



Welcome back to school and to a busy Term One in Grade Five. We especially extend a warm St James welcome to our new students Zac, Chloe, Sophia, Wesley, Alphonse and their families. The term ahead promises to be action packed, challenging and we hope rewarding physically, socially, spiritually, emotionally and of course academically.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 5:

At St. James' all students are expected to uphold our values of Respect, Inclusiveness, Courage, Compassion and Excellence. In Term One we are having strong focus on exploring exactly what these values mean, and how we can show them in our everyday lives. As well as this, all Year Five students are expected to:

- To use manners and be courteous
- To work diligently and present work neatly and with pride
- To respect the rights of teachers to teach without interruption and the rights of other students to learn without distraction

At Year Five level, it is expected that children will have (and continue to develop) the skills to work both independently and interdependently. Furthermore, as everyone has the rights to learn in a quiet atmosphere, children are responsible for maintaining a productive working environment.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

It is expected that all students will participate in Religious Education lessons and prayer times. Units of Work in R.E. are chosen from the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, "To Know Worship and Love" and will be integrated

throughout our work in the classroom. When approaching Sacramental times, specific attention is given to those units of work which best relate to the Sacrament.

Whilst Religious Education is a fundamental component of study in a Catholic School, it exists in an attempt to support parents educate their children in the ways of faith. Parents are the ***first and foremost teachers of their children in the ways of faith*** and your influence and guidance in helping your child develop a loving, prayerful relationship with God is most powerful. Religious Education is a prominent feature of the curriculum. This year we are having a Year 5 Family Faith night in Term 3 and a class Mass on Sunday later in the year; look out for these dates closer to.

LITERACY:

At Year 5, English consists of: Reading and Viewing, Writing (grammar and spelling) and Speaking and Listening. These will be undertaken via a range of means, including: individual tasks, whole class and small group activities – all of which aim to build upon students' prior knowledge. We will continue to use Daily Five as a way to structure the teaching and learning of Literacy this year, and utilise technology as a learning tool to help make all learning engaging and personalised. There will be a strong focus on literature in line with the Victorian Curriculum. We continually collect data from children's oral reading, comprehension questions completed, writing samples and observations made when listening to children in the classroom interacting with others.

It is an expectation that students in Year Five consolidate on their love of reading by reading a variety of texts and for at least twenty minutes every day. This reading is part of the student's homework and recorded each day on their Google Calendar.

SPELLING/WORD STUDY:

In Year 5 spelling/study words are chosen from a range of sources. This includes vocabulary related to topics and words spelt incorrectly in children's own writing. A focus is made throughout the year on a range of letter patterns in words, prefixes, suffixes and the like – in line with St. James School Spelling Policy. In class we be using a Word Wall for both commonly used words, and

topic specific words. We encourage the highlighting of incorrectly spelt words, which children then look up in a dictionary. Parents can model this at home.

NUMERACY:

All children participate in the pre- and post testing in Mathematics, to determine strengths and areas for consolidation and development. Using this data and a range of other assessments, we then work with children in groups, individually, and as a class to improve understanding of numeracy concepts. Mathematics is taught every day with a range of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry & Statistics and Probability concepts covered over the year. All children in Year Five are assessed against the Standards outlined in the Victorian Curriculum as appropriate to this level and our objective is to achieve the standards indicated by the conclusion of the year. Enrichment activities are provided to challenge children who have met the 'standard' already and support is given to those where needed. This year we will use a variety of group and partner situations including boy/girl, ability level and mixed ability groupings.

CONTACT WITH PARENTS:

Thank you to our parent reps for this year – Kerry Egan-Graham (Indi), Mo Pfahl (Sophie), Fiona Auditore (Lucy). They will communicate with you throughout the year to invite you to functions and school activities. We will contact you at other times, should the need arise, on an individual basis.

BRIGHTON CLUSTER DAYS, INTERSCHOOL SPORTS & FRIDAY SPORTS:

Once a term the students undertake activities with same sex students from St Joan of Arc, St Finbar's, and St Mary's. The students will have the opportunity to engage in activities across the curriculum. The participation of children in Friday Interschool sports provides a wonderful opportunity for children to be actively and physically engaged. It is also a privilege for the children to be able to represent their school. Participation is the focus and all students are involved in the netball/football season amongst other sports. It is also an expectation that students represent St. James' values wearing correct uniform, beautiful manners, and showing enthusiasm.

HOMEWORK:

We understand the implications homework has on family life. However, setting aside a regular time for homework is essential for forming good habits for Secondary Education. School Policy states that appropriate amounts of homework are to be given to help students develop study skills, revise concepts taught and prepare them for Secondary School. Homework will be in many forms: hard copy, online, Study Ladder, Mathletics, and project based. Part of the student's homework is familiarising themselves with their Google Calendar and it's functions. This year the students are asked to record their reading on their calendar as an event.

** Should it not be possible for your child to complete set tasks for whatever reason, please send a signed note to school. Tasks not completed will need to be completed as soon as possible. **

NAPLAN:

In Year 5 students will undertake the NAPLAN tests in Term 2 (9 - 11 May). Students will be well prepared for the experience and Claire O'Dea (Maths Leader) and Natalie Dodds and (Literacy Leader) will also be guiding us.

SPECIALIST LESSONS:

- Art - Weekly - Monday in odd weeks and Tuesday in even weeks
- Physical Education – Tuesday - weekly * Hat and Drink Bottle essential*
- Japanese - Tuesday (even week)
- Performing Arts – Monday (odd week)

SENIOR SCHOOL CAMP:

This year we are going to Merricks Camp on Tuesday 21 March and returning on Friday 24th. All students are expected to attend and there will be more information closer to the date.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ACHIEVE THEIR BEST THIS YEAR:

There are many things you can do to help your child succeed in Year 5:

- Ensure that your child has adequate sleep – current research demonstrates that, for optimum learning, Year 5 children require 10 – 12 hours sleep per night. At this stage of their lives, children still need to have parental supervision, especially in regard to Internet Usage and

maintaining a regular bedtime routine. Remember that hours before midnight are more effective than after.

- Talk about the homework that your child is completing and show interest in new learning and concepts your child may want to discuss. Please don't do the homework or Projects for them. Rather, support their independence. Mathletics is a fantastic tool available for students to refine their skills. Encourage your child to complete extra tasks if feeling less confident about a topic.
- Assist with excursions (you will need a Working With Children Check for this). Attend school sporting and Inter-school events. Help out with the Class Sausage Sizzle / Food days.
- Encourage organisational skills in your child. They need to be responsible for bringing correct equipment to school, have work in on time and, with your support, be ready at school for lessons by 8:50am. We do ask that you respect our morning set up by ensuring your child doesn't enter the Year Five classroom area until 8.40am when they will be supervised.
- Ensure that a suitable and healthy lunch is packed for the day.
- Join us when our class attends Mass and Year 5 assembly days. Assembly starts at 2:50pm and is on Fridays this year.

SENDING OUT BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS:

We understand that not every child can always be invited from the class to a birthday. We ask you to be EXTREMELY mindful of sending invitations out through school, especially if not everyone is coming, as we have seen some very upset children in the past who have felt excluded. This has had a really sad impact on individual children and has required much pastoral care from us. Please hand out invites outside of school to avoid hurt feelings. To celebrate at school Cakes / Treats may be brought in by prior arrangement with us.

MAKING CONTACT:

We are always happy to speak to you about your child's progress. However, please be mindful that an appointment is necessary. Even if it is a short conversation, please be aware that holding such conversations spontaneously in the classroom is not beneficial to your child.

Please contact us via email and we will be happy to organise an appointment:

snelson@stjamesbrighton.catholic.edu.au

sbailey@stjamesbrighton.catholic.edu.au

We are encouraging the students to email us themselves with small questions such as an unusual sport day, or confusion over homework. Please support your child by allowing them this independence and gently reminding them of email etiquette.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

Later in the year students will be participating in a 'I am Awesome' Program, in conjunction with our Leadership unit. This is an exciting program in readiness for their roles as school leaders in 2018!

COURAGEOUS MINDS:

This term we will be exploring themes under the banner of "Heads, Hearts and Hands." We believe that in order to flourish we all need to be safe and to develop a healthy mind and body. This relies on the choices we make and our connectedness to community, family, friends and our spiritual self. As part of this, students will have the opportunity to explore the question "Where is the I in Team?" by acknowledging their personal strengths and how this can influence the success of a team.

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1:

Thursday 16th February - Meet the Teacher from 1:30pm (School finishes at 1pm)

Friday 17th February - School Disco, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Tuesday 21st February - School Photos

Friday 24th February - Holt District Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Friday 3rd March - 5B Assembly

Friday 10th March - 5N Assembly

Monday 13th March - Public Holiday

Tuesday 21st March - Friday 24th March - Year 5 & 6 Camp

Wednesday 29th March - Last Day of Term 1

Thursday 30th March - Friday 31st March - School Closure Days

We pray that 2017 is a challenging, yet rewarding year for your child. We have so much fun and learning ahead of us!

Best Wishes,

Susannah Bailey and Stacey Nelson
Year 5 Teachers.