

YEAR FOUR

2020

Year Four sees a greater focus on students taking responsibility for their own learning and behaviour. It is also a very important year as it marks the third stage in your child's Sacramental journey. You should have received a note (on mauve-coloured paper) last week with the key dates for First Holy Communion preparation. Please see your child's teacher immediately if this note did not make it home.

RELIGION

Our units this term are *All Powerful God* and *Lent / Easter*.

Students will be given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent and Advent and as preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

ENGLISH

Reading

Our weekly reading activities target students' fluency, comprehension, understanding of text types, grammar and punctuation. There is a focus on using Sheena Cameron's reading comprehension strategies which include activating prior knowledge, self-monitoring, predicting, questioning, making connections, visualising, inferring, summarising, skimming, scanning and word attack strategies. These are introduced at a whole class level and reinforced in small group activities in order to cater for the specific needs of the students.

Spelling

We follow the whole-school Diana Rigg spelling program, which ensures that each student receives spelling instruction at his/her point of need. Students receive a list of spelling words each week with a common phonic concept and complete activities at both school and home to help them learn these words. The number of spelling words allocated each week varies.

Writing

We are implementing the Talk for Writing Program developed by Pie Corbett. The stages include:

- **COLD TASK.** The students 'have a go' writing the given text without assistance as a form of baseline assessment.
- **IMITATION.** The students orally learn an example of the text covered which enables them to internalise the pattern/ structure of the text so that it is added to their linguistic repertoire.
- **INNOVATION.** Through shared writing, students innovate on the text, refining their ideas so that they are fluent, coherent and effective.
- **INDEPENDENT.** The students use the skills they have learnt in the previous steps to independently write their own text.

Students will explore many text types this year including recounts, reviews, narratives, poetry, reports, explanations, procedures and expositions.

MATHEMATICS

Three strands of Mathematics are taught:

- Number and Algebra - includes place value, fractions, decimals, money, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Statistics and Probability - includes chance events and collecting, organising, representing and analysing data.
- Measurement and Geometry - includes length, area, mass, volume, temperature, time concepts and shapes (2D / 3D).

It is important that students practise their multiplication facts on a regular basis. They are expected to be able to recall all their times tables up to 10 x 10 by the end of Year Four.

Each Mathematics lesson includes a warm-up activity, whole class explicit teaching of concepts, small group activities which cater for the varying needs of students in the class and individual tasks on Mathematics.

HASS

History

Beginning with the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, students examine European exploration and colonisation in Australia and throughout the world up to the early 1800s.

Civics and Citizenship

We will be exploring the role of local government in the community and looking at how people's identity can be shaped through participation in a community group. Students will learn to distinguish between rules and laws and identify how rights and responsibilities are important in maintaining social cohesion.

Geography

Geography skills covered include locating selected countries using compass direction, describing and comparing the characteristics of places in different locations at local to national scales and identifying the interconnections between components of the environment and between people and the environment.

SCIENCE

Students will be studying Physical Science (Forces) in Term 1, Biological Science (Plants) in Term 2, Chemical Science (Materials) in Term 3 and Earth Science (Earth's surface changes) in Term 4.

HEALTH

There are three broad areas addressed in the Health program. These are:

- Being Healthy, Safe and Active
- Communicating and Interacting For Health and Well Being
- Contributing To Healthy and Active Communities

Students will also complete the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Program which is mandated by the Department for Education and Child Development. The curriculum assists students to gain an understanding of what safety means and strategies for keeping safe. Students review warning signs and the three components: physical indicators (body messages); emotional indicators (feelings); and external signs (clues) using a range of contextualised scenarios.

TECHNOLOGIES

The Technologies program encompasses both Design and Technologies and Digital Technologies, which we study in alternate terms (Digital Technologies in Terms 1 and 3; Design and Technologies in Terms 2 and 4). Despite some technical difficulties last week with the coding platform Scratch, we hope to be able to continue with our proposed program and complete a series of animation challenges.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

Physical Education: Mrs Christine Schelfhout will teach Phys. Ed. on Monday. Students are permitted to wear their faction shirts in Term One and Term Three.

Science: Mr Bernie Schelfhout will teach Science in 4 Blue on Tuesday and 4 Gold on Friday.

Geography: Mr Bernie Schelfhout will teach Geography on Wednesday.

Music: Ms Geraldine Lockyer will teach Music lessons in 4 Blue on Monday and 4 Gold on Thursday.

Italian: Ms Natalie Zisa-Wares will teach Italian lessons on Tuesday.

LIBRARY

A library bag is required to borrow books. 4 Blue will be browsing on Monday and 4 Gold on Wednesday.

HOMEWORK

Students have the entire term's homework already glued in their Homework book. Each week, students are required to complete all the activities in the top row of the grid (reading, spelling and maths). They are strongly encouraged to complete the other five activities which cover all other subject areas and many useful life skills. Homework is due each Friday. There is no homework in the first or last week of each term.

COMMUNICATION

From today, Seesaw will be used as the Year 4 teachers' primary communication tool with parents, as well as a vehicle to share student learning. Please check it regularly (ideally, every day) so that you are in the loop with what's happening.

ASSESSMENT / REPORTING

Parent-Teacher meetings will be held in Term One. Mid-year and end-of-year reports will continue in their current electronic form. Please don't hesitate to speak with us before these times if you have any concerns or queries.

- Elisabetta De Filippi: elisabetta.defilippi@cewa.edu.au (Monday to Friday)
- Kirsty Pitman: kirsty.pitman@cewa.edu.au (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
- Rachel Prendergast: rachel.prendergast@cewa.edu.au (Wednesday)

We look forward to a wonderful year with your children.

Warm regards

Ms Kirsty Pitman, Mrs Rachel Prendergast and Ms Elisabetta De Filippi