Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable break and are ready to begin the 2017 with as much enthusiasm and excitement as we are. Our Grade One team this year consists of: Miss Sharni Spriggs in One Red, Miss Molly McKinnon in One Yellow, Mrs Diane Lewis in One Blue and Miss Caterina Ianelli in One Green. We would like to congratulate Miss Donald on her wedding during the Summer term holidays and becoming Mrs Lewis.

We have a very busy term ahead of us once we have settled into Grade One. We have School Photo day, the Grade One Camp Day and 1 Yellow’s Liturgy, just to name some of the great things we will be doing.

Curriculum Overview

Religion

Overview

Our Religious Education units for Term One are: Getting to know Jesus, Reconciliation, Lent and Easter. Our Getting to know Jesus and Reconciliation units will have rich and authentic links to our Integrated Studies units Getting to know you and Australia. We will provide the students with opportunities to explore what Reconciliation means in many contexts including Jesus’ life, their lives and the lives of those in the community around them. We want them to explore how Catholic Traditions fit into somebody’s life in the 21st century. Students will use scripture, art, discussions, prayer and storybooks to help their learning. Students will participate in a number of school Liturgies and Masses throughout the term to support their learning of Lent and Easter in the classroom. We are looking forward to Grade 1 Yellow presenting the Holy Thursday liturgy later this term.
**Literacy**

**Overview**

During Term 1 we will endeavour to provide students with rich and engaging learning opportunities across all literacy areas; Reading, writing, speaking and listening, spelling, punctuation and grammar. This term we will cover a number of text types including recount and procedure. Our reading focus is to begin to develop each student’s ability to understand what he or she is reading, it would be incredibly beneficial for your child if you could ask questions before, during and after reading with them on a nightly basis (see Question Sheet attached). Students need to develop their ability to understand information in all contexts, and this will help them in **all** areas of their learning.

**Wushka**

Following on from last year, students have access to Wushka at home and we encourage students to continue reading books on a regular basis.

**Reading at home**

We would just like to reiterate the importance and immense benefits of reading at home with your child. We feel passionately about this, as it really supports your child’s learning in all areas including Literacy and Mathematics. It is important that you listen to your child read and ask them questions before, during and after each book. You may also model answering the questions yourself. There is no right or wrong way to read with your child, it is just imperative that you do read with them.

We can suggest some approaches:

- You may like to read a book to your child.
- You can read a book together (One page each, a few lines each, etc).
- Listen to them read to you.
- Children could record themselves reading and listen back to it.

Home readers will be sent home during Week 4. The students are expected to be responsible for their own readers and are encouraged to only take them out of their green pouch when reading and return them to their green pouch once finished.

**Parent Helpers**

It is now a legal requirement that ALL parents/volunteers that wish to help in the classroom or on an excursion MUST have a CURRENT Working With Children’s check and they MUST have it on their persons at all times. Please keep this in mind as we need your support to make things like excursions happen and we greatly appreciate your time. If you are interested in helping in the classroom a form will be made available soon for you to present your availability. You must have done the parent helper training course to be able to participate. If you would like to be a parent helper, but haven’t done the course there will be another session this term that you may attend.
Mathematics

Overview

During Term 1 we will be covering a number of Mathematical concepts including:

- Data
- Number & Place Value
- Measurement (with a focus on duration of time: months, weeks and days)

Mathletics

We would like to remind you that students have access to Mathletics. ‘Mathletics switches kids on to maths. It’s engaging, supportive and targeted to the Australian Curriculum for primary and secondary students’ (Mathletics, 2016). Students can engaged with interactive mathematical activities to reinforce what they are learning at school. Through the Mathletics interface students also have access to Rainforest Maths, which has a large number of fun and engaging activities for students to play. Students may also play Live Mathletics against students from around the world in a safe and competitive environment. We encourage all students to access Mathletics on a regular basis, striving to use it at least 3 times a week.

Integrated

Overview

Our whole school Integrated Studies focus for Term One is Australia, along side a mini unit about getting to know each other as a part of transition. The Australia unit will be centring on the concept that ‘Australia’s identity is built on its isolation, its people – past and present and its diversity.’ In Grade One Integrated Studies this term we will be looking at places of worship and celebration in Australia.

Homework:

Homework will begin in Week 4. Each week the students will continue to be introduced to a new sound focus. This will be the sound that they will learn and revise throughout the week. This sound will also be linked to their spelling homework. Spelling homework is compulsory and will be given each Monday. Every night of the week students need to write their spelling words out in the columns provided.

At the bottom of the spelling sheet is a spelling activity that the children encouraged to complete in the spelling exercise book. Parents are also encouraged to challenge their children with their spelling words by covering them up and asking them to spell the words, playing games like memory or finding words in magazines. The spelling homework is then collected every Friday and the children will complete a spelling test to see the progression they are making. This is a whole school approach and if we begin providing time for children to see the importance of
spelling correctly it will only benefit them later on in life. Again children are also encouraged to complete maths activities from their "Maths Toolkits’. Also don’t forget to login in to Mathletics for some fantastic activities relating to the maths topics that are being covered in the classroom.

Important Information

Specialist Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>1 Green</th>
<th>1 Red</th>
<th>1 Yellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15 - 11.55</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.55 - 12.35</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.35 - 1.15</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Uniform

All children must be in full summer uniform. Sport uniform should only be worn on P.E days and if they have Sport. If your child is out of uniform, please ensure that a note is sent to their classroom teacher explaining the reason. If your child chooses to wear black runners as part of the uniform, these runners need to be completely black with no other colours showing.

Sun Safety Policy

It is Term One, which means the school’s policy; “NO HAT NO PLAY” applies. It is essential we teach our children from this early age to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun. Please ensure your child has a named St. Simon’s School hat with them each day for their own protection. Only school hats are to be worn and any child without a hat will be asked to sit in the shaded area outside Building D for the duration of playtimes.

‘Nude Food’ Thursdays

Nude Food Thursdays is an initiative at St Simon’s. As a school we are aiming to reduce our waste impact on the environment. It is encouraged that every Thursday the students must bring a rubbish free lunch. This means no disposable wrappers or plastics. The students are asked to bring their lunches in containers they can take home, wash and reuse. This includes sandwiches, yoghurts, brain food (putting it in a container), chips, biscuits etc. As the students learned all about being sustainable and looking after our environment last year, they are aware of the impact rubbish has and are looking forward to decreasing their contribution. We encourage students to include nude food every day of the week, but Thursday is a requirement. We appreciate your understanding and support.
Absentees

If your child is absent from school, his/her classroom teacher requires a written note explaining the reason for the absence. These notes are required by the government and are stored as legal documents. Using the St. Simons School Smart Phone App to notify of absences is an acceptable method of informing the school of any absences.

A Reminder

Please check with your child that he/she has all the stationery items necessary for use at school such as scissors, rubbers, textas and coloured pencils. Sometimes these get lost throughout the term and need replacing. Please ensure all items are named.

School Closure

This term we have a Public Holiday on Monday 13th of March and a School Closure Day on Tuesday 14th of March.

Canteen

The school canteen will re-open next Monday 13th February and will be open Mondays and Fridays.

Parent Teacher Chats

Parent teacher chats will be held on the 13th and 16th of February. We would love to use this opportunity to get to know you and your child better.

Calendar

The calendar attached has all dates required for Term One. Many of these dates are replicated on the school App, which conveniently has an easy to use facility to notify the school of student absences.

Teachers Emails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharni Spriggs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sspirigs@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au">sspirigs@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly McKinnon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmckinnon@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au">mmckinnon@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Lewis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlewis@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au">dlewis@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterina Ianelli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cinaelli@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au">cinaelli@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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Finally, we look forward to an enjoyable year full of fun and learning with your children. We appreciate your support in working together.

Grade 1 Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Color</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharni Spriggs</td>
<td>(1 Red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly McKinnon</td>
<td>(1 Yellow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Lewis</td>
<td>(1 Blue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterina Ianelli</td>
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