Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5. We look forward to sharing your child's educational journey with you. The year ahead looks to be a promising one with an array of learning experiences that will endeavour to nurture the development of each child’s intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual and physical capacities.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Assembly 5B</td>
<td>26th Feb</td>
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<td>Assembly 5G</td>
<td>28th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Disco</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday Mass</td>
<td>18th Feb</td>
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<td>Year 5/6 attend Mass</td>
<td>20th Feb</td>
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<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
<td>27th Feb</td>
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<td>Labor Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<td>Swimming Trials</td>
<td>17th &amp; 19th March</td>
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<td>Swimming Lessons</td>
<td>Week 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>17th March</td>
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<td>Interschool Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>27th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>27th March (Parish)</td>
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<td>2nd April (School)</td>
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**GENERAL THEMES**

Term One: Colonisation of Australia and Easter

Term Two: Australian history

Term Three: Geography

Term Four: Australian Government and Christmas

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Religious Education learning area is comprised of eight units of work. Each unit endeavours to assist the children to develop a relationship with God and strengthen their understanding of Catholic faith and practices. During the course of this term, we will be completing two units:

*We Are Called - Baptism*  and  *Choosing To Do Good - Lent/Easter*

Year Five will also prepare the Stations of the Cross dramatization during Lent. A number of students will be invited to be a part of this service, which will be performed in front of the parish and school. All families are invited to attend these performances.
**ENGLISH**

The students will engage in a range of learning experiences that will develop their reading comprehension, writing and visual literacy skills. Through modelled and independent reading and writing activities, higher order thinking skills and knowledge of genre structure will be promoted.

In term one, emphasis will be placed on developing the reciprocal reading strategy whereby students 1) **predict** the content based on the heading and other contextual features 2) look up the meaning of unknown words in the dictionary (**clarify**) 3) identify and **summarise** the key ideas presented and 4) question or make connections between the information provided. In regards to writing, both sentence structure and paragraph structure will be explored. Through modelled writing students will develop an awareness that each paragraph commences with a topic sentence, followed by supporting details and a statement that reiterates the key idea.

**SPELLING**

The Year 5 and 6 classes will be using Spelling books from the same series. Each fortnight students will study a list which focuses on a specific phoneme (sound). The students will also be tested on their grammar and punctuation skills each fortnight through dictation.

**MATHEMATICS**

The Mathematics learning area is broken up into four proficiency strands and three sub-strands.

**Proficiency strands:**
* Understanding  
* Fluency  
* Problem Solving  
* Reasoning

**Sub-strands:**
* Number & Algebra  
* Statistics & Probability  
* Measurement & Geometry

St Anthony's will continue to implement the 'Stepping Stones' programme across the school. Stepping Stones is an interactive and developmentally sequential programme that builds upon the children's prior knowledge. In addition to 'Stepping Stones' students will be involved in a variety of hands on activities that will focus on developing the students' mental mathematics and problem solving skills.

It is vitally important that students develop their mental computation skills through practising their times-tables and addition and subtraction problem solving.
HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

This term, as outlined by the Australian Curriculum, students will be studying colonial Australia in the 1800s. Students will investigate the founding of British colonies and the development of various colonies within Australia. They will learn what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period and will examine significant events and people, political and economic developments, social structures, and settlement patterns.

SCIENCE - Mr Bernie Schelfhout

Children at St Anthony’s will explore science concepts through the ‘Primary Connections’ programme, which is fully aligned with the Australian Curriculum and promotes inquiry learning. Year 5s will be completing the ‘Desert Survivors’ unit which provides students with an opportunity to explore some of the physical and behavioural features of desert plants and animals, and to compare them with plants and animals that live in other environments. Students will be facilitated to pose questions and develop evidence-based claims to support their reasoning. Through hands-on activities, students will investigate how the features of desert plants and animals help them to survive in their own natural environment.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS:

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Mrs Christine Schelfhout

  5B Sport - Thursdays and Fridays
  5G Sport - Tuesdays and Fridays

MUSIC - Mrs Margaret Grubb (Wednesdays)

ITALIAN - Natalie Zisa-Wares (Fridays)

LIBRARY: Trish Barton (Wednesdays)

UNIFORMS:

Please label all items clearly. A school hat is compulsory and all students must comply with the school uniform requirements (including hair, jewellery, shoes and socks).

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Parent / teacher interviews will take place at the end of Term One whereby an interim report will be given out. Mid year and end of year reports will also be provided for each child. Throughout the course of the year various standardised and teacher made assessments will be administered to track student progress. Early in term two, Year 5s will sit NAPLAN and in term three they will complete the Bishop’s Religious Literacy test.
HOMEWORK:
- Reflects the content being covered in class – nothing the students receive will be ‘new’ to them.
- Children should complete approximately 30 minutes of homework per night
- Homework will include a spelling, mathematics and English component. Occasionally, a general knowledge research project will be assigned.
- Personal reading (approximately 20 minutes) should be enjoyed outside of the set homework time.
- To accommodate those students who have heavy extra-curricular commitments, homework will be distributed on Fridays and due the following Friday.

COMMUNICATION:
- Newsletters are distributed fortnightly (Thursdays). Please take the time to read them as they contain important information about upcoming events.
- Diaries will be utilised to record homework tasks, messages and reminders. Please sight and sign these on a weekly basis.
- Parents wishing to have a meeting with the classroom teacher are invited to make an appointment to do so. Impromptu meetings just before the bell are not advisable as teachers are legally required to supervise the students from 8:30am onwards.
- Notes must be submitted to the classroom teacher for every student absence. This is a legal requirement.
- Parents need to sign their children in and out of school at the office if they arrive late or early.

SUPPORT:
Mr Ian Pearce will be involved in the Year 5 support and extension programmes this year.

BOOK COVERING:
If you haven’t already done so, please cover your child’s books as this will help protect them and extend their longevity.

GENERAL:
Our aim this year will be to foster a supportive and challenging learning environment in which each child is empowered to achieve their full potential. Emphasis will be placed on each child developing responsibility for their own learning and leadership skills. In order for us to achieve our goals and to educate the whole child it is imperative that there is a partnership between the school and home environment. We look forward to a rewarding year ahead.

Warm regards,

5 Gold: Miss Melissa Vranjes, Mrs Philippa Wicksey (Wed)
5 Blue: Mrs Rachel Prendergast & Ms Lyn Born (Thur)