



## Year 2 Curriculum Note and Class News Term 1 – 2022

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. Please find below an outline of the topics and units for this term.

### Religious Education

#### **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 will be introduced to the implications of the life, death and resurrection, and words and actions of Jesus.

The following questions will be addressed:

**What are the qualities of a good friend?**

**How did Jesus show friendship to many people?**

**What can we learn about friendship from Jesus?**

Within this unit, the students will also study the seasons of Lent and Easter. Here they will focus on the prayerful aspect of Lent. The students will be given opportunities 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.

### 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 "The Twits" by Roald Dahl. The main theme of this narrative is friendship. Friendship will be a major focus for students this term. We will be using the digital platform called 'Wushka' this year.

#### **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 will be using a spelling program called, '**Sound Waves**'. 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, sounding out, finding and connecting the origin of base words and the 'Have-a-Go' strategy. The students will receive differentiated spelling lists each week for homework.

**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 grips are 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 speaking and listening learning tasks. The students will recognise a range of purposes and audiences for spoken language with increasing independence and recognise different oral texts, for example,

conversations at home, in the classroom and playground, reading out a factual recount and presenting news items.

## **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. The students will receive their “Maths Online” passwords for homework as well as weekly tasks.

### ***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 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 and 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 which 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 Catto each **Tuesday**. Extra physical activity with the Year 2 class teachers will take place each **Friday**.

## **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 opportunities 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 Visual Arts/Music/Drama lesson with Mrs Pearce each Friday.

***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 both 2 Green and 2 Blue. 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. The students will also receive their "Wushka" passwords for our online reading program which will also be used for homework shortly.

Spelling lists will be sent home weekly in their homework book.

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 username 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 birthday treats are individually wrapped as this is a more hygienic option.

**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 will be hosting parent teacher interviews both at the beginning of the year as well as during half way in the year in order to get to know both you and your child further.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Lauren Baxter and Louise De**

