15\textsuperscript{th} February 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to the 2016 school year. There will be some changes in the primary curriculum to allow for a more streamlined approach from K to 6. This year we are continuing to focus on the literacy block and embed quality literature in all aspects of learning, in particular, applying new spelling foundations across all curriculum subjects. We encourage all families to read with your child/ren for 10 minutes each night to support and further nurture a genuine love of reading. The students reading results from 2015 have shown huge improvement with the implementation of the literacy block.

Homework
Homework will begin in week 3 of Term 1 and run through to week 8 of Term 4. Each week, the students are asked to complete Maths Mentals and daily reading. Guidelines for the Maths Mentals have been glued at the front of each book. If your child is experiencing difficulties with the Maths Mentals, please circle the question and the class teacher will clarify these each Friday.

The students will not be receiving a weekly list of spelling words for testing or activities. Instead, all classes will participate in a K to 6 project from week 5 to week 9 each term. These homework tasks will be acknowledged and celebrated in the school community. Below is an outline of the programs:

- Term 1 – Contextual spelling and reviewing NAPLAN based questioning
- Term 2 – Public Speaking and Talking Topics
- Term 3 – Integrated Matrix (Students select project based activities from a grid)
- Term 4 – Spelling Bee and Times Tables Challenge (Week 3 to 8)

Spelling
During 2016 there will be a number of changes to our spelling program. The Archdiocese is value-adding from the First Steps model to a more inquiry based approach through the literacy block. The students will be engaged with spelling in the classroom in context with what they are reading and writing across all curriculum areas. At the beginning of Term 2, all staff will work with Dr Kaye Lowe on integrating spelling.

Information Evenings
There will be two information evenings through the year for all parents from K to 6. These two sessions will focus specifically on literacy and numeracy.

- Literacy – Wednesday 4\textsuperscript{th} May from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- Numeracy – Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th} August from 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Goal Setting
This year all students will set specific individual goals in Term 1 to further promote improvement in learning and personal areas. More information regarding goal setting practices will be sent home in week 5 of Term 1.
Important Primary Curriculum Dates

- Writing Publication Celebrations – 6th April & 21st June
- NAPLAN 9th to 12th May
- Book Fair – 25th to 29th July
- Science Fair – 19th August
- Book Week / Parade – 22nd to 26th August
- Wrap and Read Celebration – 9th September

Please continue to check the school calendar for regular updates, as extenuating circumstances unfortunately necessitate changes from time to time. We will endeavour to provide a list of these changes in the newsletters.

If you have any questions regarding the primary curriculum through the year or would like to provide any feedback, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Kind regards,

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