

Curriculum Notes



Term 1, 2022

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 2nd March
First Wednesday of term
for Foundation students

Shrove Tuesday
Ash Wednesday
Learning Conversations
(Pupil Free Day)

Monday 14th March
Labour Day
(Public Holiday)

Golden Hammer Day
(St. Joseph's Feast Day)

Friday 8th April
Last day of Term 1
Finish at 2:15pm

Foundation Ducks



Welcome to a new year of school!

Foundation students, your amazing school adventure starts now! I'm so excited to be with you all and to see where this year takes you.

I'm looking forward to being part of your child's learning journey this year. Some of you have been part of the St. Joseph's family for many years and some of you are just beginning; either way I am so happy to share this year with you and your child.

This year the Foundation students 'Rest Days' are; Wednesday 2nd, 9th, 17th and 23rd February. Their first Wednesday will be Wednesday 2nd March.



Meet the teacher



Miss Sortino

All about me

Hi! My name is Lauren Sortino.

This will be my eleventh year teaching and my seventh year at St. Joseph's Primary School Rochester. I have grown up around Numurkah on a dairy farm and I am from a family of five. I have a younger brother, Marc and sister, Eilish. I am looking forward to working with your child this year. I'm excited to watch them grow and most importantly have fun with them! I will also enjoy developing positive relationships with each child's family and sharing your child's achievements no matter how big or small they may be. Please don't hesitate to contact me, my email is below. I look forward to what your child's school year brings for 2022.

My favourites

- ♥ Colour: aqua 
- ♥ Drink: vanilla latte 
- ♥ Family & Friends ☐
- ♥ Watching series  
- ♥ Reading ☐
- ♥ Italian food ☐☐
- ♥ Smoothies/Juice ☐☐☐

Contact Me



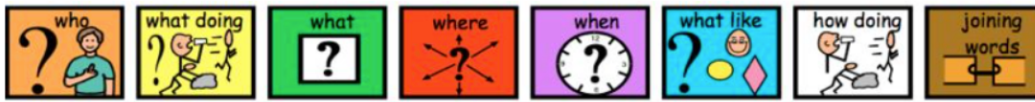
lsortino@jrochester.catholic.edu.au

Literacy

We understand that each child will begin this year with a unique knowledge of letters, words, reading, writing, speaking and listening. The Literacy assessment (completed on the students 'rest days') will allow us to successfully plan for your child's learning and focus on areas of need.

Colourful semantics

This is an oral language focused language framework which develops the children's concept of understanding and constructing sentences in both the written and spoken construction of their ideas. The Foundation students will be exposed to the below colour-coded cue cards; each card represents a word or part of a sentence. The cards tune the children into the key words in sentences. For example; WHO was in the story, WHERE did it take place? and the WHAT describes an object (book, car, tree, etc). Combining the elements creates a complex sentence eg; *The little fish was swimming in the fishbowl at night.*



Reading

Reading is a complex problem solving activity which involves developing the skills and strategies that are required to comprehend and make meaning from their reading so in turn they will foster a love of reading. This is our goal. Initially, but not in isolation we teach the skills of concept about print. This includes understanding and differentiating between a word, a letter, the print contains a message, where to begin reading and one - one matching. Predicting and questioning before, during and after the reading process is one way we begin to develop reading.

Please note: The children will be given a reader during class time and begin to take them home within the first few weeks of Term. The students can keep their readers in their reader bag/satchel to ensure it comes to and from school each day. They will have their reading heard during the week on their focus student day (below - blue section) and we will monitor your child's reading progress several times during the Term. We encourage your child to change their own reader as they unpack their bag in the morning.

Writing

Our focus this Term is to provide many opportunities for writing. The skills required to become a proficient writer and develop a love of writing begins with the ability to understand that writing is about a message. Initially, it begins with using the skills of speaking and listening and orally composing a story or information and then making connections to letter-sound relationships to formally record their ideas on a page. This skill will be taught through modeling, rhymes and explicit teaching with feedback given one on one with the children prior to, during and after the writing process.

Speaking and Listening

Our focus this Term is for students to listen to and use appropriate interaction skills to respond to others.

We will refer to the '5 L's (right) of Learning throughout our school day.



Spelling

SMART Spelling

This term the Foundation students will be introduced to our spelling approach called 'SMART Spelling'. This amazing approach was created by Michelle Hutchinson. She suggests we need more than just 'what' to teach, we also need 'how' to teach spelling. She uses the acronym of SMART, which actually shows us HOW to teach spelling.

Say

Meaning

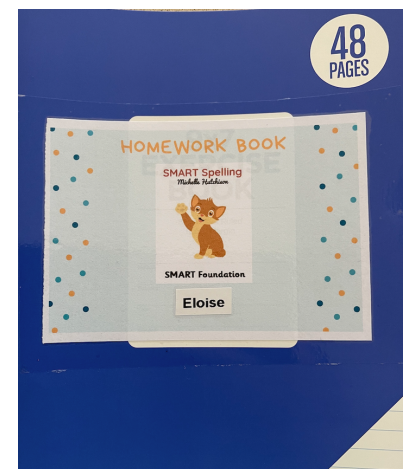
Analyse

Remember

Teach

SMART Spelling is 2 things. 80% of the time it is the systematic teaching of one spelling pattern at a time. 20% of the time, it is teaching at the point of need from students' own writing. In short, we incorporate the meaning of words, syllables, sounds and letters and the most useful spelling rules. It does however prioritise the meaning (vocabulary), phonology (sounds) and orthography (letters and letter patterns). Each week the students will work on a 'Word of the Week' Eg: Cat and a 'Sentence of the Week' Eg: The cat sat on the mat.

Each week (Mondays), your child will take home a **small blue book** (pictured below) which has a letter on the first page addressed to parents/guardians and then another page with our weekly sentence. Each week in class we will be working on the word and sentence of the week eg; **Word:** Cat and **Sentence:** The cat sat on the mat. With your cooperation at home we would appreciate you and your child going through the words on the list and an adult either putting a dot if your child is still learning the word or a tick if they can read the word on their own. We will follow up these observations every Friday and give your child the following week's word and sentence every Monday. We thank you in advance for your partnership in your child's learning.



Numeracy

Number; Counting and Place Value

This Term the Foundation students will be actively involved in daily oral counting activities using dice, number lines, unifix blocks and counters. We will be focusing on counting and sequencing numbers and making collections. A specific skill we will be focusing on will be the ability to subitise numbers up to 6. To subitise is the ability to instantly recognize the number of objects in a small group, without counting each item. Throughout the Term we will all use many different concrete materials to continue to develop our counting knowledge.



Measurement and Geometry

Students will have the opportunity to work in the Measurement domain when we focus on the area of 2D shapes. A focus on shapes allows us to provide a strong link to everyday life and objects in our environment. When investigating shape we will focus on geometric features when describing shapes and objects such as corners, edges, faces, straight lines and curved lines. The students will also learn to sort the shapes into categories.



Data

In the early weeks of this Term the students will collect data using simple surveys with a yes or no responses. The results will be represented using pictographs and tally tables/marks. We will then describe the data we collected and discuss what categories were the greatest or least numbers.

Religion

This Term the students first unit will be **'St. Brigid: A Woman of Compassion'**. In this unit students will be introduced to St. Brigid. They will come to know of her early life and how she helped people and demonstrated her love for God. The students will learn through reading picture story books, discovering symbols such as the Brigidine cross, Godly Play and discovering artefacts around our school.

'I am special, so are you' will be our second unit. During this unit the children will identify the gifts and talents God has given them and recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. Through engaging in Visual Art and Visual literacy, role play and speaking and listening activities they will express thanks to God for their life and uniqueness and describe how their actions affect others. We will be having a Guess the Baby competition and will require each child to provide a labelled baby photo.

'Lent and Easter' will be our last unit for the Term. The students will explore Lent as a particular time for thinking about the way we live along with identifying how we pray to prepare for Easter. The students will engage in Visual Literacy and Godly Play experiences to learn about this significant time in our Church.



Inquiry

Our introduction unit **'Developing our learning culture'** will allow students to learn that by practicing good habits for our mind and social skills for how to work effectively with others, they are developing lifelong skills. This gives students the opportunity to reflect on the environment in which they learn and what rules we need to follow so that everyone can do their best.

This Term our Inquiry unit is called **'In our Community'**. Students will consider their place in their community and they will begin by making a box creation that represents themselves, and then an icy pole stick family portrait to represent their place in their family. Students will share what they know about their family to the rest of the class and learn how our families may be different. They will learn about how to stay safe and how to ask for help in their classroom, school and in the community. We will learn we need to be able to show respect, listen to and care for each other. Students will be able to develop and maintain friendships by helping and caring for other community members at school and at home.



BluEarth with Jimmy

The joy and power of movement

BluEarth takes an approach to active living that goes beyond traditional sport and education models.

Sessions are less about competition, and more about positive participation experiences that develop skills and motivation to embed lifelong healthy habits for students to play, jump, run and generally be more active.

BluEarth is honed through the expertise of a team of internationally recognised experts in human movement and sports sciences.

At St Joseph's we are very lucky to have Jimmy as our resident expert and lead us through sessions each fortnight (Friday) for 40 minutes



Show and Share

Each week there will be a different focus to speak about. This allows time for you and your child to prepare and practice at home. We understand that some children feel shy about speaking in front of others, however it is an important part of speaking and listening development. Your encouragement and assistance with preparing your child will make this process easier.

Please see the focus student list for your child's focus day (next page).

Week 4 - Monday 21st February

Your family; share their names and something special about each person. Feel free to draw a picture or bring in a photo.

Week 5 - Monday 28th February

My favourite picture story book (bring in your picture book - what is your favourite picture? Who is your favourite character?)

Week 6 - Monday 7th March

Something I love (eg: a toy, photo, food).

Week 7 - Monday 14th March

I am special because... (share your talents and/or strengths...ask your family to finish the sentence and record their answers, draw a picture of everything that makes you special and share it with us)

Week 8 - Monday 21st March

When I grow up (talk about the job that you would like when you grow up. Dress up like that. Bring in items you may have to use eg: Doctor needs a medical kit)

Week 9 - Monday 28th March

My favourite animal is...(draw a picture, list some facts, recall a time you saw one)

Week 10 - Monday 4th April

My favourite thing to do at school is...take time to discuss all the many things we do at school, science, reading, writing, math, sport, Assembly, Reading for enjoyment, technology, Visual art... possibly share a memory from your school days.

Classroom Reminders

SCHOOL HOURS

It is essential that children develop habits of punctuality. By having your child at school at least 15 minutes before class commences allows them time to unpack their belongings and get ready for their day ahead. Equally important, collecting them punctually at the end of the day, will support both your child and the staff. Children are often distressed if they appear to be doing things differently from other children, such as arriving late or being left at school after other children have been collected.

ABSENTEES

If your child is unable to attend school, please notify the school by telephone on 54 841 797.

LATE ARRIVALS

If your child arrives late to school, after 9:10am, you will need to enter through the office and have your child signed in by office staff.

EARLY LEAVING

If you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the school day, you will need to go via the office before collecting your child from class. As per signing in, you will need to have the office staff sign them out.

FOCUS STUDENTS

On their allocated day, your child will not only have their show and share experience but it will also give them the opportunity to negotiate classroom roles and responsibilities while working alongside their peers. **Please note:** if your child's Show and Share day falls on a pupil free day/public holiday it will roll over to the following week.

Ducks

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fletcher Harry C Hunter Violet	Xavier Blake Sylvie Saxon	Izzy Ethan S Eloise Jack	Matilda Lucy Ethan M	Harry W Sophie Isabella

continued..

HEALTHY SNACK TIME

We have healthy snack time twice a day- approx. at 10am and 12.30pm.

We ask parents to provide healthy snacks and a drink bottle with water only.

The following items are a guide:

- Fruit or vegetables - pre cut or sliced
- Dried fruit - sultanas, apricots
- Cheese sticks
- Squeezy yoghurts

FOOD INTOLERANCES / ALLERGIES

Unfortunately the incidence of food allergies is on the rise. Some children have dramatic reactions to the smell/touch of some foods. Their reaction requires serious and immediate action. As a result, the sharing of food items is not permitted during recess and lunch breaks as some foods may have a trace of this allergen. Nuts seem to be a main culprit of food allergies and as a result children at St Joseph's are not permitted to have peanut butter, nutella or any other nut product in their lunch boxes.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. The lunches are provided by Caltex. An order list will be given to new families.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is to be worn at all times. This includes a school sun hat, which is to be worn in Terms 1 and 4, whenever the students are outside.

Jewellery is NOT to be worn to school. This is a safety issue. The only permissible jewellery is a single stud or sleeper in pierced ears. This applies to both boys and girls.

We recommend ALL items of your child's uniform to be clearly labelled with your child's names.

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ACCIDENT PACK

Sometimes children may be so engaged in an activity that they forget to ask to go to the toilet. Sometimes a child may slip in the mud, get wet at the drinking taps, or may be sick. Having an accident pack is most helpful and comforting for the children at these times. Items to include: 2 pairs of underwear; underpants and socks, 1 pair of tracksuit/shorts/dress (non-uniform ok), 1 t-shirt (non-uniform ok) and a plastic bag for soiled clothes.

BIRTHDAYS

On this special occasion you may wish to bring along a small surprise (freddo frogs or lollipops) for the class so your child can share their birthday with their friends. Please speak with the classroom teacher for more information on dietary requirements.

COMMUNICATION

As you are aware the morning is a very busy place in the Frog classrooms. Our primary concern is your child, therefore it is not the optimal place for discussing any major queries or concerns. However, if you have urgent concerns, which may impact your child's day please send an **email prior to school beginning** or **call at school prior to 8:30 am** so we are informed before your child arrives and we can assist with any special needs to ensure he/she has a positive school day. If there are concerns regarding your child, an appointment will be made with you to discuss the matter without feeling rushed or being disturbed.

Visual Art

WITH MRS CARMICHAEL

This term students at St Joseph's will be explore being "Mooved by Art". Can you guess what the theme will be? COWS.



Children will be exposed to artists who use cows as inspiration to complete their artworks such as Dutch artist Peter Diem.

Using a range of mediums and art elements children will come to understand and use artistic language such as line, texture, colour shape

Most pieces will be held to present at an art show (covid pending) later in the year.

RRRR

WITH MRS KERLIN



My name is Susan Kerlin. This year I will be teaching the subject Resilience, Rights and Responsible Relationships (RRRR) as part of the Specialist rotation. The aim of this program is to develop each students' social, emotional and positive relationship skills. Social and emotional skills help students develop the resilience to deal with change, challenge and unpredictability. These skills are also the foundation of positive relationships. In Term One, we will be learning all about emotions. What are they? What do they look like? What does our body do when we feel them? What does our face do? What situations make us feel them? We will also be identifying our personal strengths and our challenges, and identifying skills they would like to develop. How can we cope with change? Do we persist? Can we adapt? During the first weeks of Term we will talking about Bucketfillers. We will discuss the types of things that bucket filling people do to help others such as sharing, letting others join in games, give a smile and helping others when they are hurt.

Performing Art

WITH MRS OAKLEY

In Performing Arts this term our overall aim is to have fun. We will be building a repertoire of rhymes, songs and fingerplays to develop a sense of beat and rhythm. Developing our social skills, confidence and self-esteem by doing a variety of movement and imaginative role-plays. Building body and spatial awareness through physical activities, and developing listening skills and concentration with games and fine motor activities.

Junior Rotations

The Junior classes will complete Physical Education, Science and STEM rotations on Fridays. Each class will rotate between Mrs Schwab, Miss Sortino and Miss Snowdon.

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HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION WITH MRS SCHWAB

We will begin our HPE sessions focussing on how and why we move our body and develop and awareness of moving with and without equipment and the impact on how our body reacts and feels. We will play games, listen to instructions, work with partners and also spend time reflecting at the end of each session.

SCIENCE WITH MISS SNOWDON

Students will begin to explore the element of chemical science. Throughout the term we will be exploring and comparing different materials with different colours, textures and flexibility. We will investigate how materials can be manipulated, changed and combined for different purposes through experiments.

STEM WITH MISS SORTINO

Students will learn how to use the bee bot devices, identify their features and use learning tools with them. They will begin to explore how to follow multiple instructions, program and experiment with creating accurate algorithms. Students will reflect on what has worked well, what can be challenging and what they can change next time. They will consolidate their skills to identify and discuss the safety and care of the devices.

Information about St Joseph's

Principal:

Mrs Elizabeth Trewick

etrewick@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal:

Mrs Jessica Carmichael

jcarmichael@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Administration:

Office hours 8:30am - 4:00pm

Mrs Maria Whitehead

mariaw@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

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)