Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 1, 2016 - your child’s final year of Primary school. The students have settled in well and we have begun what we know will be a productive year.

Our Integrated Unit for this term is ‘Follow My Lead’. It will focus on teaching the students about how to be the best leaders they can be. Students have received school leadership badges. Parliament and Sport Leader badges will be presented at Assembly tomorrow morning. Year 6 are very excited about their ‘Leadership’ t-shirts. Please collect a note from the front office if you haven’t received one. The cost of the shirts will be approximately $35 each.

Here is a brief overview of our Term One Programme:

**RELIGION**

The whole school theme for the year is ‘We are the Light of Christ’. Our first unit is ‘God Revealed’. This unit investigates how God is revealed through the person and actions of Jesus, through creation and through the Holy Spirit. Through this unit we will also discover the Trinity and the three persons making up this belief. This term we will also guide the students in preparing for the upcoming liturgical season of Lent and Easter. This year, Year 6 will join together with other grades for Community prayer. Once again it will be held on Thursday mornings at 9:00am and goes for approximately 15 minutes. The newsletter will inform you of the week each class will be leading prayer.

**MATHS**

The whole school approach to Mathematics is continuing with the iMaths Program Resource. It is an investigation-based numeracy program written for the Australian Curriculum. It includes teaching topics, investigations, differentiation, extension and Mathematics online.

Specifically, during term One Year 6 will be covering the following concepts:

- Investigating Number: prime and composite numbers, connecting fractions with decimals and percentages; identifying patterns including those with fractions and decimals.
- Operating with Number: problem solving using the four operations, discovery of integers, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, using the BODMAS principle to solve algorithms.
- Shapes in my Environment: angles and their properties, solve problems involving angles, transformations (flip, slide, and turn), and axes of symmetry.
- Measuring Up: Investigating length and area and using these to solve problems, conversion between units of measurement.
- All about us: Investigation of chance scenarios, observation of frequencies across experiments, make connections between expected chance outcomes and fraction and decimals, interpret a variety of data displays.

**ENGLISH**

Our literacy blocks will consist of reading, writing, spelling and grammar, speaking and listening. Students will be given opportunities to develop their reading strategies and writing skills across a variety of different text forms. A whole school approach to spelling and word study continues with the Sound Waves text books. Independent reading and writing will be a big focus in Year 6 as well as the development of proofreading and editing skills.

**INTEGRATED UNIT**

The integrated unit ‘Follow My Lead’ (including leadership, identity and civics and citizenship) will run for ten weeks and is an opportunity for the children to recognise and develop the qualities of a leader. Year 6 Camp will be part of the unit and encourages students’ risk taking, working with others and facing challenges.
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SPORTS DAYS – Tuesday and Thursday
Students will continue to participate in regular fitness activities as part of our commitment to healthier bodies. During Physical Education lessons, students will learn the correct skills and techniques to play a game of softball. We will be beginning preparations for the upcoming Athletics Carnival. The Protective Behaviours Unit is designed to improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of young people who face pressures in day to day living including Safe and Unsafe Situations, Cyber safety and Social Media Issues. Alongside this, we will be developing a whole school program known as Everyone Everyday which assists students to recognize difference as a positive aspect of society (and school and classroom). It focuses on inclusion for all and celebrating everyone’s diverse abilities.

THE ARTS
The Visual Art unit is ‘Australian Artists’. Throughout the unit students will learn about a variety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian artists and the different techniques used to create artistic works. Students will create their own artwork using the concepts and techniques of each artist.

In Drama and Dance, students will participate in a selection of games that will develop their skills in improvisation. They will have to think, react and respond quickly in a variety of given scenarios. Students will become more confident experimenting with their own creativity and stepping outside their comfort zone.

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
At St Anthony’s it is an expectation that all students will complete homework. Our Homework practices are outlined, in detail within our Homework policy. The expectation is that students in Year 6 will complete 30 minutes of homework each night plus 15 minutes of reading. In Year 6 Homework is viewed as a practice run for high school. Homework will give the students an opportunity to consolidate their learning and rehearse skills already covered in the classroom. Homework does not include new learning, unless it is an investigation of an upcoming concept and will be labelled as ‘pre-learning’.

There is a very informative parent fact sheet about homework available at
You might find this useful in helping your child with their homework.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT
In Year 6 we believe students are developing self-management skills and as such are given a greater level of responsibility for their behaviour and learning. We will be using a class management program called Class Dojo. This program is an online rewards type system where students can earn points for a range of positive behaviours (focusing on their learning, contributing to a group, good manners, seeing a need and doing something about it, completing tasks to the best of their ability, offering a helping hand, displaying leadership skills, using inclusive language and the list goes on and on). It is designed to reward positive behaviours and to encourage students to consider the choices they make about both their learning and their behaviour.

In Year 6 we have high expectation of the students, particularly within their leadership roles. We believe that the positive support of parents is a crucial element of students developing these self-management skills. Parents will be kept informed of any learning or serious behaviour concerns or issues that arise within the classroom.

LIBRARY, ITALIAN, MUSIC & SPORT
All of Year 6 will be involved in Music, Italian and Library on MONDAY
Year 6 Sport days are TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
EXCURSIONS AND CAMP
This term Year 6 will be attending a week-long camp. We will be leaving Canberra on Monday April 4th and returning on Friday April 8th. On the Monday we will visit Taronga Zoo in Sydney. We will then make our way to Narrabeen where we will enjoy a three day sport and recreation camp experience. On Friday we will have the opportunity to travel back to Canberra on the train. You should have received a detailed note outlining the plans for camp. If you didn’t receive one please contact your classroom teacher.

WWVP PERMISSIONS
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/

GENERAL INFORMATION
• Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that all items are clearly labeled. Shoulder length hair must be tied back for health reasons.
• Please ensure your child has suitable fresh fruit to eat during fruit break and it is not messy.
• Please provide your child with a box of tissues.
• 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 Office policy states that parents must contact the school immediately if their child contracts an infectious disease (e.g. measles, chicken pox, swine flu).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Please refer to school newsletter or website for any changes or updates. Please note these dates pertain to Year 6 events only. Please refer to the school calendar for other important dates.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>18th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>14th March</td>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>24th March</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross (led by Year 6)</td>
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<td>25th March</td>
<td>Good Friday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<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>1st April</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>4th April- 8th April</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</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.

As leaders of the school, students are expected to display the appropriate behaviours as outlined in the St Anthony’s Student Behaviour Management Policy. In serious and/or repeated incidents where a child’s behaviour in unacceptable we will be contacting parents/carers, so that we may work together to assist the child and remedy the situation. Students in Year 6 in particular have the added responsibility of being the leaders of our school and are often seen as role models for younger children. As such, there are certain levels of behaviour expected of them. In serious cases of misdemeanor, Year 6 students may miss out on privileges offered to Year 6 students including camp, wearing a leadership badge or will be required to attend Attention.
We look forward to working with you and your child. If you have any problems or queries, please feel free to contact us via telephone or e-mail.

Yours Sincerely

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