Welcome to Year 1!
We look forward to a happy and successful year with your children.
The following information is a snapshot of learning across all Key Learning Areas.

**Holy Family Parent Information Night will be held on Tuesday 10th February at 6:30pm.**

**Religion:** Saint Brigid and the Brigidine Tradition
- Lent - Growing and Changing
- Easter Triduum – The Last Supper
- Easter Season - Together

The children continue to be involved in daily Religion lessons, prayer and reflection. Experiences this term include formal and informal prayers, class and school celebrations.

**English:**
Literacy block includes rotated groups and whole class lessons, encompassing reading, writing, computer, spelling and handwriting activities.

**Writing:**
*Text focus: Recount/ Description/ Observation (Science)*
This includes quality models, teacher modelling, joint constructions and finally individual writing. Children learn and use the correct structure and grammatical features of these three text types.

**Spelling:**
Children have an individual list, which is brainstormed at home, related to their own particular needs and chosen from the weekly sounds, which will be explicitly taught in class each week, as well as being revised daily. It is of utmost importance that the children set aside time at home to study, learn and practise their sound each week.

**Talking & Listening:** Children are encouraged to participate in open discussions to improve their talking and listening skills. Daily news sessions encourage both key listening skills, as well as strengthening the children’s presentation skills. (News will commence in Week 2)

**Reading:**
In shared reading the children will be working from a big book each week. Much of their writing will flow from the stimulus of these books. The children are asked to read each night as part of their homework task. The children will participate in small reading groups that will include a variety of activities such as guided reading, computers, spelling, literacy games and multiple intelligence based comprehension activities.

**Library visit:** –Thursdays

**Tips:** Please ensure your child has a library bag.
- Ask your child about the books they have chosen.
- Talk about them and note what they are reading.
- Share their pleasure! Be aware when your child is not borrowing.

**Handwriting:** Formal handwriting lessons using, “Targeting Handwriting 1.” The children are continuing to learn strokes, fluency and correct formation. **For continuity purposes, please ensure that your child has correct pencil grip and is forming their letters correctly at home.**

**Mathematics:**
This term the children will be exploring Whole Numbers, Addition and Subtraction, Time, Volume & Capacity and 2D Space. The children are encouraged to work with a variety of hands on materials and talk about and record the process they used to gain their answer.
Science & Technology:

Up, Down and all Around: (Earth and Space Science) The children live in a constantly changing world and therefore they will be investigating and observing our environment. The unit provides opportunities for students to explore natural, made and managed features that undergo change. Through outdoor observations and photographic records, students will investigate the daily, weekly and seasonal changes in their local environment.

H.S.I.E.

How do People in our Community meet our Needs? This unit provides a wider opportunity for the children to differentiate between their own needs and wants and to learn how these needs are met in their family, school and the wider community.

As we are learning about people in our community, we appreciate any parents or family members willing to speak to Year 1 about their occupation (fire-fighters, paramedics, nurses, doctors, police officers, dentists, shop-keepers, librarians, vets, mechanics, mail-men, or garbage collectors.) This would be a great learning experience of how people in our community meet our needs. Please send a note to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible if you are available.

P.D Health:

Who am I? This is a comprehensive unit that includes the growth and development of the children’s personal identity, facts about their body and personal hygiene, relationships, communication and decision-making. We desire that children truly value who they are and feel empowered to become the people God wishes them to be.

Creative Art: Visual Arts lessons take place weekly and are often linked to work in other Key Learning Areas. Children will require a paint shirt to protect their school uniform.

Specialist Classes:
- The children will need to wear their sports uniform on: Wednesday for SPORT with Miss Stefanie Camden and Friday for fitness.
- Music/Drama: (Mrs Brigid McNally) Wednesday

Homework

For homework the children will be given a spelling sound to learn and a homework sheet that will revise a variety of different Key Learning Areas. This is to be handed in on Friday. Please encourage your child to use neat writing and presentation skills in their homework.

Home Readers will go home on a Monday and must be returned on a Friday. If your child is reading at Gold or beyond, please feel free to read chapter books alternately with the readers. It is expected that children will spend at least 10 minutes per night reading for leisure.

Children should be practising their spelling sound each night. Sometimes children will have other work to complete or finish off tasks not completed during class time.

General Business

Important reminder: All parents need to sign in at the office when coming into the school. Newsletters will be distributed via email on Friday.

Absences - The law requires that a separate note/email be kept for school records. Could you please send all notes to the class teacher via your child, rather than to the office.

Regular checking of your child’s hair is a good idea!

Children need your support to develop organisational skills. Encourage them to check a ‘What do I need for today / need for tomorrow?’ list at home.

We are always available to discuss any issues involving your child.

Thanking you in anticipation for your support as we work together for your child’s development.

Lesley-Ann Bau-Gaspar, Edwina Ridley and Pam Bullen