Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made a great start to Term 1. We are all looking forward to working in partnership with you this year to create the best possible learning environment and experiences for your child.

**Religious Education**

We use the Treasures New and Old document for our Religious Education program. The unit we will be undertaking this term is “Church in the World.” Students will be encouraged to be people of peace, hope and service. Students will also learn about the seasons of Lent and Easter.

**English**

The focus in the first few weeks of Term 1 will be journal writing. This will be accompanied with the novel ‘A Diary of a Wimpy Kid’. We will also be continuing the Sound Waves Program and continuing cursive writing.

**Mathematics**

This term we will be completing two investigations of Lengthy Leaps and It’s Only Natural. Lengthy Leaps will include learning about scales, data, place value to tenths, tenths on the number line, place value to hundredths and hundredths on the number line. This will consolidate their learning with an investigation measuring and recording their long jump. It’s Only Natural explores multiples, patterns, measuring mass, and area. The students consolidate their learning by investigating naturally occurring tessellating objects, measuring and comparing area of items. Maths will include teaching and learning to problem solve through many learning experiences.

**PE and Healthy Lifestyles**

Children wear their sport uniform on Mondays and Fridays. This term we will be focusing on Athletics involving rotations to learn the many events and skills of athletics. The Athletics Carnival is currently scheduled for Week 9 of Term 1.

**ICT**

ICT is integrated into Math and Literacy rotations, as well as Visual Arts. Students will continue to develop skills using Microsoft applications. iPads will be used in all areas of the curriculum where necessary.

**Integrated Unit**

We will begin Term 1 with a short unit on inclusion, rules and laws. This will include learning from the ‘Everyone, Everyday’ program. This will be followed by a Science unit based on geology.

**Everyone, Everyday Program**

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.

**Fruit Break**

Please remember to pack fruit break each day for your children. Please cut up whole fruits so it is easier for the children to pack away if they have not eaten it all. It is only intended as a short snack to be eaten while in class. Please remember we are a nut free school.

**Munch and Crunch**

We are finding the children are becoming very hungry during the day. Could you please pack some extra cheese, crackers, fruit or vegetable sticks so your child has something extra to snack on during the day. The children will be allowed to have an extra snack break as indicated by their teacher.
**Homework**

Please remember to listen to your child read nightly. It is expected they read 20 minutes each night. Please encourage him/her to recall tables and complete the homework activities that include problem solving math questions. Homework will be handed out on Monday afternoon and is expected to be handed in on the Friday morning **every fortnight**. The students will be given their spelling words for the fortnight. Children will be tested weekly on their spelling words.

**Classroom Management**

In Year 4 each teacher has a different classroom management system such as Class Dojo or raffle tickets to reinforce positive behaviour. Across the Year 4 cohort, the teachers have discussed with the students a step system that includes a verbal or non verbal system, think time where the children have time out to think about their actions and how they can improve. On the third step if the student has not responded to the first think time they will be asked to go to the classroom next door to fill out a ‘think sheet’ which will go home and need to be signed by the parent, student and an executive member. If they receive three of these think sheets the student will be required to go to the attention room to discuss their behaviour with a member of the executive team.

**WWVP Check**

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/)

**Important Dates to Remember**

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<td>Thursday 18th Feb Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday 25th Feb 4P Community Prayer</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd March- Year 4 Class Mass</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Thursday 17th March 4L Community Prayer</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29th March- School Photos</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Friday 1st April- School Photos</td>
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<td>Thursday 7th April- ANZAC Liturgy</td>
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**General Information**

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that all items are clearly labelled. Shoulder length hair must be tied back for health reasons.

- Please provide your child with a box of tissues, cleaning spray and wipes.
- If your child is absent from school, please send in an absent note as these are a legal requirement.
- If your child is unable to participate in sport or fitness please send in a note.
- Please ensure all food in your child’s lunchbox is nut free as we currently have children in our year level and school who are anaphylactic.
- Catholic Education policy states that parents must contact the school immediately if their child contracts an infectious disease (eg. measles, chicken pox, swine flu).

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher(s). Please include both teachers into emails if your child is in a two teacher class.

Regards

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