

Welcome to



Welcome to Year 2 2021!

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and working with you to have each child feel happy, safe and ready to learn new and exciting things.

The teachers in 2T are Leah Toole, Damian Lawrence, Veronica Hawkins and Holly Hough. The teachers in 2S are Nathanael Spannari, Damian Lawrence and Veronica Hawkins. Our students will be supported by Educational Assistants throughout the year.

KEY LEARNING AREAS (KLAs)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This term we will be exploring the following topics:

- "Images of God"- exploring a variety of biblical images of God that teach us what God is like.
- "Lent and Holy Week"- this introduces the Lenten practices of this season. This unit also looks at the events of Jesus' life that are celebrated during Holy Week.

The text "To Know, Worship and Love" is used in our learning. This book or a digital version will be sent home several times during the year for families to complete some activities together and share in the learning journey.

ENGLISH

The English block is divided into the following areas and our classes will combine into various groupings.

Reading

We are aiming to foster a true love of reading in every student so every day students will read to themselves, to a partner and with a teacher. They will be exposed to rich quality literature and will learn specific comprehension strategies.

Parents/carers are asked to listen to their child read every night, talk about the story with them and sign the diary as part of their home reading program. The children will change their reader daily. Home readers should be easy to read and be read fluently. Students are encouraged to borrow books from the library regularly. Early Bird Reading and Home Learning help before school will be offered in the Library.

Spelling

Each week there will be a spelling focus and words will be sent home for students to learn as an optional Home Learning activity. Our main goal in spelling is to transfer spelling knowledge in order to improve the quality of the children's writing.

Writing

Students will write every day, with a focus on Narrative this term. We aim to improve their sentence structure, vocabulary and punctuation to write stories that engage the reader.

Speaking and Listening

Students will be given the opportunity to present news once a week however toys are discouraged from being brought in. They will also be encouraged to give oral presentations throughout the term.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, we will use knowledge and skills to recognise and understand the role of Mathematics in the world and develop our confidence and ability to apply Mathematics to our lives in constructive and meaningful ways. We will use concrete materials, drawings, written tasks and apply mental strategies in order to solve mathematical problems. The automatic recall of simple number and multiplication facts will also be a focus. The children will be grouped at different times across the grade in order to support or challenge them on the given concept.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)

HSIE is divided into two main areas - History and Geography.

In Semester 1 (Term 1 and 2) the children will explore the History content with the topic of "The Past and the Present." During Term 1 we will explore what school was like in the past and how this affects the present.

In Semester 2 (Term 3 and 4) the children will explore the Geography content with the topic of "People and Places."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In Year 2 we will start the year with 'To get to the other side', which engages the children in scientifically exploring the concept that all materials can be changed and combined for a variety of purposes. We will also have many opportunities to integrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and other KLAs whilst investigating through the lens of Science and Technology.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS (ICT)

The children will use school computers and iPads as a tool for learning during a range of lessons. We access the internet to assist our inquiry learning, and use Google drive and Seesaw to enrich learning. Each student has their own email address and will learn to access their email account.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)

Throughout the year the children will participate in a variety of **Physical Education** experiences which develop not only their fitness, but also gross motor, fundamental movement and ball skills. The children will participate in Gymnastics taught by qualified instructors each Thursday, and Soccer and Cricket on Fridays. Our Sports uniform is to be worn on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Term 1**.

Our **Personal Development and Health** unit "I Belong, You Belong" focuses on students developing the knowledge, understanding and skills important for building respectful relationships, enhancing personal strengths and exploring personal identity to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts includes Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Music. Each area has a range of skills which are taught, whilst allowing the children to appreciate and participate in a variety of Art forms. These areas are often linked to concepts studied in other KLAs. We will also participate in a music program called Musica Viva. Drama Club and Visual Arts Club are extracurricular activities offered at lunch times which the children are encouraged to join.

WEEKLY ORGANISATION

Crunch & Sip - We have Crunch & Sip each day so a small piece of fruit or vegetables is ideal. Children need to bring a drink bottle each day containing only water.

Positive Behaviour - We have high expectations that our students will continue to learn to be Respectful, to be a Learner, to be like Jesus and to be Resilient. We will constantly encourage, praise and reward positive behaviours in our classrooms and on the playground. Students will receive Class Dojo points in the classroom, and on the playground students can earn MJR tokens for Sports House Points. While students are still learning, they may receive positive reminders and warnings. Sometimes there may be a need to reteach some behaviours in a reflection time during playtime.

Communication between home and school - Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are concerned about anything. It is best to make an appointment or contact us directly through our email. Dealing with a concern early can often prevent a problem from escalating.

Our emails are:

Leah: leah.toole@lism.catholic.edu.au

Nathanael: nathanael.spannari@lism.catholic.edu.au

The school has a Facebook page which we regularly post whole school information, photos and share the children's learning on. Log in to your Facebook account and search 'St Joseph's Primary Port Macquarie' to like our school page.



IMPORTANT: Please note that whilst we post on Facebook from time to time, our main source of information will be in our newsletter **Joey's Jottings** and the **School App**. Please ring the office if you have any questions about this.

We ask that you read our school newsletter every week which will be emailed to you. **Joey's Jottings** has all the information you will need with links to different online forms. You can find all the newsletters, including past issues, on the school's web page

<https://www.pmacjism.catholic.edu.au>. You can also access information through the School App. Please make these your primary source of information regarding your child's schooling.

Parent Involvement

Parents & Friends Association (P&F) - The P&F is a great way to meet other parents and become involved. All the information you need can be found on our school website. You are very welcome to join us.

School Counsellor and Wellbeing Support - If you feel your child is experiencing difficulty and you would like information on accessing our school counsellor, please see your child's teacher for a referral form and this request will be passed on to our Principal, Mrs Koning. We are also fortunate to have the support of Mrs Hearle in her wellbeing role two mornings a week.

Afternoon pick up - Please enter through the side gate and walk through to the next gate next to the hall. This system should be a continuous flow of parents maintaining 1.5 metre social distancing. We ask that parents do not stop during this process and continue to walk and exit through the Hall gate. If you have not collected them by 3:30pm, they will be redirected to the front office and the Office Aunties will give you a call.



Thanks for your support and we look forward to working with you and your children in a productive and exciting year!

Nathanael and Leah