



St Thomas the Apostle Primary School

Term 1 2020

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WELCOME TO 2020

Welcome to Term 1,

We would like to welcome Kindergarten children and their families to the St Thomas the Apostle school community. This year the Kindergarten team consists of Miss Aimee Barry (KB) and Mr Matthew Lowe (KL). Our overarching school theme for 2020 is "Be Still and Know that I am God." This theme encompasses how we are called to be all that we were created for. We are looking forward to a great term ahead.

Curriculum:

Inquiry Unit: Our Term One unit is "People belong to a range of communities." This unit will see the children grappling with the concepts of belonging, symbols and rituals. The children will gain an understanding that communities come together for a purpose, people develop a sense of belonging through ritual, and that symbols represent beliefs of communities. We will also be engaged in Lent and Easter ceremonies this term.

Literacy - This year we aim to instil within the students a love and appreciation for literature. Throughout the term students will participate in reading, writing and oral language learning opportunities. We will be placing an initial emphasis on the development of fine motor skills. Students will begin to participate in literacy groups and 'Sounds Write' activities. 'Sounds-Write' is an evidence-based phonics program utilising an exciting and highly successful approach to the teaching of reading, spelling and writing. All students will bring home readers and sight words to practise their reading. Please encourage them to return their blue reading folder every Friday, that way their books can be changed and returned home on Monday.

Mathematics - Throughout the term students will explore patterns, shape and measurement and learn to collect data. We will focus on counting, recognising and representing numbers.

Science: This term we will be consider the question "What's it made of?" Students will be given the opportunity to develop skills in observing, describing, comparing and communicating. We will be exploring what things are made of in our environment and the properties of the materials used to make them.

STEM: Once a fortnight on Tuesday the children will have a session of learning with Mr Luke Mooney for 80 minutes. This inquiry based learning will engage the students in areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

PD/H/PE- Students will be participating in a Gross Motor/ fitness and fundamental movement skills, where they will practise throwing, catching, striking, bouncing and kicking. Students are required to be in their **Sports Uniform on Wednesdays and Fridays**. We will be exploring protective behaviours and recognising emotions as part of our Health unit.

Arts - Students will listen to and perform a variety of music through singing, playing and moving. Drama and Visual Arts will be integrated across the curriculum to support a creative learning environment.

Indonesian - Students attend Indonesian lessons every Tuesday with Mrs Clifford for 45 minutes.

Library - The children will visit the library every week to borrow books. Please bring a clearly labelled library bag every **Tuesday**. Please ensure your child returns their book each week.

Teachers: Kindergarten

Miss Aimee Barry	KB
Mr Matthew Lowe	KL

Special Points to remember:

- All items of clothing to be labelled.
- Please bring in a set of headphones clearly labeled in a zip-lock bag for ICT use.

Days to Remember:

Sports Days - Wednesday & Friday

Library Bags - Tuesday

Indonesian & Stem - Tuesday

School Prayer - Monday in the church at 2:30.

Grade Prayer - Friday morning in the classroom 9:05am (all welcome).

Important Dates:

11th Feb -Welcome evening for parents 5:30-7pm.

14th Feb- Opening School Mass, 9:30am

21st Feb - Swimming Carnival

26th Feb - Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30am

3rd April - Cross Country Carnival



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Uniform Expectations:

Students are expected to be in full correct school or sports uniform at all times, including enclosed black school shoes and sports shoes with their sports uniform. Children are required to wear a blue St Thomas hat in order to participate in outdoor school activities. Children who do not have a hat will be required to sit in a shaded area. **Please ensure ALL items of uniform are clearly labelled!**

Absences:

If your child is absent from school please send an email/ written explanation/ SZapp note as soon as possible on return. This is a legal requirement for the class roll.

If you wish to pick your child up early you are required to go to the front office and sign your child out.

School Supplies:

All the books and stationary your child will need are already at school. Please provide a set of headphones to use on school iPads and laptops. We ask that headphones are clearly labelled in a ziplock bag, for hygiene reasons students cannot share headphones.

Medications:

If your child is sick at any point throughout the year and requires medication it needs to be taken to Mrs Luhrs at the front office with a note outlining the administration of the medication.

Important Information:

St Thomas the Apostle is a **nut free** environment due to many children having 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.

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 we do not keep knives in the classroom for safety reasons. Ice blocks, biscuits or share packs of lollies and chocolates are also great alternatives to cupcakes. Your child is welcome to wear casual clothes on their birthday.

Fruit Break - Each day at approximately 10am students will have a fruit break. This keeps children's brains and bodies fueled throughout the morning. Please ensure you provide students with 1 **small** piece of fruit or vegetables to eat during this session. We request that larger fruit such as apples and oranges are cut up into portions to assist children to eat them.

Water Bottles - The weather is still quite warm and the children often enjoy running around at recess and lunch. Please ensure you pack students with a water bottle they can store in their bags to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

Parent Assistance in the Classroom - Thankyou to those parents who have already offered to assist in the classroom on certain days. We will be in touch with you soon. Please remember that to be able to assist at school you need to hold a current Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. If any parents are able to assist with making playdough at home or bringing in any magazines we would really appreciate it.

Afternoon Pick Up

The children can either be picked up at the stage area or from the drive-through area. Please let your child's teacher know during your interview time regarding the days that they will need to be at the stage or go to drive-through. If it is raining, all children can be collected from the Hall. Children attending After School Care will line up at the back of the stage area to be collected by After School Care staff. If your pickup arrangements change please let your child's teacher know via a email/ written note or contacting Jodie in the office.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are looking forward to a strong partnership with you in the education of your child.

Kind regards,

Miss Aimee Barry & Mr. Matthew Lowe

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