

# YEAR 5 NEWSLETTER

TERM 4, 2025

Dear Year 5 Families,  
Welcome to Term 4! It is hard to believe we are already in the final term of the year. This term promises to be an exciting and rewarding one, filled with new learning opportunities, special events, and important preparations as our students get ready for their transition into Year 6.

Throughout the term, we will continue to focus on consolidating key skills, celebrating achievements, and encouraging the growth of independence and leadership in our students. We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child in making the most of their final term in Year 5.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the term, please don't hesitate to reach out!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

**13** Division Athletics  
(Selected Students)

### NOVEMBER

**3** School Closure Day

**4** Melbourne Cup

**6** Twilight Sports

**10** LSV Excursion to  
Aspendale Beach

**14** School Closure Day

**28** Advent Prayer Service

### DECEMBER

**5** School Closure Day

**16** Last Day of the  
School Year

## Our Specialist Timetable

|     | Tuesday               | Wed-       | Thurs-         | Friday  |
|-----|-----------------------|------------|----------------|---------|
| 5S  | Auslan<br>Visual Arts | STEM<br>PE |                | Library |
| 5OK | Auslan                |            | Visual<br>Arts |         |

## Diaries and Home Reading

Our expectation remains that students are reading consistently throughout the week and completing their diary. Thank you for continuing to sign off on this task.

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## READING

In Term 4, our Reading program will provide students with a variety of rich and engaging experiences. They will be linking Reading and Writing sessions together with the idea of Leadership, in particular reading biographies of good leaders and gaining insight through this. Students will continue to participate in Literature Circles, where they will read, discuss, and respond to different texts in small groups, building their skills in critical thinking, collaboration, and comprehension.

We will also undertake a book study on *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* by Amelia Mellor. This novel will invite students to explore themes of imagination, resilience, and history, while practising strategies such as predicting, summarising, questioning, and making connections.

Alongside this, students will continue to strengthen their reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension through independent and guided reading tasks.

## WRITING

In Term 4, our writing program will focus on exploring biographies. Students will study the lives of influential leaders from the past, learning how to identify key events, challenges, and achievements that shaped their journeys. Through this, students will practise important skills such as researching, summarising, and writing in an engaging and informative way.

Later in the term, students will shift their focus to preparing and delivering their own leadership speeches. This will be an opportunity for them to reflect on their time at St James, highlight their personal strengths, and share how they hope to contribute as leaders in Year 6. These speeches will combine the skills of persuasive writing, personal reflection, and public speaking.

## MATHS

This term, students will be:

- Exploring Decimals and Percentages – strengthening their understanding of place value and making connections between fractions, decimals and percentages in everyday contexts like money and measurement.
- Building confidence in Algebra – finding unknown values in equations involving multiplication and division, and using number properties to solve problems.
- Investigating Chance – learning the language of probability, conducting experiments and comparing the likelihood of different outcomes.

## RELIGION

In Religion this term, students will explore what it means to live as people of faith and hope. They will learn about The Beatitudes and how these teachings guide us to live with kindness, humility and compassion. We'll also look at the Characteristics of God and the Ten Commandments, helping students understand how God's love and guidance shape our everyday choices.

Students will revisit the Creation story, thinking about what it means for us in today's world and how we can care for creation. Through the stories of David and Saul and Jonah, they will reflect on reconciliation – how forgiveness, understanding and second chances help bring people closer to God and each other.

As Christmas approaches, we'll focus on the Nativity story, exploring how Jesus was sent to reconcile the world to God and how his birth continues to be a source of hope and joy for everyone.

## SCIENCE

Year Five students will explore how animals have changed over time through evolution. They will learn about natural selection, genetic variation, and how adaptations help animals survive in different environments. Students will investigate various habitats and examine how physical and behavioural traits support survival.

They will also explore reasons why animals evolve, using real-life examples, and learn how fossils provide evidence of past life. The unit includes an introduction to human evolution and how characteristics are passed down through generations. Students will practise researching and organising information chronologically to understand how living things have changed over time.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our final Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) topic for the year is on Optimism. We will begin the unit by exploring strategies that support positive mental health. Students will then learn about the concepts of optimism and pessimism through age-appropriate discussions and scenarios.

To conclude the unit, students will engage with lessons from the *Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships* program, focusing on Problem Solving. They will learn a variety of problem-solving strategies to apply when faced with personal or social challenges.