Remember**

😊 Ms Susan Rudd will be teaching on Wednesdays in 6W
😊 Sports uniform to be worn as per above days
😊 Library as per above days

**Dates for the Diary**

- **Wednesday 3\(^{rd}\) February** - Year 6 Incursion - Antarctica
- **Wednesday 11\(^{th}\) February** - Opening School Mass 9:15am
- **Tuesday 9\(^{th}\) February** - 6:30pm/7:00pm Parent Information Sessions
- **Wednesday 10\(^{th}\) February** - Ash Wednesday Mass 11:00am
- **Thursday 11\(^{th}\) February** - Sacred Heart Swimming Carnival - Years 2 to 6
- **Wednesday 17\(^{th}\) February** - Year 6 Class Mass 9:15am
- **Monday 22\(^{nd}\) February** - Soccer Skills Commence (6 Weeks)
- **Wednesday 2\(^{nd}\) March** - 6W Reconciliation 10:00am
- **Friday 4\(^{th}\) March** - Welcome BBQ 5:00-8:00pm
- **Monday 7\(^{th}\) March (Week 7)** - Wellbeing Week
- **Wednesday 9\(^{th}\) March** - 6D Reconciliation 10:00am
- **Thursday 10\(^{th}\) March** - Year 6 Cluster Mass 10:30 at Forestville
- **Sunday 13\(^{th}\) March** - Year 6 Soul Mass (with Maria Regina) 6:00pm
- **Thursday 7\(^{th}\) April** - Years 5 & 6 Soccer Gala Day

We look forward to your support throughout this year.

Mrs Louise De, Ms Susan Rudd and Mrs Liz Williams.