5th February, 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! It has been a wonderful start to the year with your children very excited and keen to take on every opportunity offered in Year 4. The introduction of the laptops for these children will place them in a very privileged position – one to which they are aspiring to be deserving of. We have no doubts they will both earn and respect this privilege.

Attached is information regarding your child’s learning experiences for Term 1. There are also times and dates regarding various activities that your child will participate in during the term. Whilst this schedule is not exhaustive and there will certainly be times when planning goes awry, it should give you some idea of your child’s life at school.

If you need to see any of us about your child please make a note in the diary or contact the office to make an appointment, so we can set aside sufficient time for your request.

Thanking you in anticipation of a great year ahead.

Thomas Maclean, Narelle Todd and Judy Sorbello
Year 4 Teachers

Martyn Savage
Principal
Religion

This term the children will be developing their understanding of God’s word through Scripture, engaging with a variety of books and text types in the Old and New Testaments. They will also read and interpret scriptural passages that express God as Father, as Son and as Holy Spirit – the Trinity. We will spend some time establishing our own class prayer and celebration rituals.

English

English underpins all subject areas and as such is taught explicitly and incidentally every day. To achieve the best possible outcomes for your children, we have organised Literacy rotations where your children will move through highly structured language development skills (including the SSP program) within each class. We will also be completing an in depth novel study – this term the text is Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White.

Writing skills will be practised regularly with a particular focus on the text types of information reports. and persuasive writing.

Reading remains a key component to critical literacy skills and as such we recommend that your children read as much and as widely as possible. At times it may be difficult for your children to find a book that piques their interest, however persistence is the key – keep searching and if your child is still stuck, ask your child’s teacher who will be more than happy to help with recommendations.

Later in the term your child will present a short multimodal report to the class where they will be assessed for their speaking skills.

Maths

This term we commence with revision of number skills and move straight into new topics and concepts. Some of those covered include: split strategies for addition and subtraction, fractions (1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/8, 1/10), addition and multiplication turnarounds, length and perimeter, data collection and graphing, square centimetres, classifying angles, direction on a compass and a variety of other skills and concepts.

There is also a strong emphasis on learning times tables – throughout the year the children will need to learn these to a high degree of speed and accuracy. Whilst this is a task that may seem daunting to your child, it is essential learning as the ability to quickly recall basic addition/subtraction, and multiplication/division facts is foundational for all future maths classes.

History

This term Year 4 students will learn of Australia’s earliest inhabitants - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They will explore a range of aspects including daily life, kinship, hunting, bush medicines, country, kinship and spirituality, etc. We have also invited Aboriginal elders from Ngutana Lui to come and talk to the children and teach them some simple aspects of their culture.
Science

Term 1 will see us explore the life cycle of living things and the place of living things in the food chain. We will examine the life cycles of plants in depth from seed, through to germination, flowering and fruiting. There will be hands on experiments and students will use a variety of tools to record and document their observations and write evaluations.

Geography

Year 4 begins with an understanding and exploration of the world’s biomes. The children will research and understand a variety of biomes that occupy the Earth’s surface from arctic deserts to tropical rainforests and examine the impact that climate and humankind have upon these natural resources. There will be a specific focus on the continents of Africa and South America.

Sport

Physical education lessons are held by Mr Marrinan every Thursday.

Health

Each week your child will take part in Health lessons. The focus for Term 1 will be on healthy eating. The children will explore the food groups and will examine food packaging to note the nutritional value of the foods they eat. In conjunction with English and media Arts, they will create a persuasive advertisement for a fictional nutritious food.

Japanese

This year will see the children attending weekly Japanese lessons. These are assessable lessons and will provide the children with an excellent foundation for the study of languages other than English.

Music and Arts

Music and Arts (Drama, Dance, Visual Arts and Media Arts) lessons are held by Mrs Heather Francis and Mrs Rebecca Birmingham every Thursday during Term One. Mrs Gayle Crisp will return to her position in Term Two.

Buddies

Year 4 students are lucky enough to team up with children from St Anthony’s Kindy as their buddies. Each child will be the ‘big’ buddy to engage with and mentor a younger child; the learning experiences, personally and socially, for each child is wonderful.

Uniforms

Formal uniforms are worn every Monday and Wednesday. Sports uniforms are worn on Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday. We cannot stress enough the importance of a school hat – apart from the obvious sun protection, any children without hats are not allowed to play in the yard during breaks. If your child is unable to wear the correct uniform for any reason, please leave a note in your child’s diary.

**Homework**

Homework will commence this week and runs from Friday to Thursday. Each week your child will be expected to complete a page of spelling activities and 4 online maths activities, plus 15 minutes of reading each weeknight. The children will also be required to have their homework noted and signed in their Student Diary every night by their parent/caregiver. The Student Diaries will form an important part of your child’s day as they will be responsible for noting all homework and project work that is required. The Diary may also be used as a written communication tool between parents and teachers.

**Term Dates** - 27/01/16 - 24/03/16

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