



St Thomas the Apostle Primary School

Term 1 2020

39 Boddington Crescent
Kambah, ACT 2902

Phone: (02) 6231 4144

Fax: (02) 6296 2621

Website: www.sttap.cg.catholic.edu.au

Office: sttapkambah@cg.catholic.edu.au
jacinta.housler@cg.catholic.edu.au
tracey.kenna@cg.catholic.edu.au
leyrizza.leyes@cg.catholic.edu.au

WELCOME TO 2020

Mates Are:

Thoughtful,

Engaged,

Safe



Teachers:

Mrs Jacinta Housler 1HK
(Monday-Wednesday)
Mrs Tracey Kenna
(Thursday and Friday)
Ms Leyrizza Leyes 1L

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so pleased to be teaching Year One this year and are looking forward to a productive and rewarding year with your children.

Curriculum

Religion: The overarching theme of 2020 is 'Be Still and Know I am God'. In Term 1 the focus is 'We are called to be all we can be'. We begin Term 1 with a 4 week unit 'Prayer is Part of Our Daily Lives' exploring the importance of prayer in the lives of our school, families and broader community. We then move into our main unit, "I am called to be the best I can be".

Literacy: The children will be immersed in a variety of literacy forms to help them develop their skills in reading, comprehension, spelling, writing, viewing and oral language. In all writing tasks we will focus on the conventions of English eg. organising words into sentences, writing from left to right, using full stops and capital letters. Children will learn about descriptive and narrative texts. News will occur each day, with students being allocated a specific day.

Could each child please bring a pair of headphones to keep in the classroom. The children will use these during Literacy groups each week.
Term 1 news topics are attached to this term letter.

Mathematics: Year 1 will use an investigation based approach in Maths to cover all strands of the Australian Curriculum. We will be looking at Whole Number, Patterns and Algebra, Measurement (length, area and time), Addition and Subtraction, 2D shapes and 3D objects, Data and Ways of Working Mathematically. Students will participate in Numeracy Blocks which involve whole class teacher directed lessons and small group activities with an emphasis on investigation and problem solving.

Science: In addition to fortnightly STEM classes, we will be focusing on Physical sciences in the unit "Light and Sound" We will provide students with hands-on, shared experiences of things that produce light and sound.

Arts: Students will participate in Visual Arts and Drama lessons each week. Visual and Creative Arts will be integrated across the curriculum to support a creative learning environment.

PDHPE: Sport days will be **Wednesdays and Fridays**. On Wednesdays, the children will participate in Gross Motor lessons. On Fridays, the children will apply their Gross Motor skills in games and sporting activities.

Playdough: Could you please bring/make a tub of playdough in an air tight container labelled clearly with your child's name on it. This will be used for literacy rotations throughout the week.

Earphones: Could you please send in an inexpensive pair of earphones for the children to use for listening posts and iPad activities.

Days to Remember:

Sports Days - Wednesday & Friday

Library & STEM - Every 2nd Tuesday

Indonesian - Every 2nd Tuesday

Library Bags - Every Tuesday

School Prayer - Monday 2.30 in the Church

Grade Prayer - Friday morning 9:05am

Important Dates:

- Parent Information Night: 11th Feb 5:30 & 6pm
- Opening School Mass: 14th Feb 9:30am
- Swimming Carnival: 21st Feb
- Ash Wednesday Mass: 26th Feb

Reminders

All items of clothing must be labelled – especially Hats.

- Children have fruit break every morning so please provide a piece of fruit or vegetable.
- Please provide an absence note if your child



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Indonesian: Students will attend Indonesian on Tuesdays with Ms Zita Clifford.

Library: Students will attend an 80 minute library lesson on Tuesdays on a fortnightly basis. 1L will be on odd weeks, 1HK even weeks. All children are asked to bring their library bags and books to school every Tuesday as this is the day for returning and borrowing. Our Librarian is Ms Penny Vanzwol.

STEM: Students will attend an 80 minute Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths lesson on Tuesdays on a fortnightly basis. 1HK will be on odd weeks, 1L even weeks. Our STEM teacher is Mr Luke Mooney.

Prayer: You are welcome to join us on Monday mornings as we participate in prayer in the church as a school and on Friday mornings as we participate in prayer as a grade level in the classrooms.

Uniform Expectations: A reminder that all children should be in their full summer uniform. Students are expected to wear their hats. Please ensure every item of your child's clothing is clearly labelled. Accessories such as hair ribbons should be in school colours. Earrings should be simple sleepers or studs and nail polish should not be worn.

Home Learning: Home reading will begin in Week 2. The expectation is that the **children read every night** and for parents to sign their 'Home Reading Record'. Home reading should be an enjoyable experience for all. It is a time for your child to show his/her developing literacy skills, and may be at a lower level than what is read at school. **Students are expected to bring their home reading folder and signed diary to school every Friday.**

The school has purchased Mathletics and Reading Eggs subscriptions for all students. This can be accessed from home. Log in details will be sent home with students by Friday of Week 3.

Medications: If your child is sick at any point throughout the year and requires medication it needs to be taken to a staff member, Jodie or Lynette at the front office with a note outlining the administration of the medication.

Food: St Thomas the Apostle is a **nut free** environment as many children have severe nut allergies. Please ensure you do not pack any nuts or nut products (e.g. nutella, peanut butter, satays) in your child's lunch box. For this same reason sharing food is not permitted. We have a fruit break at 10am and encourage the students to bring fresh (not tinned or juiced varieties), non-messy fruit/vegetables, cut and in a labelled re-useable container.

Birthdays: If you wish to send in cake for your child's birthday we are more than happy to celebrate with the class. We encourage you to send cupcakes (not whole cakes) as they are easier to distribute and for safety reasons, we do not keep knives in the classroom.

Parent Assistance in the Classroom: We would **love** to have some parent helpers to assist in Year 1. Please note that all helpers must have a Working With Vulnerable People card to assist in any capacity at the school. If you are able to help could you please let your child's teacher know via email. It is a requirement to have a valid Working With Vulnerable Peoples card.

Meeting Your Child's Teacher: We are always happy to talk to you about your child. Whilst it may be tempting to grab a quick word in the morning, please remember that we can be on duty or preparing for class at these times, and are often unable to give you the time or attention that you and your child deserve. We ask instead that you arrange an appointment either by direct note or email to us, or contacting the front office staff to leave a message. We can then arrange a time to talk by phone or schedule a face to face meeting where we can give you our undivided attention.

We are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable year. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Jacinta Housler, Tracey Kenna and Leyrizza Leyes