



St Joseph's Benalla

Term 1 2026 3-6 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to our Grade 3-6 classes! The middle and upper primary years are an important time for students to grow as confident, independent learners. Our focus is on supporting students to develop strong learning skills, positive relationships, and a sense of responsibility for their learning.

Students will continue to build independence, resilience, and a love of learning, with a strong emphasis on developing literacy and numeracy skills across all learning areas. Through Magnify Sandhurst, students participate in extended literacy and numeracy blocks, allowing for focused teaching and deeper learning aligned with the Victorian Curriculum.

We value strong partnerships with families and encourage open and respectful communication. Please contact your child's classroom teacher as your first point of contact if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to a successful year of learning, growth, and achievement together.

Important Term 1 Dates

13th of February- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm. Mr. Piccolo's grade on prayer.

17th of February- Shrove Tuesday- Pancakes from 8am (no breakfast club this week).

25th of February- Class 6G Students GOTAFE excursion.

27th of February- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm. Mrs. Boulton's grade on prayer.

5th of March- Grade 3-6 Open classrooms, 3.30-4.30pm.

6th of March- Pupil Free Day.

9th of March- Labour Day Public Holiday.

13th of March- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm. Mrs. Robertson's and Mrs Mount's grade on prayer.

18th of March- Ash Wednesday.

19th of March- St. Joseph's Feast Day.

22nd of March- Parish School Mass, 930am.

25th of February- Class 6F Students GOTAFE excursion.

27th of March- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm. Ms. Sanchez's grade on prayer.

2nd of April- Last day of Term 1

Grade 3 Teachers

- **Room N** - Brooke Robertson (Mon, Tues, Wed)
brobertson@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Briony Mount (Thu, Fri)
bmount@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room O** - Isabelle Gourlay (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)
igourlay@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Stephanie Williams (Wed)
swilliams@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room P** - Abby Sanchez
asanchez@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Supports- Kat Levy and Kristy Rawlings.

Grade 4 Teachers

- **Room 4L** - Bryan Piccolo
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- **Room 4M** - Erin Boulton
eboulton@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Support- Monique Milner

Grade 5 Teachers

- **Room 5H** - Tammie Gawley
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- **Room 5I** - Hayley Shelton (Mon, Wed)
hshelton@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Ellie Werner (Tue, Thu, Fri)
ewerner@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room 5J** - Briony Mount (Mon)
bmount@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Elisha Ross (Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri)
eross@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Supports- Leanne Trotter and Bre Ackley

Grade 6 Teachers

- **Room 6F** - Sharon Mellington (Mon, Wed)
smellington@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Sarah Moran (Tue, Thu, Fri)
smoran@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room 6G** - Brendan French (Mon)
bfrench@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Kat Mennen (Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri)
kmennen@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Support- Leanne Pritchard





What we are learning

As we commence a new school year we spend time going over our rules and routines, in particular how to **be safe, be respectful and responsible**. We aim to set up calm and predictable classroom environments.

We will also be learning about our learning attitudes, these help us to be the best learners we can be. These are Creative Kangaroo, Cooperative Kookaburra, Risk-taker Turtle, Independent Echidna and Persistent Possum.

In Rights, Resilience and Respectful relationships we are all covering Emotional Literacy and Personal and cultural Strengths

Grade 3

English

In English we cover Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. We use carefully sequenced lessons that build over time, emphasising explicit instruction and practice. Specifically we are focusing on the following whole texts:

- Matilda - Narrative and Persuasive writing.
- Off we go around Australia- Explanatory texts.
- Spelling- We commence our new SpellEx program which covers: Tricky/useful words, bases, prefixes and suffixes, doubling rule, spelling long vowels, homophones and silent letters.
- Handwriting- numbers and punctuation marks, all letters of the alphabet (size and spacing).
- Grammar- choosing a or an, s or es, completing a sentence, punctuation, subject and verb, nouns.
- Write a statement, explanation, question or command.

Maths

In Mathematics we cover Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. There is a strong focus on explicit teaching, mastery, and deep understanding.

This term we focus on:

- Counting and place value.
- Addition and subtraction.
- Time.
- Multiplication and Division.

History

What is the story of our community?- students consider the importance of a community and the ways in which people have contributed to community life.

Physical Science

Heat energy- students will develop an understanding of the different ways heat energy is produced.

Design and Technologies

Sustainable Designs- Design a lunch bag that is good for the planet and keeps our food fresh.

Health and Physical Education

Grade 4

English

In English we cover Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. We use carefully sequenced lessons that build over time, emphasising explicit instruction and practice. Specifically we are focusing on the following whole texts:

- Kensuke's Kingdom- Persuasive writing.
- Leo and Ralph- Narrative writing.
- Spelling- We commence our new SpellEx program which covers: tricky/useful words, morphemes, doubling, spelling long vowels, rule- changing a y to an i, adding s or es to words ending in y and free and bound bases.
- Handwriting- all letters of the alphabet (size and spacing), joining to and from 'o'.
- Grammar- Common and proper nouns, concrete and abstract nouns, identify nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs,
- Write a statement, question, exclamation and command for a given topic.
- Improve sentences by adding adjectives and adverbs and substituting in more interesting verbs.

Maths

In Mathematics we cover Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. There is a strong focus on explicit teaching, mastery, and deep understanding.

This term we focus on:

- Addition and Subtraction.
- Fractions.
- Time.
- Multiplication and Division.

History

Before contact- students learn about what life was like for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Peoples before their first contacts with European explorers.

Explorers- students will explore how early European exploration led to the colonisation of Australia.

Physical Science

Forces- students learn about various types of forces, including frictional, gravitational, magnetic and electrostatic.

Design and Technologies

Boat builders- Combine materials and use forces to build a boat.

Health and Physical Education



Grade 5 *What we are learning*

English

In English we cover Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. We use carefully sequenced lessons that build over time, emphasising explicit instruction and practice. Specifically we are focusing on the following whole texts:

- War Horse- Narrative and Persuasive writing.
- How was that built- Explanatory writing.
- Spelling- short vowel sounds, long vowel sounds, silent 'e', ch for /k/, ck/c/k rule, review year 4 suffixes, suffix -ion, suffix -ment, prefix ex-, suffix -ee and homophones.
- Handwriting- Diagonal and horizontal joins and speed loops for g, j and y.
- Grammar- Identify nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives, concrete and abstract nouns, complete sentences, punctuation, pronouns, prepositions and prepositional phrases and identify adverbials.

Maths

In Mathematics we cover Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. There is a strong focus on explicit teaching, mastery, and deep understanding.

This term we focus on:

- Data representation.
- Factors and multiples.
- Multiplication and Division.
- Perimeter and Area.

History

From convicts to colonies- explores the political, social and economic causes that led to the establishment of British colonies in Australia after 1800.

Life on the land- the impact of colonies on people and the environment.

Biological Science

Animal survival- Students explore how living things are adapted to survive in their habitats, including structural and behavioural features, changes over time, camouflage, and insights from First Nations knowledge and biomimicry.

Health and Physical Education

Uniform

In week 1 you received an email from your teacher with your timetable and sports uniform days.

Please see the Parent Handbook for further information about uniforms.

Grade 6 *What we are learning*

English

In English we cover Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. We use carefully sequenced lessons that build over time, emphasising explicit instruction and practice. Specifically we are focusing on the following whole texts:

- A Ghost in my suitcase- Persuasive writing.
- The Silver Donkey- Narrative writing.
- Spelling- long and short vowel sounds, ph for /f/, sc for /s/, suffix -ty/-ity, suffix -ify, suffix -ance/-ence, prefix ad-/ac- and prefix hyper-/hypo-.
- Handwriting- Diagonal and horizontal joins and speed loops for g, j and y.
- Grammar- parts of speech, identify subjects and verbs, and understand how sentences work. They practise recognising and creating simple, compound, and complex sentences using conjunctions.

Maths

In Mathematics we cover Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. There is a strong focus on explicit teaching, mastery, and deep understanding.

This term we focus on:

- Data representation.
- Prime, composite, square and triangular.
- Operations.
- Area.
- Time.

History

Australian Federation- explores significant individuals, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation in 1900.

Chemical Science

Reversible and Irreversible changes- Students explore reversible and irreversible changes, including changes of state, dissolving, cooking, and rusting, and investigate how heat can affect these changes.

Soluble and insoluble substances- Students learn about soluble and insoluble substances by testing materials in water, conducting fair tests, and exploring ways to recover materials.

Health and Physical Education

Homework

Home Reading and Diary check.

Regular reading at home is an important part of your child's learning. It helps build confidence, strengthen reading skills, and develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading. Even a short amount of reading each day can make a significant difference and supports ongoing progress as texts become more complex.

- Your child is asked to read 4 times a week for 20 minutes.
- Fill in the diary, date, name of book, notes and parents signature at the end of the week.
- Listen to your child read at least once a week.
- We will check diaries each week.

Reading is a skill that needs to be practised in order to master.

Homework

At different times your child might be asked to complete some additional tasks at home. Thank you for working in partnership with us.