

Welcome to Year 6 - 2020

'Learning is a cooperative partnership.'

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Welcome back to school and the beginning of Year 6! We are looking forward to working with you as we guide your child through this important year.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

- Display respect at all times.
- Listen to the speaker.
- Be responsible for their own property.
- Respect their own property and that of others.
- Actively engage in leadership opportunities and responsibilities.

Students are responsible for their own work and learning. They are encouraged to:

- Do their personal best.
- Develop a responsible and independent approach to their learning.
- Develop a growth mindset.
- Ask questions and seek advice wherever it is needed.
- Use their diary and be organised.

HOME LEARNING FOR YEAR 6

We would like Home Learning in Year 6 to be tasks all children feel they can complete. Home Learning is used to establish an expectation and a routine of completing set work over a given period to develop time management skills. This is vital, especially leading into High School. At times students may be asked to complete unfinished tasks in their own time. These tasks are to be returned the following day.

It is **suggested** that Year 6 dedicate 30 minutes to 1 hour to Home Learning each week day night. This should include consolidating multiplication facts, assignments, nightly home reading (15-20 minutes) and other daily or weekly set tasks. We consider home reading the most important aspect of your child's Home Learning. Please ensure that your child records their nightly reading in their diary. **Reading will be the only compulsory Home Learning task set every week.** Other Home Learning tasks will vary.

Home Learning is set weekly via Google Classroom. If your child doesn't understand the Home Learning that is set, we would like to encourage them to see us for help before the due date of Home Learning.

DIARIES

Students are encouraged to write in their diaries. This is used to assist them with planning and organisation. Diaries can be used for:

- Recording items needed for school.
- Due dates for set work.
- Upcoming events and dates on the school calendar.

Diaries are also a means of communication between home and school. We ask that you check your child's diary regularly. Students must have their diaries signed by their parent/carer for each Friday. If you have any problems or concerns we ask that you use this as a tool of communication if it is appropriate. We will also communicate your child's behaviours through the diary. Diaries are to be brought to school each day.

ICT (INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY)

ICT activities are embedded across all areas of the curriculum. Students will receive many opportunities to develop their knowledge of Google Apps (Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Slides etc.), web tools, word processing and internet research skills throughout the year.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

BYOD has commenced in Term 1. Please refer to the [Use of Digital Technologies Policy and Agreements](#) policy on the school's website for guidelines on using personal devices at school.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research and inquiry based learning is an essential part of our curriculum. Students will continue to develop their investigative and research skills during the year, utilising a range of sources including the internet. They will be required to develop skills such as skim reading, summarising and note-taking. It is important that all research is presented in a student's 'own words'.

LIBRARY

Students may borrow from the Library at lunch times. We have a small class Library and books for the Premier's Reading Challenge in our classroom for home and school independent reading.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We value parent involvement in Year 6 and thank you for all you do for your children. There will be opportunities throughout the year for your involvement. Our parents are invited to be actively involved in our end of year Graduation. You will be notified early Term 4 of meeting times should you wish to be involved.

KEY LEARNING AREAS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is at the core of all we do at St Joseph's. We would like to encourage all students and their families to join us throughout the year at our School, Class and Parish Masses.

The RE program follows the Lismore Diocese Educational Curriculum and is strongly supported by the resource 'To Know, Worship and Love'. This resource will be sent home twice a Term. Activities will be set that will involve parent/carer input. As a school we will also continue to focus on 'Making Jesus Real' in our students' lives.

This year our teaching units will be:

- The Reign of God - How we act through justice and service
- Lent
- Easter: A time of celebration
- Confirmation: Celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit
- We Celebrate the Sacraments
- Mary: Faithful Disciple
- The Bible: Our sacred stories
- Advent

ENGLISH

This program will encompass the guidelines issued by the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. The learning experiences focus on the many aspects of language such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. These experiences also focus around types of texts, including imaginative (drama, narrative, poetry etc.), persuasive (discussion and exposition) and informative (factual recounts, information reports, procedures etc.). The students will engage in a variety of novels, guided and reciprocal reading, and independent reading.

Comprehension skills will be explicitly taught and children will be assessed on their learning.

Spelling and Vocabulary building will be a particular focus this year. The spelling program encourages each student to learn at his or her own level by examining words which they use across a variety of contexts and learning areas.

Students will learn to proofread and edit their own writing, using a range of strategies such as using a dictionary, thesaurus and spell-check.

MATHEMATICS

This program is derived from the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. The children will have the opportunity to work individually and in group situations to

consolidate the concept being taught each week. Mathematics lessons allow for practical learning experiences, online activities and automaticity of mathematical facts.

Problem-solving strategies will be developed throughout the year.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

The History and Geography programs will encompass the guidelines issued by the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. This Semester in History our unit is 'Australia as a Nation'. Geography is taught during Semester 2, with two units studied, 'A Diverse and Connected World' and 'Factors that Shape Place'.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology lessons are derived from the NSW Syllabus. Science lessons will encompass practical and theory components focussed around inquiry learning and design tasks. Google Classroom will be regularly used to support student learning in Science. Units will include content that explores sustainability, changes of state, geological changes, energy transformations and digital technologies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (PDHPE)

During Health and Personal Development lessons this Term we will be focusing on positive relationships. The unit focuses on students developing the knowledge, understanding and skills important for maintaining respectful relationships, developing strategies to manage challenges, power, abuse, violence and how to protect themselves and others in a range of situations. Another component of the unit focuses on students developing their skills in gymnastics. Students will explore a number of different elements in gymnastics that concentrate on balance, flexibility and strength.

CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts includes the study of Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Creative Dance. The units value knowledge and skill development, and are taught by professionals coming into our school as well as by classroom teachers. The students are provided with opportunities to develop positive attitudes and an appreciation of these forms. There are also many opportunities in the school for students to participate in these forms as extra-curricular activities, such as Glee Club, Drama Club, Art Club, Choir and Dance groups.

YEAR 6 CAMP

Year 6 experience a four day camp from Monday 24th to Thursday 27th August (Term 3) at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens. More information will be provided at a later date.

KEY DATES

21st February - Mass for Beginning of the Year

24th to 28th February - Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet meetings

26th February - Ash Wednesday

19th March – St Joseph's Feast Day

27th March - Cross Country Carnival

8th April - Excursion to the performance of 'Backbone' at The Glasshouse

9th April - Staff Spirituality Day (Pupil Free)

24th to 27th August - Camp

9th and 10th September - Whole school performance at The Glasshouse

Please note that this is a brief outline of the Year 6 program. We hope that this year is one which your child will reflect upon fondly. We hope the responsibilities and experiences of Year 6 foster your child's development as they grow towards independence.

Kate, Holly, Elise and Damian.

