



ST. JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Vermont, Victoria

St James Year 6 Newsletter 2023

TEACHERS:

Claire Feild 6D (Mon-Tue)

Monica De Leo 6D (Wed-Fri)

Josh Crowe 6C (Mon-Wed, Thurs am)

Molly Masters 6C (Thurs pm - Fri)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year at St James. We look forward to watching the students take on the role of being leaders at the school. We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us with many wonderful activities and experiences planned, including camp, interschool sports, Confirmation, and more. The students seem keen, energised and ready to approach the year with a great attitude which is fantastic to see. Whilst we may engage in some challenges as the year progresses, we know we will work together to make the students' final year of primary school a memorable one.

Dates and Newsletter

Please remember to read the newsletter each week to check important dates and what is going on around the school. It becomes available online every second Monday (updates on alternate weeks) and is the main communication between home and school.

February

Wednesday 8th-Friday 10th	Year 6 Camp - CYC The Island
Monday 13th	School Photos
Wednesday 15 th	Parent Information Night
Wednesday 15th	District Swimming Trials
Sunday 19th	Founders Day Mass 11.15 am
Tuesday 21st	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 22nd	Ash Wednesday

March

Wednesday 1st	District Swimming Carnival
Thursday 9th	Division Swimming Carnival
Thursday 9th / Friday 10th	Staff Conference - School Closure
Monday 13th	Labour Day Public Holiday - School Closed
Friday 18th	Year 6 Class Mass 9.00 am
Tuesday 21st	Cyber-Safety Student session (during school time) & Parent Session (time TBC)
Thursday 23rd	5/6 Gala Sports Day

April

Tuesday 4th

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Wednesday 5th

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Thursday 6th

Term 1 Ends

***Confirmation Celebration - Sat 12th August 1 pm & 3.15 pm - TBC**

Communication

We believe that the communication and exchange of information between family and school are of great importance. The achievement of this will contribute to the success of your child's education. We endeavour to do this through the effective use of email. Students in Year 6 use Chromebooks and store their work on Google Drive. Students are able to access this drive at home using their secure usernames and passwords.

Your involvement is highly valued and the partnership developed between parents and the school will also be a significant factor in your child's education. This can be seen in many forms such as sports coaching, assisting on excursions, participating in home learning activities, and sharing in celebrating your child's successes.

We look forward to getting to know you, working in partnership with you, and having a common goal of meeting your child's educational needs.

We believe that parents are our partners in education and your input and questions are valuable and informative. Please feel free to come and see us, email or call us if you have any queries, concerns or information that may be relevant to your child. **Please remember that your classroom teacher is your first point of contact for any issues that might arise.** Any further action will be passed on to Mr Dave Mutimer or relevant staff members if required.

Classroom Specialist Timetables

CLASS	Library Borrowing	AUSLAN	P.E.	VISUAL ARTS	STEMMS
6D + 6C	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

Sports uniform must be worn on allocated ***P.E. days only***. All students are to keep an art smock in the classroom at all times. It is important that all students have working headphones at school.

Camp

In Term 1 the students in Year 6 will be attending school camp at CYC The Island in Cowes, Phillip Island. It is a 3-day camp and the dates that we are booked in for are Wednesday 8th February– Friday 10th February. School camp is a wonderful experience for all children, however, it is one that can be met with some anxiety, especially for those going for the first time. It is a good idea to talk about camp and the experiences that they will have in a positive way to promote enthusiasm from the start.

Reminders

- Sports uniform is to be worn on the designated sports day only.
- Could you please assist us by making sure that your child's clothing and belongings are labelled. Spending a little time labelling your child's belongings and clothing can save you a lot of money!
- Please read through the School Uniform Policy (in the Parent handbook) with your child (jewellery, maintenance, school shoes, etc.)
- Should students be absent through illness, or for any other reason, a brief note/email must be forwarded to the class teacher explaining the reason for non-attendance by 8.45am.
- Students are reminded to bring a water bottle to school, which they are able to leave in the classroom for the day. This is important, especially in the warmer weather.
- At St James we have a non-sharing food policy. The children are not permitted to share any foods brought from home with other children. A number of students enrolled at the school have medical conditions, which necessitate that they do not have contact with nuts, eggs and dairy products.
- It is compulsory for students to wear the school hat when outdoors in Term 1 and Term 4. A **no-hat-no-play** policy is our practice during these terms.
- Use of Internet and Social Media - Please be vigilant with your children when using social media and the internet. Monitor closely and know what programs they are using and if possible how they work!
- Mobile phones must be handed to the office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day.
- Diaries will be collected each Wednesday. In accordance with our Home Learning Policy, students are expected to read 4 times per week for a minimum of 80 minutes.

Curriculum

Religious Education

At St James we belong to a very vibrant parish community where our sacramental programs prepare the children for Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Religious Education is an intrinsic part of our curriculum, that is both central to and sustains our whole school vision. Our task as teachers in a Catholic school is to provide quality Catholic learning and teaching opportunities for our students.

The Year Six students will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday 12 August (TBC)**

This term the students will be involved in two units of work.

Our first unit explores key relationships in the New and Old Testaments. Students will investigate the relationships Jesus and God had with significant historical figures. They will examine how the key messages can be relevant in 2023.

Our second unit explores Lent and Easter. We will be reflecting on and celebrating God's great generosity. Students will explore what generosity means in the Gospels, in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and in the events of Holy Week and Easter. They will reflect on ways they can live generously among friends and family.

English

The English domain is organised into three dimensions:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening.

The learning in these areas or dimensions is interrelated. For example, speaking and listening contributes to the development of students' reading responses. Writing contributes to communication about texts read or viewed and to reflection and learning. To help support student progress in all three dimensions, learning contexts are diverse and include situations that are informal, formal, planned and spontaneous.

During term one we will be focusing on comprehension strategies, spelling, word investigation and grammar and narratives. We will be completing a text analysis of the book 'Wonder.'

Mathematics

The Mathematics domain is organised into three dimensions:

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Mathematics in the senior level is aimed at relating the learning to real life situations and practicality wherever possible. There is a focus on problem solving and number play to develop mathematical reasoning and thinking, mental strategies and enjoyment in mathematics.

During term one we will be focusing on location, place value involving larger numbers, positive and negative numbers, mental arithmetic strategies, square numbers, factors, multiples, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Integrated Inquiry Learning

At St James students are engaged in learning about significant issues and rich concepts through inquiry learning. We believe that students learn most effectively when the context of their learning is authentic, and inquiry-based learning enables us to bring the real world into the classroom. It provides opportunities for our students to develop and apply understanding about their world. An inquiry-based approach to curriculum allows our students to explore, gather, process, refine and present information about concepts they are investigating. In developing their ideas about the way the world works, our students explore, organise and represent their understanding and relate their knowledge and inquiry skills to real-life contexts.

Our Term 1 Inquiry unit is titled 'What part do I play in building positive relationships?' Through the process of inquiry, the students will work towards an understanding that we can learn independently and can make wise decisions about our learning. We will also explore the links between their emotions and their behaviour. They will describe what it means to be confident, adaptable and persistent and why these attributes are important in dealing with new or challenging situations. The students will investigate and discuss behaviours that demonstrate sensitivity to individual, social and cultural differences.

*We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your child!
Monica De Leo, Josh Crowe, Claire Feild & Molly Masters*

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