

LESCHENAULT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 4 PARENT INFORMATION PACK

2016



Welcome! Term 1 is well and truly underway! We are absolutely delighted to be teaching the Year 4's and they have proven over these initial weeks to be a hardworking, positive and delightful cohort. We are really looking forward to working with both you and your child this year to create a wonderful classroom environment that promotes optimal learning.

Philosophy

Our aim is to evoke a positive attitude towards learning by providing children with interesting and relevant learning experiences. We expect children to try their best in all activities and believe that with a positive attitude and a safe, stimulating environment all children can achieve their full potential.

This term we will endeavour to:

- Improve and extend your child's knowledge and skills across all learning areas, with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy.
- Encourage children to develop a more independent and responsible attitude to learning, encouraging them to 'have a go,' at all times and be self-reflective learners.
- Create a democratic classroom environment where children feel safe, respected and supported and are not afraid to have a say.
- Assist each individual to try his or her best at all classroom tasks and encourage students' pride in their work

Discipline/Reinforcement

Taken from Leschenault Catholic Primary School Discipline Policy 2012

"Children will be encouraged by our example and instruction to share with others within the community the Christian values of respect, care, love and forgiveness.

Our Catholic School must develop persons who are inner directed, capable of choosing freely and in conformity with their informed conscience" (The Catholic School Article 31)

Principles

At Leschenault Catholic Primary

- All children have the right to learn, work and play in a friendly, safe and helpful school.
- Each child is to be respected as an individual and made to feel valued.
- By working together through a school wide approach to discipline we can increase the probability that students will learn responsibility and respect from one another.
- We share our Christian values in the way we relate with others.

Self-Discipline

We encourage children to manage their own behaviours. We will be encouraging children to develop their problem solving skills to make the right choices at school and, eventually, in life.

Four Blue's Code of Conduct

In class, the students decided on 5 guidelines to govern our classroom.

1. I will listen attentively to the person sharing to the class.
2. I will put my hand up to speak and not call out.
3. I will respect my classmate's property.
4. I will respect others and not say 'put downs'.
5. I will smart ignore people who are distracting me.

Consequences will be in line with school student management policy called 123 Magic. Rules and consequences will be clearly displayed in classroom.

Homework Procedure

Homework

Students will need a homework file and book. Each week's homework is to be completed in this book and the file returned on Friday to be marked. Homework will primarily be revision of concepts taught during literacy or numeracy. On some occasions, homework tasks will be small projects that will require the student to research and present to the class. This program is called SCOOP. Please be assured that we will not set unreasonable deadlines for homework projects. We realise that children often leave things to the last minute. We will be helping them develop time-management skills to try to overcome this problem. Should your child not be able to complete the homework or find it too difficult, please contact me at school.

Your child is expected to read for **20 minutes each night and to use their diary to record** what they read each night, as well as, completing an online book quiz or written book review each week. These reading activities will contribute towards gaining Literacy Pro points. Please check and sign diaries every week night, except for Friday. For students who have not written their homework in their diaries, please ensure they complete their normal homework.

Diary/Communication

The school diary is an essential tool. Children will be required to have one to keep track of day to day tasks, homework, assignments and general information about the happenings of the school. We will be also using it as a means of communication to you on your child, when the need arises.

We are available for you to see us regarding anything concerning your child's education or well-being, please **make an appointment** for afterschool hours. We believe that open communication is important between the teacher and parent.

Learning Areas

Religion

These are the following units that will be covered in the Religious Education learning area this year:

Term 1	Loved and Forgiven (Penance - Lent/Easter) All Powerful God (Bible)
Term 2	Coming to Your Table (Eucharist) Whispers From Within (Baptism)
Term 3	The Spirit who Strengthens (Confirmation) God Knows Everything (Church)
Term 4	Creator of Human Life (Jesus) Together In Prayer (Prayer - Advent/Christmas)

English

The emphases for Year Four this term are:

- Narrative Writing (this is linked with the Humanities and Social Sciences and their study of Aboriginal History)
- Guided reading will focus on a comprehension and decoding reading strategy each week that links to analysing narrative texts.
- Literacy rotations: Each week there will be rotational sessions which will focus on a particular skill in grammar and punctuation and reading strategy. The skills practised and explicitly taught link to the skills required to write cohesive and strong narratives.

Spelling

This year we will be implementing the Letters and Sounds Program. This term the children will be broadening their knowledge of graphemes (letter names) and phonemes (letter sounds) for use in reading and spelling.

Mathematics

The whole school is following the 'Stepping Stones' program and part of this is an at home component booklet to reinforce important concepts, such as basic facts knowledge. Stepping Stones encompasses all learning areas and is based on the Australian Curriculum. Children will be given opportunities to explore the concepts through problem solving, concrete aids and technological experiences.

In Year 4 students are grouped in such a way that best suits their learning needs. Specific queries regarding your child's progress in Maths should be directed to their Maths teacher. We endeavour to mark and return assessments to the children within one week.

Humanities and Social Sciences

The Australian Curriculum in Year 4 will focus on History and Geography. There will be at least one major assignment for this learning area that will be completed in class. Please remember that it is vital for your child's independence and development, that they are encouraged to complete work by themselves.

Science/Technology and Enterprise

Children will have their Science lesson **on Thursday** with Miss Ridgeway.

Information Technology (IT)

Students will have IT classes with Mr Portolan each Thursday in the library. The 'Responsible Use Policy' is located in the back of the school diary. This will need to be signed before students can access any technology tools.

Indonesian

The Year 4's will have their Indonesian lesson on **Wednesday** with Ibu Forrest.

Physical Education

Students will be required to wear their sport uniforms on their lesson day which is every **Friday**. Please be aware that they are not to wear their sport uniform on any other day unless requested to do so by a teacher eg Carnivals and some excursions.

Health

There are four distinct topics for Health, which are linked to the Australian Curriculum. We will start the year with Resiliency and Wellbeing. The unit of work is based on the Challenges and Choices programme.

Art/Drama

Due to staff changes, the Arts learning area will be taught by a class teacher in years 3-6. Both 4G and 4B will have their art lesson on Monday with Mrs Negus and their drama lesson with Mrs Sullivan in alternate weeks. Please ensure your child has brought their art shirts to school.

Reporting 2016

We will be conducting parent interviews at the end of Term 1, where we will discuss your child's progress and set goals for the remainder of the year. At the end of each Semester, a formal report will be sent home.

Excursions

We are hoping to participate in an excursion this year to further develop your child's learning experiences. Information and permissions slips will be sent home closer to the time.

Absentee Notes and Late arrivals

By law we are required to ensure that we have a written explanation for any time your child is absent from school. *It needs to be on a separate piece of paper (not in a homework diary) so it can be kept with the school records.* Please send a note with your child when they return to school. Students who arrive after the 8.40am bell are late to school and will need to go to the front office for a late slip. If you wish to collect your child during the day, a sign out slip will need to be completed at the front office.

Students before and after school

We ask that parents encourage their child to gain more independence by allowing them to organise their own desks, books and chairs each morning and afternoon. We understand that this could take some students longer than others, but we are able to provide a supportive structure to enable them to achieve independence.

Parent Help

Parent help is very welcome in Year 4! As we are still trying to settle into our routine, this may not be kicked off until around week four, however, if you are at all interested either as a one off or a more permanent capacity, come and see me and leave your name and number so I can contact you when necessary. Areas that parent help will probably be most needed are for individual reading and literacy rotation stations.

On another note, if you are working in a field or profession that relates to what the students are learning, please don't hesitate to offer your knowledge and skills to the classroom, e.g. chemical or biological science, police officer commenting on road safety etc. The more opportunity for students to experience real life applications of the topics and skills taught in class- the better!

Line Ups, Masses and Liturgies

Line Ups are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The students will line-up in the morning at 8am. Line-up is usually quiet brief and they are used to address the school on certain issues or achievements that occur within the school year as well as participate in prayer. Merit Awards are given out on Friday Line Ups.

Each class also hosts a liturgy; this term and Year 4 will be hosting the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. This will occur on March 24th on Thursday at 2:30pm. **In Term Two, 4B will be also hosting the Beginning of Term School Mass on Tuesday the 3rd of May.**

I encourage you to come along to show your support in all of these events.

Sacraments

First Eucharist

The Year 4's will be preparing for the special sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. During religion lessons they will be preparing to receive Jesus into their hearts and celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Both the enrolment mass and First Eucharist will take place in Term 2. Dates will be confirmed closer to the date.

Important reminders

- All clothing must be clearly labelled. Hats are compulsory all year round.
- When collecting children from school during school hours, it is necessary to sign children out of the office.
- Infectious diseases will be dealt with as set out in the school policy, particularly head lice! Remember to check your child's head regularly.
- The children will have the opportunity to change library books once a week which will occur every Wednesday morning. Children must have a bag to borrow books.
- If your child is absent from school you must provide a **written note** explaining the reason to the ladies in the office, not just a verbal explanation to the teacher.

We are looking forward to working with you during this year to provide the best learning opportunities possible.

Regards,
Emma Sullivan, Fiona Negus and Kristy Keeler.