

CURRICULUM NOTES

ST JOSEPH'S ROCHESTER
Foundation/Grade 1



WELCOME TO TERM 4



Welcome back to our final term of the year! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for an exciting term of learning and fun. Term 4 is always a special time as we reflect on how much the children have grown and celebrate all they have achieved throughout the year.

This term, we'll continue building on our literacy and numeracy skills, explore new religion topics, discover in inquiry, and take part in special school events as we move towards the end of the year. We're so proud of how far each child has come and look forward to a wonderful term filled with curiosity, kindness, and creativity.

There are lots of exciting opportunities in and out of the classroom for the students across term 4. Please make sure to have a look at the important date at the end of the curriculum notes, keep an eye on our fortnightly newsletter and facebook page for upcoming events. We will be sure to continue to share what the F/1 students are getting up to via Seesaw too.

Thank you to those who continue to volunteer their time listening to the students read in the mornings. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and partnership in your child's learning journey – it makes such a difference!

Eliza

CURRICULUM NOTES

ST JOSEPH'S ROCHESTER
Year



TERM 4 DRESS UP DAYS



**FRIDAY
10 OCTOBER**

World Mental Health Day - Steps on your Wellbeing Journey

Children are invited to come to school in Walking Gear - we will walk the Walk This Way Rochester Track.



**THURSDAY
30 OCTOBER**

WELLBEING WEARS MANY OUTFITS

As part of Wellbeing Week, we're inviting everyone to get creative and dress up to celebrate the many ways we can look after ourselves and each other. Your outfit can represent what makes you feel good – whether it's bright colours, comfy clothes, sports gear, a favourite character, or something that shows kindness, fun, or teamwork. Be bold, be playful, and most importantly, be yourself!

There's no "right" way to dress up – because wellbeing wears many outfits. ☀



**THURSDAY
13 NOVEMBER**

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

Children are welcome to dress as a symbol of something that makes them laugh, helps them exercise or a musician they enjoy listening to.



**FRIDAY
12 DECEMBER**

CHRISTMAS T-SHIRT/OUTFIT DRESS UP DAY

Children are welcome to dressed in a christmas shirt or outfit.



For more details and updates about these events, please
follow us on social media
facebook.com/stjosephsrochester



ENGLISH



Phonics – InitialLit

This term, students will continue to build their phonics knowledge through a structured, evidence-based approach that supports the development of strong reading and spelling skills. Lessons focus on recognising and using letter-sound relationships, blending sounds to read words, and segmenting words to spell them accurately. Students will also learn to read and spell common “tricky” words that don’t follow regular patterns. Through daily practice, reading activities, and interactive games, students are developing the essential skills they need to become confident and fluent readers and writers.

Independent Practice

Students will also have opportunities for independent practice to reinforce the skills and knowledge they are learning. During this time, they apply their phonics, spelling, and writing skills through activities such as reading decodable texts, writing sentences, and completing word or sound-based tasks. Independent practice helps students build confidence, fluency, and independence as they take greater responsibility for their own learning.

Teacher Led Groups

During teacher-led group time, students work in small groups to receive targeted instruction that matches their specific learning needs. This focused time allows teachers to provide explicit teaching, guided practice, and immediate feedback to support each student’s progress in reading, spelling, and writing. Working in small groups also encourages active participation, discussion, and collaboration, helping students to deepen their understanding and apply new skills with confidence.

Writing

In Term 4, our Foundation and Year 1 students will continue to develop their writing skills through a range of engaging and purposeful learning experiences. Students will focus on spelling, supported through our phonics lessons, as they build their understanding of letter-sound relationships and develop their knowledge of tricky words. They will write recounts based on their own experiences and explore information reports linked to our animal unit in Inquiry. Students will also respond to texts read during our storybook lessons, strengthening their comprehension and written expression. Throughout the term, there will be a strong focus on correct letter formation and handwriting habits to support clear and confident writing.

Storybook

Across the term we will continue to explore a variety of rich texts building on the student's appreciation for a range of texts looking at different concepts of print (eg: author, illustrator, blurb, title), making predictions using clues (eg: taking note of the illustrations on the front cover), sharing their comprehension of the text through participating in discussions about the text (literal and inferred) and responding through a link with our writing.

MATHEMATICS

Foundation

Data

In this unit, students will learn how to collect, sort, and display information to help them make sense of the world around them. They will gather simple data about familiar topics – such as favourite fruits, pets, or ways of getting to school – and represent their findings using objects, drawings, and picture graphs.

Location

Students will develop their understanding of position and location by using everyday language such as above, below, next to, in front of, and between. They will describe where objects and people are, follow directions, and give simple instructions. Through games, movement, and map-making, students learn how to navigate spaces and communicate position clearly.

Counting & Place Value

This unit focuses on building strong number sense to 20. Students will practise counting forwards and backwards, recognising numerals, and matching numbers to groups of objects. They will explore numbers through play, songs, and hands-on materials to deepen their understanding of how numbers represent quantity. This helps form the foundation for later addition and subtraction learning.

Measurement - Length, Mass, Capacity, and Time

This term in Maths, students will explore different ways to measure and compare the world around them. They will learn to describe and order everyday objects based on length (longer/shorter), mass (heavier/lighter), and capacity (holds more/less) using informal units such as blocks, hands, and cups. Students will also continue to build their understanding of time by sequencing events and using everyday language like before, after, morning, and night.



Grade 1

Data

In this unit, students will learn how to collect, organise, and interpret data to answer simple questions about their world. They will gather information on topics of interest – such as favourite foods, weather, or classroom pets – and represent their findings using lists, tally marks, and picture graphs.

Location

In this unit, students will develop their understanding of location, movement, and direction. They will use everyday language such as left, right, near, far, forwards, and backwards to describe where objects and people are and how they move from one place to another.

Time

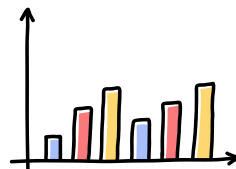
In this unit, students will build their understanding of time by learning to order daily and weekly events and tell time to the hour on an analogue clock. They will explore concepts such as before, after, morning, afternoon, and evening, and connect these to familiar routines and classroom activities.

Shape

In this unit, students will investigate the features of 2D shapes (such as triangles, squares, and circles) and 3D objects (such as cubes, cones, and spheres). They will learn to identify, name, describe, and compare shapes based on features like sides, corners, and faces.

Addition and Subtraction

In this unit, students will develop their understanding of addition and subtraction through hands-on activities, games, and problem-solving tasks. They will learn to combine and separate groups of objects, use number sentences to represent their thinking, and explore different strategies to find totals and differences.





RELIGION

We Are Special

In this unit students will explore and express their unique identity. They will be asked to identify what makes them unique, to understand their individuality, and thank God for the life given to each of them. Students will develop a sense of respect, wonder and appreciation for diversity. They will understand that every aspect of creation including human beings are sacred as they are filled with God's love. By the end of the unit students will be able to identify ways that Christians love and care for others as God asks. They will be able to express ways in which they share their God-given gifts with others.

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

In this unit students will explore the celebration of Jesus' birth and explore the concept of waiting and preparing for special events in our lives. They will understand waiting and how it applies to their lives. They will be led to appreciate that Mary and Joseph waited for the birth of Jesus. They will be encouraged to relate their experiences of giving, receiving and celebrating to this important liturgical event. By the end of the unit students will be able to identify that the Church celebrates special times in the year.



INQUIRY



Great & Small

This term, our Foundation and Year 1 students are exploring the unit "Great and Small." Through this unit, students will develop their understanding of the fascinating living things that share our world – from the tiniest insects to the largest animals. They will investigate what living things need to survive, how they grow and change, and the ways we can care for their environments.

Students will make observations, ask questions, and record their findings through hands-on experiences, discussions, and creative projects. This inquiry encourages curiosity, responsibility, and appreciation for the natural world, helping students recognise that every living thing, great or small, has an important role to play in our world.



AUSLAN *with Tim*



Across the classrooms in term 4 students will build on their practical knowledge of Auslan through being introduced to classroom-based conversations and routines. These conversations and routines can be used in everyday practise to develop fluency and confidence. For example;

- Roll call - students sign their name.
- Excuse me, can you please help me?
- Grab your lunch and hat, it's time.

We will continue to welcome Tim on Friday who will support the learning within the classroom while also introducing topics of interest such as Christmas signs towards the end of the year.

TRP / RRRR *with Mrs McEvoy*

This term in Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) and The Resilience Project (TRP), students will explore a range of problem solving techniques used when faced with personal, social, and ethical dilemmas. Through a variety of scenario based learning activities, students will practise their problem solving and teamwork skills in meaningful and engaging ways. As part of this unit, students will participate in cooperative games such as Threading the Hoop and Pass the Precious Water, which encourage collaboration, communication and creative thinking to solve challenges together. Students will also explore the causes of stress and learn a range of self-regulation and coping strategies. This includes mindfulness, positive self-talk, and deep breathing to help them manage stressful situations effectively. Students will also recognise and celebrate World Kindness Day by completing a creative art activity that promotes empathy, gratitude, and the importance of showing kindness to others.

PERFORMING ARTS *with Mrs Fellows*

During term 4, students will be undertaking learning in the Performing Arts subjects area. The two major subjects that they will be learning about are Music and Dance. Each week, the students will have a Music lesson that focuses on aural skills and making music and a Dance lesson that looks at Dance Play and the use of movement as a way of communicating emotions, thoughts and ideas.

In music, students will be developing their listening skills and skills for singing and playing instruments. They will be exploring where, why and how people across cultures, communities and/or other contexts experience music. Students will select and combine elements of music when composing and practising music for performance as well as singing and playing music in informal settings. During the dance lessons, students will complete a unit of work that ties movement to music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION *with Mrs McEvoy*

As we enter the final term of the school year, our Grade Prep, 1 and 2 students have an exciting term ahead. The term will begin with students learning the fundamental skills of skipping. This program will allow students to develop new skills such as coordination, balance, rhythm and timing whilst increasing their concentration skills. This unit will conclude with a school wide Jump Off Day, where students can showcase their progress and celebrate their achievements.

In week 8, students will also take part in a swimming program in Echuca, where they will attend daily lessons across one week. These lessons will help students build confidence in the water while developing important water safety and swimming skills.

Students will also participate in a scooter education program, where they will learn essential skills such as balance, coordination, safe riding, turning, and stopping. A strong focus will be placed on safety, with students practicing correct use of helmets and protective gear to ensure safe riding habits.

To conclude the term, students will enjoy an excursion to the local skate park, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate the new scooter skills they have developed in a fun, safe, and supportive environment.

VISUAL ARTS

This term in Visual Arts, students across the school will be exploring “The Great Outdoors” as a central theme. Our artists will observe the natural world closely and use it as inspiration for their own creations. Students will experiment with a variety of mediums and processes to capture landscapes, flowers, plants, trees, and the textures and colours of nature. The focus across year levels will be tailored to developmental stages - encouraging imagination, creativity, and artistic growth. Artists in the Junior classes will start with simple but joyful explorations of the outdoors. They will focus on:

- Observing shapes and patterns in leaves, flowers and trees.
- Using line, colour and texture to show what they see.
- Experimenting with painting, drawing, collage, and printmaking to represent natural forms.
- Exploring warm and cool colours to create feelings in their artwork.

Throughout the term, the aim is for each student to see themselves as an artist, enjoy making art, share their ideas in creative ways, and take inspiration from the world around them.

IMPORTANT DATES

Week 1: 6th - 10th October	7, 8, 9: Elmore Field Days 10: World Mental Health Day - Walk this Way Rochester
Week 2: 13th - 17th October	17: Campaspe Basketball
Week 3: 20th - 24th October	24: 3/4 Summer Sports 24: Deb Ball - volunteers needed.
Week 4: 27th - 31st October <i>Wellbeing Week</i>	30: Wellbeing Wears Many Outfits - dress up day 31: Reconciliation Paraliturg
Week 5: 3rd - 7th November	3: Pupil Free Day 4: Melbourne Cup Day 7: P-2 Tabloid Sports
Week 6: 10th - 14th November	13: World Kindness Day - dress up day 14: Confirmation & Eucharist Mass
Week 7: 17th - 21st November	21: Paint & Sip fundraising event
Week 8: 24th - 28th November <i>Swimming Week</i>	
Week 9: 1st - 5th December	2 & 3: Learning Conversations 

IMPORTANT DATES



Week 10:
8th - 12th December

9: 2026 Transition (Step Up) sessions 9.00am - 1.40pm
11: End of Year Gathering - 6.00pm - 8.00pm
12: Christmas T-shirt Day & Community Learning Day

Week 11:
15th - 18th December

15: Grade 6 Big Day Out
15: Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
16: Students Last Day of Term 4 - Mass & Assembly
@11.45am
17: Staff finish



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Principal:

Mrs Elizabeth Trewick
etrewick@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Pastoral Wellbeing:

Mrs Jessica Carmichael
jcarmichael@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Learning and Teaching:

Mrs Susan Kerlin
skerlin@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Learning Diversity:

Mrs Cheryl Schwab
cschwab@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Identity:

Miss Eliza McNamara
emcnamara@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Administration:

Office hours 8:30am - 4:00pm

Mrs Maria Whitehead

mariaw@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au
(Monday - Wednesday)

Mrs Amy Betts

abetts@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au
(Thursday - Friday)

Mrs Bree Cox - Finance Officer
bcox@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Phone contact:

Office - 54841797

Mobile - 0488191875

(please note this phone is not manned at all times and any urgent messages should be given via phone call)