Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term One. We hope you find all 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**
Our term one unit is God and God’s Creation. Students will come to understand how to live in relationship with God and all of creation. They will be encouraged to make connections with and care for all of God’s creation. By the end of this unit students will identify creation as an expression of God’s love. The Religious Education units are based on the Diocesan curriculum, Treasures New and Old.

**English**
Our writing focus will be descriptions. Firstly, descriptions of themselves, then descriptions of the animals in our school and their habitats. This year we will continue our highly successful reading intervention program for all students from week three. Mrs Alisa Spackman, Mrs Trina Twyford and Mrs Jenny Stattari will work with Year One teachers to target student’s literacy needs. We ask that all students read their reader with an adult each day. Students will have already read this book with their teacher during the morning’s literacy session and should be able to read the book with relative ease when reading with an adult. The reading at home is intended to allow the student to experience some success with reading and to reinforce the lessons for that day. Handwriting will focus on pencil grip and letter formation to support handwriting fluency. Students will begin to use ICT with a view to publishing typed versions of stories later in the year.

**Maths**
Mathematics will link closely with our integrated units for term one. Our first investigation will be all about birthdays and will encompass months of the year and days of the month. Our second investigation will focus on data and graphing as well as numbers, addition and subtraction. Throughout the year, students will continue to develop their understanding of Number, Measurement, Chance and Data, and Geometry. iMaths will continued to be used as a resource to support student investigations.

**Integrated Unit**
Our first integrated unit will focus on identity and natural and created features. This unit will integrate elements of Religion, Health, Mathematics, English, Science and Geography. Our second integrated unit will be The Weather. This unit will cover elements from Mathematics, Science, Geography and English.

**Sport**
Sport days will be **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Term one’s focus will be on gross motor skills. On Tuesdays we will implement a gross motor program in the hall to develop student’s core strength, flexibility and balance. On Thursdays we will focus on catching and throwing to develop student’s hand-eye coordination. Our Health unit will focus on personal identity and inclusion for all using a whole school program known as Everyone, Everyday. There will be a focus on celebrating everyone’s diverse abilities.
The Arts
The Visual Art unit is colour theory for this term. Students will investigate contrasting colours, becoming aware of visual conventions and learn to notice visual detail. They will learn how and why artworks are created and ways to use and apply visual conventions such as line, shape, colour and texture.

Everyone, Everyday
This year at St Anthony’s we will be implementing a program called Everyone Everyday across the whole school. It is a national award winning program that has been developed by Disability ACT’s Community Development team. Everyone, Everyday is a toolkit for Inclusion. It is a comprehensive teaching resource for mainstream primary schools, and focuses on the concept of ‘inclusion’. The program aims to create a cultural shift in community attitudes towards those who are excluded for a range of reasons including disability. The underlying assumption is that we all benefit when the environments in which we work, live and play are inclusive; and that we all have a role to play in creating inclusive communities.

The Everyone Everyday program targets the Primary School setting and builds on what the school is already doing in the areas of values education and social and emotional learning. The aim of the program is to equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take personal and collective action to enhance the inclusion of all people, especially children, in everyday life.

Homework
Homework is provided for parents who wish for their children to complete additional work after school. Homework will be distributed on Tuesday afternoon and collected by the classroom teacher each Monday.

Classroom Management
In Year 1 we believe that students should be encouraged to make positive choices about their own behaviour. We expect that students will understand and follow our school rules – Be Fair, Be Kind, Be Safe. Each classroom will also have a set of rules and expectations which have clearly been set out at the start of the year. We focus on positive reinforcement strategies such as affirmative language, good manners, listening to others, showing whole body listening, using appropriate body language, making eye contact and showing empathy. Parents will be kept informed of any learning or behaviour concerns or issues that arise within the classroom.

Library, Italian and Music
All of Year 1 will be involved in Music, Italian and Library on MONDAY.

WWVP Permissions
It is a requirement of the ACT Government that all person 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
House Keeping

- A reminder that painting smocks and covered books should all be returned to school as soon as possible.
- Children are invited to eat a piece of fruit at 10am each morning. Please ensure that this can be easily consumed in no more than ten minutes. Fruit needs to be pre-cut for your child.
- To avoid confusion, please remind your children about which foods they should be eating at recess and lunch.
- It is important that your child has a bottle of water for the warmer weather. We ask that you do not send frozen water bottles.
- We would greatly appreciate any donations of tissues, cleaning cloths and wet wipes for use in the classroom.
- In Terms One and Four it is compulsory to wear a school hat. Please ensure that they are clearly labelled.
- If your child is absent (including half day absences) please provide a written note with date on their return.
- 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.

Attached are some websites that we use that we believe could consolidate your child’s learning:

- iMaths and Soundwaves
  https://online.fireflyeducation.com.au
  iMaths access code is quit775
  Soundwaves access code is Dad884

- www.toytheater.com
- www.sheppardsoftware.com
- www.roythezebra.com
- www.studyladder.com.au (Passwords to come)

Dates for your diary:
Please refer to school newsletter or website for any changes or updates. Please note these dates pertain to Year 1 events only. Please refer to the school calendar for other important dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>Sticks and Stones Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross (led by Year 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>Good Friday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>28th March</td>
<td>Easter Monday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>1st April</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>11th April-22nd April</td>
<td>Term break</td>
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We have a shared responsibility in teaching your child and we value open communication between home and school. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange an appointment at a time that is suitable for both you and the teacher.

Kind Regards,
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