Year 1 - Term 1 Overview, 2014

Dear Year One Parents,

A very big welcome to the children of Year One and their families. It is a very exciting time of year for the children as they move from being the youngest in the school to big Year One people. Kindergarten was a time to settle into school life and learn the many routines of our school. This year they will further develop their knowledge, skills and understandings of reading, writing and numeracy through a variety of activities. We encourage each child to share with their families some of the many interesting things we do in Year One and it is hoped you will share this journey with them.

Below is a brief overview of the learning activities the children will be participating in this term.

**English**

English is taught through the following three strands; speaking and listening, reading and viewing, and writing and representing. This term, the unit is a literature-based unit which integrates with our Religious Education and Human Society and Its Environment units. Each week there will be a spelling and phonics focus which is reinforced in the homework.

**Mathematics**

Mathematics will be taught through the following strands and their sub strands:

- **Number and Algebra** – whole numbers – one and two digit numbers and their place value, addition and subtraction and the relationship between the two. We are focusing on mental computations, so any ‘on the spot’ mental maths you can do with your child will greatly develop their thinking in this area.

- **Measurement and Geometry** – investigating 3D objects and 2D shapes and exploring length and area

- **Working Mathematically** – questioning, applying, communicating, reasoning and reflecting. Children will be asked to express their thinking in Mathematics, ask questions and apply their understandings to solve problems in the above strands.

**Religion**

‘Jesus Our Friend’: Students will be invited to explore the dynamics and challenges of friendship. Through scripture stories, students will become familiar with Jesus’ example of love and friendship and identify how they might imitate Him.

‘Lent: Growing Together’: In this unit students reflect upon how they are growing and changing. In studying the Gospels, in particular the Zacchaeus story, the students learn how Jesus encouraged others to grow and change through his words and actions. The students themselves are encouraged to participate in the Church’s celebration of Lent as a time of personal growth and change, in preparation for Easter.

‘Easter Triduum The Last Supper’: Students will examine the events of the first Easter Sunday and key symbols and rituals used by the Catholic community to celebrate Jesus risen and alive. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Easter prayer experiences that will enrich and consolidate learning.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)**

**Identifying Us**

A six week program where students explore the groups to which they and others belong, and the benefits of belonging to a group. They will learn about the variety of activities and practices which groups undertake and associated clothing, equipment, symbols and rules.

**Science and Technology**

**Schoolyard Safari**

A five week program where students observe the features and behaviour of small animals. They observe the external features of small animals to develop an understanding of how their features help them to survive in their habitats. Through investigations, students learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves. They explore and compare the habitats of different animals.
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Personal Development and Health: ‘Protective Behaviours’. In this unit students look at their right to feel safe, different feelings, developing a network of people you can talk to, using the correct terminology for body parts including private parts, saying no if feeling unsafe and good and bad secrets.

Physical Education: Let’s Move
The children will participate in a variety of activities e.g. aerobics, circuits, fun runs, obstacle courses, relays and mini games.

Creative Arts
The three areas focused on for Creative Arts are Visual Arts, Drama and Music. This term, students will be introduced to two famous artists: Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh. Students will explore the different techniques used by these artists and will create their own artwork based on these techniques.

Technology
Computers are used throughout the term to enhance the learning across all Key Learning Areas. Each classroom has both IBM and Apple Mac laptop computers. The children use programs such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. Year One have Interactive Whiteboards in their classrooms which are used to enhance many of our learning experiences in all Key Learning Areas.

Useful websites:
- www.ictgames.com
- www.crickweb.co.uk
- www.writingfun.com
- www.bugclub.com.au
- www.readingeggs.com

Homework
Homework is given out on Fridays and students have two weeks to complete it. Sight words and home readers are to be returned weekly each Thursday.

Specialist Teachers
Year One have specialist teachers assisting them:-
Mrs Patreece Griffiths – Library/Information Technology
Mrs Antoinetta Sciacchitano – Personal Development/ Health
Mr Glenn Green - Music

Reminders
- Children are to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- If you are interested in helping out in the classroom please see your child’s classroom teacher.
- Library bags are to be brought back for borrowing on Tuesdays.
- Please ensure home readers and homework are brought back every Thursday.
- The school day starts at 8:30 am so it is important that all children are at school on time.

Dates to Remember
- March 16th Year 1 Parish Mass 9.30am at Padre Pio
- Infants Disco 14th March

This will be a very enjoyable term for the children as they engage in these learning experiences and as they settle into Year One.

Kind regards,
Mrs Leeanne Biordi, Mrs Catherine Baldacchino, Ms Lisa Howell and Mrs Joanne Staunton