



Year 2 Curriculum Note and Class News **Term 1 – 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to an exciting new year. The students have come back to school energised and full of enthusiasm. We look forward to teaching your child this year. Below is an outline of the topics we will be covering.

Religious Education

The modules we will be studying this term are titled, “Jesus Our Friend” and ‘Lent to Easter’.

The Story of Jesus

In this module, students learn about the life of Jesus of Nazareth in the context of his socio-religious background, and examine the titles attributed to Christ. They are introduced to the dogmas of the Catholic faith handed down through the tradition of the Church. The implications of the life, death and resurrection, and words and actions of Jesus for his disciples are addressed in a historical and contemporary context.

The Season of Lent to Easter

During this season students focus on the prayerful aspect of Lent and the opportunities students have to reflect upon prayer and places to pray. Students will be given a variety of experiences of both formal and informal prayer settings and will be encouraged to appreciate the value of silence in prayer, providing the students with opportunities to look for, know and find God within themselves. The students will look at a key aspect of prayer during the Lenten period; expressing sorrow for any ways in which we have failed to be all that we can be, in relationship with God and others.

Students will explore the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way. Through participation and involvement in classroom experiences, 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.

- Ash Wednesday Mass is Wednesday, 26th February at 11:30am
- St Patrick’s Day Liturgy is Friday, 17th March in the Hall (led by Year 2) time to be confirmed
- Class Mass for this term is Wednesday, 18th March at 9:30am
- Confirmation dates are to be confirmed

English

The children will be given opportunities to speak, listen, read and write every day.

Reading and Viewing

Reading groups take place and children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively whilst the teacher is instructing a focus group during instructional/guided reading. Developing strategies for reading unknown texts and comprehension strategies will be a focus for our reading group sessions this term. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily. Each child is encouraged to have his/her own book/s (either brought in from home or borrowed from the library) to read independently each day as part of silent reading time. We will be reading "Winnie the Pooh" by A. A. Milne. The main theme of this narrative is friendship. Friendship will be a major focus for students this term.

Writing and Representing

The text types that will be taught explicitly this term are Recounts (Informative) and Descriptions (Imaginative). These text types will also be integrated into this term's History program. The students will be involved in the construction of shared and independent texts. Grammar conventions and punctuation will be taught through writing.

Spelling

The students are expected to use a number of strategies when needing to spell words. We are continuing to demonstrate engaging ways to explicitly teach five core spelling strategies. We want children to think about patterns in our language as well as gain an awareness of what strategies they use. Some examples include: referring to word banks containing theme words, word walls displaying frequently used words, finding and connecting the origin of base words and the 'Have-a-Go' strategy.

The five core spelling strategies that will be focused upon are:



Sound – focusing on sound



Visual – focusing on how words look



Meaning – thinking about word meaning



Connecting – making connections with other words



Checking – using live, print or electronic resources

Handwriting and Use of Technologies (I.C.L.T. - Information, Communication and Learning Technologies)

The children will have the opportunity to practise their handwriting skills (N.S.W. Foundation Style) during explicit handwriting lessons. Correct posture and pencil grip is encouraged at all times. We expect a high standard of bookwork from the children.

I.C.L.T. will be integrated into the classroom program via the use of classroom computers and iPads. The children will have access to the classroom computers to carry out learning tasks which will be integrated across the curriculum as well as other tasks related to particular Key Learning Areas. These lessons will focus on developing the students' skills and knowledge in various computer software and applications as well as being able to utilise this software as a tool for learning.

Speaking and Listening

Throughout the term, the students will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of talking and listening learning tasks. Students will be allocated a day for their news. During these times, the students will recognise a range of purposes and audiences for spoken language with increasing independence and recognise different oral texts, e.g. conversations at home, in the classroom and playground.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we use a variety of whole class, small group and individual instruction models. At times, students will be grouped according to their assessed learning needs. Explicit teaching of specific concepts is taught. Students then work independently or cooperatively. Often the teacher will be guiding a focus group. Learning tasks provide for a variety of learning styles, using concrete materials, technology and discussion.

Focus Topics to be covered this term include:

Addition and Subtraction

Students will use a range of strategies and informal recording methods for addition and subtraction involving one and two-digit numbers.

Whole Numbers

Students will apply place value, informally, to count, order, read and represent two and three-digit numbers.

Volume and Capacity

Students will measure, record, compare and estimate volumes and capacities using uniform informal units.

Position

Students will represent and describe the positions of objects in everyday situations and on maps.

History

Our unit this term is entitled, "The Past In the Present" and it is a unit of work discovering what school life was like in the 1960's compared to today.

Students will learn about:

- The similarities and differences of past and present schools
- The history of our school in the 1960's
- Sequencing their own schooling events on a timeline
- Objects around the school that are from the past

- Old photos from the past and creating observations from these
- Sorting old photos and matching them with present day photos of the school
- Old artefacts such as Maths equipment, writing tools and educational equipment
- Shared experiences for children across Australia in the 1950s and 1960s such as free milk
- Experiences of guest speakers who were in primary school at this time

Science and Technology

Our Science and Technology unit this term is called, Material World - Making Marvellous Mixtures. Through the scientific inquiry processes students will develop their understanding of Material World. This study will focus on the mixing and combining of materials. Students will observe and predict what ingredients look, smell and feel like before they are combined and then mixed with other materials. Through this program students will gain an understanding that mixtures have a purpose in their lives and appreciate that mixtures meet needs for occupations for themselves.

Personal Development / Health and Physical Education

Personal Development & Health

Our Term 1 unit is called, 'Including Everyone' students will identify the many characteristics they have in common with others and will recognise there are also differences. They will explore the importance of feeling included and will understand feelings associated with feeling excluded through participation in a range of games and physical activities. Strategies and actions they can take to seek support when they or themselves experience bullying will also be demonstrated.

Physical Education

The children will participate in a **Physical Education** lesson with Mrs Munro each **Thursday**. Extra physical activity with the Year 2 class teachers will take place each **Monday**.

Creative Arts

This term, the students will participate in a number of learning activities in Visual Arts. This will include art appreciation as well as exploring various media used in artwork and opportunity to further develop their fine motor skills. At times, this work will correlate with our History and Religious Education units.

Students will be participating in a weekly Music/Drama lesson with Ms Rudd each Thursday.

Please ensure that your child has an art shirt as soon as possible so that we may commence art lessons.

Please ensure your permission slips for the internet and network services are returned as soon as possible.

Library

Library lessons with Mrs Harrison are held each Tuesday for 2Blue and on each Wednesday for 2Green. The students are required to have a library bag in order to borrow books.

Homework

This term we will be focusing on home reading. The students will be given a reading folder. The students will change their readers daily (Monday – Thursday) and we ask that parents sign the reading log daily.

Students will use 'Maths Online' as part of their homework. Maths Online is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online learning resource, which is aligned to curriculum standards. Each child has been given a user name and password. Tasks will be assigned in alignment with topics being taught in the classroom and will be differentiated according to ability levels.

Occasionally, the students will be asked to complete other learning tasks related to the classroom learning.

Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays in Year 2, however please be aware of students that may have allergies. Definitely no nuts. Please ensure individual cupcakes are brought in, rather than a whole cake that requires cutting etc. This reduces wasted learning time, and is the more hygienic option. If you prefer ice-blocks, please purchase (pre-order in advance) them from the canteen for the class (only on canteen days - Monday, Thursday and Fridays).

Reminder: Please ensure that your child's property including **each item of clothing** is labelled very clearly.

We hope that this information sheet outlining our class program and expectations for Term 1 has been helpful to you. We are happy to discuss any concerns with you throughout the year.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the education of your child.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Cahill and Louise De

