Dear Kindergarten Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Kindergarten. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and working alongside you to create the best possible learning environment and experiences for your child.

We hope you find the information contained in this letter useful and encourage you to contact us if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child. Here is a brief overview of our Term One program:

**Religion**
In Religion, our units align with the Catholic Education programs. Our first unit will be ‘I Can Talk to God through Prayer’ where students will participate in liturgical celebrations, learn how we are part of the Catholic community and how we can be kind and inclusive of others. We will also teach a unit on Lent and Easter in the Church.

**English**
In Literacy we will be introducing and developing the student’s knowledge of letters and their sounds. Each week students will learn and memorise a small number of letters and sounds as well as a number of sight words. Literature will involve reading Big Books so that students can see the words and join in shared class reading. Speaking and listening will be covered during daily news and general class activities where students will contribute to class discussions.

*It is important that you reinforce the work being done in class by practicing sight words, letters and sounds consistently.*

Student progress is being monitored and tracked regularly throughout the year. We will change your child’s reading level after he/she have been formally assessed. A new list of sight words will be sent home when your child has immediate recognition of the previous set of words. Students take home readers at a lower level than what they are reading in class. This is to develop confidence, fluency and comprehension.

**Mathematics**
Kindergarten Maths follows the Archdiocese Framework Model. Over the first ten weeks of term one concept from each of the major mathematical strands; Number, Patterns and Data, Space and Measurement will be covered.

Some concepts covered this term will include:
- Studying numbers to ten,
- Exploring, sorting, describing and representing 2D shapes
- Using a range of concrete strategies and informal methods for basic addition, subtraction and grouping of objects.
- Estimating, measuring, comparing and recording using informal measurement.
**Integrated Unit (Humanities and Social Sciences)**
Our Integrated Units for this term are *Developing our Learning Culture* and *Shaping Identity*. These units encompass a variety of key learning areas including English, Maths, Science, Visual Arts and Health and Physical Education. The first unit will see students practise good habits for their mind and social skills for how to work effectively with others (developing life-long skills). Our second unit will allow students to consider what they like and learn ways of expressing themselves. They will set organisational goals for school and the classroom and set adventurous goals for the future.

**Health and Physical Education**
Sport days will be **Wednesday and Friday**. Term one’s focus will be on gross motor skills. On Wednesdays we will implement a gross motor program in the hall to develop student’s core strength, flexibility and balance. On Fridays we will focus on ball games which involve catching and throwing to develop student’s hand-eye coordination. Our Health unit will focus on being healthy, safe and active and will be incorporated into our Integrated Units.

**The Arts**
The visual arts programme will focus on developing fine motor skills such as cutting and folding. The activities will be integrated within the Literacy Programme and Integrated Unit. Drama will be undertaken through role play during Religion and our Integrated programme.

**Homework**
We have a whole school approach to homework. We are trying to make homework more home and family friendly. Your child should do a maximum of 10-15 minutes per night. Please return homework folders on Friday of each week.

**Library, Italian and Music**
Kindergarten will be involved in Music and Library on **TUESDAY**. Italian classes will take place on **THURSDAY**. Children will require a library bag in order to borrow a book.

**House Keeping**
**What does your child need to bring to school?**
- Lunch Box
- Water bottle (tap water only please)
- Fruit break container - Children are invited to eat a piece of fruit at 10am each morning. Please ensure that this can be easily consumed. Fruit needs to be pre-cut for your child to eat whilst completing work. No oranges, mangoes or melons please.
- A hat for outside play each day.
- Small flat chair cushion if desired.
- Library bag
- Art Smock
- Commercial play dough
- Box of tissues
- Wet wipes
- Cleaning sponges

*All items of clothing and personal items must be clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.*

**Parent Help**
During Art and Literacy, it is wonderful to have an extra set of adult hands. It is always great to have one or two parents to give the desks and benches a clean on a Friday afternoon and sharpen pencils from 2:45pm. If you are available any other times of the week please contact your
class teacher to discuss times. Parent help is invaluable for these activities.

**WWVP Permission**
It is a requirement of the ACT Government that all persons working (or volunteering) with vulnerable people in schools and similar organisations have approval to do so. All teachers, support staff and parent volunteers working with children, (who are considered vulnerable people under section 28 of the Human Rights Act 2004), are required to apply for a working with vulnerable people (WWVP) card. Parents who do not have this approval and identification will not be permitted to work, even voluntarily within the school. WWVP permissions do expire. If you already hold a WWVP card, please check the expiry date and have it renewed. For new applications and further information please visit [https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au)

**Notes**
If your child is absent (including half day absences) please provide a written note on their return. This is a legal requirement. Alternatively, you can make use of the School bag app. Phone calls or emails are not sufficient. **We require a written note with your signature.**

**Dates for your diary:**
*Please refer to school newsletter or website for any changes or updates. Please note these dates pertain to Kindergarten events only. Please refer to the school calendar for other important dates.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9th February</td>
<td>Parent &amp; Teacher Meet &amp; Greet BBQ (from 5.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd February</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting (7.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Liturgy (10.00am)</td>
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<td>13th March</td>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>16th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>17th March</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
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<td>24th March</td>
<td>School Disco (from 5.00pm – 2 sessions)</td>
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<td>7th April</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross (10.00am)</td>
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<td>10th April- 23rd April</td>
<td>Term break</td>
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If you have any concerns or matters you want brought to our attention please make an appointment to see us. We can be contacted by phone or email.

Kind Regards,

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