Year 2
Parent Information Booklet
2015
INFORMATION REGARDING VARIOUS SUBJECT AREAS

The Key Learning Areas for Year Two are:

- Religious Education
- Maths
- English
- Geography
- History
- Science
- Technology
- Health and Physical Education and
- The Arts

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are 4 interrelated strands in our Religion Education curriculum: Sacred Texts, Beliefs, Church and Christian Life. This term we will be focusing on our Church in Gympie. We will be learning more about St Patrick, getting to know our Parish Priest and finding out the history of our church in Gympie.

We will look in detail at the collection of books that make up the New Testament. The children will learn about the teachings of Jesus from the gospel stories.

As part of our class vision we will be looking at our relationships with each other. We will identify good and poor choices in our behavior; learn to say sorry; learn to ask for and give forgiveness and learn to look for ways to heal our relationship with others.

ENGLISH

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the three strands focus on developing the students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing. This term we will be focusing on the narrative genre (making up a fictional story).
**MATHEMATICS**

This term we will be focusing on the following topics:

**Number and Algebra:**

- Counting and Writing numbers to 99
- Identifying number patterns
- Ordering numbers
- Odd and Even
- Adding Groups of 10s

**Measurement and Geometry:**

- Measuring using informal units
- Name and order the months and seasons and interpret a calendar
- Classify and construct 2D shapes

**Statistics and Probability:**

- Collecting data
- Picture graphs

**SCIENCE**

**Physical Science - Forces.**

This involves the students describing how a push or a pull affects how an object moves or changes shape.

**GEOGRAPHY**

**How are people connected to their place and other places?**

The children will identify the places that they frequently visit in the local area and the reasons why and the places that they have visited in in other parts of Australia and the reasons why. They will learn to use simple geographical terms to describe the direction and location of places.

**HISTORY**

**The Past in the Present.** Year 2 curriculum provides a study of local history. Students will explore, recognise and appreciate the history of our school and church buildings.
HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION – (HPE)

Students will identify relationships they experience in their daily lives and demonstrate the behaviours appropriate for these.

SPECIALIST LESSONS

These include:

Music with Mrs Searles

Physical Education with Mrs Jones

Social skills with Mrs Ellems

Library with Mrs Kelly

T.H.R.A.S.S.

THRASS is one of the tools we use to teach reading and spelling skills.

In the English language there are 44 spoken sounds represented by the 26 letters of our alphabet. Therefore we use letters in various combinations to represent these different sounds.

For example, “Amy was preparing a plate of banana sandwiches for afternoon tea.”

The letter ‘a’ occurs eleven times and only once does it represent the short /a/ sound as in ‘apple’.

The different letter combinations we have to make these sounds (phonemes) are actually called graphemes when they are written.

In homework activities children may be asked to underline the different graphemes in their spelling words. e.g.  r a b b i t

Remember!

Phonemes are what we hear and
Graphemes are what we see or write.
HOMEWORK

Homework is a weekly task and homework folders (not homework books) need to be returned to school **every day** so notes and messages can be sent home. Homework tasks are not set in isolation and will relate to work being carried out in class. Homework is not intended to be difficult or stressful to children or parents. If this is the case, then please discuss it with us. Homework will be sent home on a Wednesday and will need to be returned the following Wednesday.

Homework will usually consist of:

- **Reading each night** – books are chosen according to the level achieved in the most recent tests. The homework reader is meant to build confidence and allow children to practice their reading strategies.

- **Spelling Activities** – each week the children will have a list of words based on the sound being taught each week in the Sound Waves book. Children are to write out their words every night using the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method ([Look](#) at the word, [Say](#) the word, [Cover](#) the word, [Write](#) the word and [Check](#) the word). There will also be 2 written tasks based on these words.

- The children will also have M100 and M200 words to learn progressing from the level they achieved at Year 1.

- **Maths** – activities to reinforce work covered in class.

- **Oracy Activities** – students will occasionally be given a set topic that deals with concepts covered in the unit. This is meant to be an introduction to prepared speaking and is meant to be a simple task. Children will also be given the opportunity to choose their own topic to present to the class.

- The weekly homework sheet is also one way for parents and teachers to communicate with each other. If there is anything important you need to share with us then please use either a phone call to the office, a letter or let us know in person.

Reading should be a number one priority each night!
PARENT HELP !!!

This Term, the Year 2s would like to run Reading Groups.

In order to run these activities successfully, we would need at least 5 parents per class. If you would like to help with Reading Groups, could you please let the class teacher know as soon as possible. If we have enough helpers, then we can go ahead with the organisation.

Reading Groups – Tuesday mornings

- Thursday mornings

If you are unable to assist with Reading Groups on these two mornings, then you are most welcome to help listen to individual reading on any of the other mornings that suit you better.

2L – from 8:30am  
2P – 9:00 – 9:20am

IDEAS FOR LEARNING SPELLING AT HOME:

1. Rainbow writing. Go over each letter with a different colour 3 or 4 times.
2. Look for the “interesting” or “tricky” part of the word and focus on it.
3. Write each phoneme (sound) in a different colour.
4. Use your finger to trace the word on someone’s back. (Maybe your dog or cat)
5. Write the words with a paint brush and water on a path or paint them on paper.
6. Use the Look Cover Imagine (get a picture of the word in your head) Write Check method.
7. Write words in the sand pit.
8. Choose two words and play noughts and crosses with someone. Instead of writing X or O in the space, take turns to write your word and spell it aloud as you do.
BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL SAFETY

For safety reasons students are not to be on the upstairs verandah of the Heritage Building in the morning before 8.30am. They are to wait outside the Trinity Hall where they will be supervised. Once the signs have been removed, students will be allowed to come up to the classroom with the Teachers.

In the afternoon we would appreciate it if parents could meet their children at the bottom of the stairs rather than coming up to wait on the verandah, unless they specifically want to see the teacher. This helps to avoid congestion on the stairs.

BEING IN A NUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT

This year, as in all recent previous years we have a small number of children enrolled in the school who have severe allergic reactions to some foods in particular peanuts, nuts and eggs. With some of these students their reaction is so severe that their life is endangered by contact with them. For this reason, we ask that families do not send food containing peanuts, nuts or nut-based products. Peanut paste and Nutella, in particular, because it can stick to hands so easily it is one product that we encourage all families not to send to school.

Parents can help minimize the possibility of an allergic reaction by reminding your child not to share their food and to wash their hands before and after eating. Please also assist by removing all traces of food from your child’s (and toddlers coming into the classroom) face, hands and clothes, if it is possible that they have eaten anything containing nuts. Please do not send any items to school for box constructions which have contained any nut products. We realize that this may not always be possible, but every effort you can make, will be certainly appreciated by these children, their parents and the staff at St Patrick’s.

USE OF EMAILS

As you can appreciate your children are our priority. Giving our students our full attention is paramount. For this reason it is not possible for our staff to be constantly checking emails. The teaching staff have been asked to respond to emails within a 24 hour turn-around during the working week. Therefore if it is something that needs immediate action a message through the school office is a lot more practical. Using social media to ask staff questions about school issues is also not the best option.

All teachers will communicate their work email address and will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday.

Our email addresses are: tpennisi@bne.catholic.edu.au claffey@bne.catholic.edu.au
**CONCERNS**
We recognise the important role you play in the education of your child. Our priority is always the well-being of your child and to ensure that a happy relationship of support and understanding exists between us all. If you have any concerns, suggestions or feedback about any aspect of class activities, please do not hesitate to come and make an appointment to see us outside of teaching time, as 8:30 is a very busy time of day.

Thank you,

*Kate Laffey       Toni Pennisi*