

CURRICULUM NOTES

ST JOSEPH'S ROCHESTER
Foundation/Grade 1



WELCOME TO TERM 3



Welcome back for another term! We have an exciting term with lots of chances for learning and fun. Some of the highlights from the term will include Grandparents Day, 100 days of school where all F/1 students will celebrate the occasion, Shoelace incursion where the students will be introduced to how to tie their laces, Book Week with a special visit from The Blurbs and a dress up parade.

We also welcome to the classroom, Flynn! Flynn joins us as a new Foundation student. The students are very excited to welcome him into our spaces as he and his family move to Rochester and start school at St Joseph's.

Library will continue to be every Thursday, and it is a good chance for the students to swap their readers as their reader bags are already coming for library. Please encourage your child to bring their library book/s to be returned and their readers to be swapped.

Volunteers

We would love if family members could spend a little time reading with the students in the morning at 9:00-9:15am. We do require all volunteers to have a WWCC and sign in at the office before coming to the classroom. If you can volunteer some time in the morning, we would really appreciate it! We appreciate those that have already volunteered! Please let me know if you have any availability.

TERM 3 DRESS UP DAYS



**FRIDAY
8 AUGUST**

HAPPINESS HAPPENS DAY

Children will wear school uniform and a splash of a **happy colour**.



**FRIDAY
15 AUGUST**

National day of action against bullying

Children will wear school uniform and a splash of **purple**.



**FRIDAY
22 AUGUST**

Book Week Parade, 9.15am in the delany pavilion

Dress as a Book Character.



NEW!

**THURSDAY
4 SEPTEMBER**

Fathers day & footy colours day

Children are welcome to dress in their favourite team colours - any sport. Breakfast from 8.00am.



**THURSDAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

RU OK Day

Children are welcome to dress in **yellow**.



**FRIDAY
19 SEPTEMBER**

GOTCHA WHOLE SCHOOL REWARD DAY

Children are welcome to dress in CASUAL CLOTHES.



For more details and updates about these events, please follow us on social media

facebook.com/stjosephsrochester

ENGLISH



Reading

We will continue to follow along with our InitialLit program to explicitly teach students letter sounds, using the sounds for reading and writing and tricky words. Using the data that has been collected along the learning sequence we will introduce students to the regular letter sounds and consolidate learning for all previously taught sounds. Students will also have opportunities to practice the learning through teacher led groups that focus on their areas of need and independent tasks that reinforce the learning.

Home reading

Home reading continues to play an important role in supporting your child's development as a reader. This term, your child will bring home resources matched to their reading level to practice fluency, decoding strategies, and comprehension skills. We encourage you to create a calm, regular reading routine at home, taking time to enjoy the books together. Ask your child questions about the story, characters, or facts they've learned, and celebrate their efforts. Re-reading familiar books is a great way to build confidence and strengthen understanding. Thank you for your ongoing support in making reading a positive and valuable part of your child's learning journey.



Storybook

Across term 3 students will continue to engage in rich texts to build vocabulary and comprehension. The texts that will be explored include Cinderella by Nick Sharratt, The Story About Ping by Marjorie Flack, The Potato People by Pamela Allen, Now We Are Six by A. A. Milne, There's a Bear on My Chair by Ross Collins, and The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt. These texts are used for writing experiences as well.

Writing

This term in Writing, Foundation and Grade 1 students will continue to build their confidence as young authors. They will explore a variety of text types, including recounts, imaginative stories, and simple information reports. Through modelled, shared, and independent writing, students will develop their ability to plan, compose, and revise their work. We will continue to focus on using capital letters, full stops, and spacing between words, as well as extending students' vocabulary and sentence structure. Students will also practice writing high-frequency words and applying their growing phonics knowledge to spell unfamiliar words. Writing tasks will be linked to class experiences, books, and topics from other learning areas to make writing meaningful and engaging.



MATHEMATICS

Foundation

Addition & Subtraction

This unit introduces foundational skills in addition and subtraction within the context of numbers up to 10. It builds upon previous learning on part-part whole representations, emphasising finding totals by counting. For addition and subtraction, students use materials, real-world depictions and drawings, say number stories, and use ten-frames to link the concepts to familiar real-world scenarios. The unit also explores finding differences by adding on, taking away, and using a number track, incorporating various strategies and manipulatives for a comprehensive understanding.



Measurement – Length, Mass, Capacity

In this unit, students explore the concepts of length, mass, and capacity, building a foundation for measurement skills. The initial focus is on understanding attributes like long, short, tall, heavy, and light through hands-on activities. Students progress to direct comparisons of length, learning to identify, compare, and order objects based on these attributes. The unit also delves into mass, teaching hefting and using balance scales for comparison. In the capacity section, students develop an understanding of how much a container can hold, predicting and comparing capacities using visual attributes. Throughout, students actively engage in sorting, predicting, and hands-on comparisons, fostering a practical grasp of these fundamental measurement concepts.



Sharing & Grouping

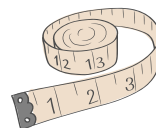
In this unit, students focus on the concept of 'equal' in the context of sharing. The teaching approach focuses on fairness in distribution, connecting the abstract idea of equal shares to real-world scenarios. Additionally, students grasp how to identify the specific amount in each equal share or equal group through counting and using specific language that builds understanding of sharing and grouping.



Grade 1

Measurement – Units of length

In this unit, students are learning to measure length using informal units. They are supported in this skill by using familiar objects, such as paperclips, unit blocks, and unifix cubes, to measure the length of objects within the classroom. This unit builds on concepts covered in the previous unit of direct and indirect comparison of measurement. It further develops the concept of measuring and comparing with uniform informal units, in preparation for using formal units of measurement in later years.



Patterns

This unit focuses on the exploration and application of repeating patterns, skip counting (in 2s, 5s, and 10s), and understanding growing and shrinking patterns. The lessons are structured to progressively build students' ability to recognise, extend, and create patterns, as well as efficiently employ skip counting strategies. The concept of skip counting is first introduced in this unit, where there is a focus on adding (two more, five more or ten more) and the resulting patterns. This lays the necessary skills required for using skip counting in the context of grouping and sharing. Students do not yet use skip counting to find the total of a collection as this skill is covered in the subsequent grouping and sharing unit.



Sharing & Grouping

In this unit, the focus is on developing a deep understanding of sharing, grouping, finding halves, and employing skip counting strategies - a crucial foundation for multiplication and division. Students have previously been taught the skill of skip counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s in the context of number tracks and counting patterns. This unit builds on those skills by making groups and applying skip counting to find the total.



RELIGION

Our Bible

In this unit students will be introduced to the Bible as our sacred collection of books. Students will be given opportunities to explore images of God and God's relationship with God's people in history. Students will come to understand that God's love for them is revealed through their families, friends and creations and they will be given the opportunities to give thanks for all of these.

By the end of this unit students will recognise God as loving, experienced in people and the world around us. They will identify and describe how they experience God's love through other people's words and actions and the world around them. They will recognise the Bible as a special book and demonstrate that there are many different stories in the Bible that teach us about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.



Let's celebrate creation

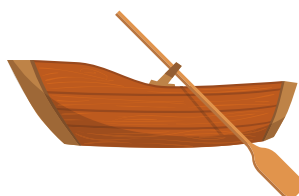
In this unit students will begin to appreciate and express wonder at God's presence throughout creation. Students will begin to understand that they have certain responsibilities to live in harmony with creation.

By the end of this unit students will recognise God's love through creation, loving relationships and our friendships with Jesus. Students will identify and describe how they experience God's love through creation in particular. Students will express appreciation for God's gift of creation and identify ways in which they can care for God's world.

INQUIRY

The Bridge and Beyond

In this unit through the exploration of the properties of materials, students can use different materials to construct design solutions. Students will discover the different properties of a range of materials, discover the variety of ways that materials are used, and display constructed objects for an audience. Students will appreciate and consider the properties of different materials when they embark on a design project of their own, centered around the story three billy goats gruff.



AUSLAN *with Tim*



This term in Auslan, students will continue building their vocabulary and fluency. They will explore topics such as families, emotions, and everyday routines while developing their ability to describe actions, ask and answer questions, and hold short conversations in Auslan. Through games, role-plays, and signed stories, students will also deepen their understanding of Deaf culture and respectful communication. We look forward to another exciting term of hands-on language learning! We will also continue to be supported by Tim on Fridays as he introduces and consolidates topics of interest.

TRP / RRRR



with Miss McEvoy

This term, TRP (The Resilience Project) and RRRRs (Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships) will be taught by Olivia McEvoy as part of the specialist subjects program.

Foundation/Grade 1 students will begin the term with a focus on First Nations culture in recognition of NAIDOC Week, followed by lessons on empathy, where they'll explore fairness, safety, and the importance of understanding others in friendships. Students will practice mindfulness through activities like mindful colouring, yoga, and origami. To finish the term, they'll explore the benefits of laughter and how joyful moments can help us feel gratitude.



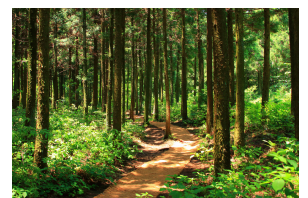
STEM

with Mrs Fellows

During term 3, F/1 students will be undertaking a specialist subject called STEM. This subject merges Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths together to provide a rich learning experience that is aimed at deepening Science content through the principles of design thinking strategies.

The students will learn about the observable properties of materials and how to group materials based on common properties. They will consider why particular materials are used to make everyday objects and practise creative thinking as they think of interesting uses for paper clips and balls of wool. They will encounter activities that encourage them to design in innovative ways, using nature as their inspiration.

They will undertake a program called 'I Wonder Why' in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria, with the idea that we can learn from nature not just about nature.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION *with Miss McEvoy*

This term in Physical Education, students in Prep, Year 1 and 2 will be introduced to key athletics events, including sprinting, the 400m run, vortex throw, hurdles, shot put, and long jump. These fundamental skills will help build students' confidence, coordination, and enjoyment of physical activity. At the completion of this unit, students will take part in a fun and inclusive Mini Athletics/tabloid Sports Carnival specifically for Prep-2 students. Later in the term, students will participate in a 3-week lacrosse skills program, where they will learn how to scoop, cradle, pass, and shoot using modified equipment suitable for their age group. It's shaping up to be an exciting and active term!



This term students will again participate in a weekly Kelly sports session. Content for the weekly sessions will include;

- Fundamental Movement skills in modified sports - Students will Focus on fundamental motor skills through sports like Tchoukball (modified basketball/netball), Newcombe ball (modified Volleyball), and AFL 9's (modified AFL). Emphasis on skill development over competition.
- Game Sense and Strategy - Students will develop tactical awareness through modified games like Ultimate Frisbee and Touch Rugby. The Focus will be on teamwork, communication, and decision-making.
- Inclusive games and Adapted sports - Students will explore inclusion and diversity through activities like seated volleyball and goalball. The Focus will be on empathy and adapting activities for all abilities.
- Reflection and Challenge week - In the final week of the term Students will participate in team trust activities and leadership games, setting goals for term 4 and reflecting on progress. The Grade 5 & 6 students lead short warm-ups or games for peers.

We are looking forward to another term of fun and activity.



VISUAL ARTS

This term in Visual Art, our Foundation to Year 2 students are exploring the bold and imaginative work of four incredible artists: Keith Haring, Yayoi Kusama, Henri Rousseau, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Each artist offers something special to learn about. From movement, pattern, nature, and expression which opens the eyes of our youngest learners to build their understanding of art and how it connects to the world around them.

Students will engage with the lively, energetic figures of Keith Haring, using thick lines and bright colours to create dancing people and playful poses. Yayoi Kusama's love of dots and repetition is guiding students to experiment with patterns and colour combinations in fun and imaginative ways. Our jungle-themed artworks are inspired by Henri Rousseau's *Tiger in the Jungle*, where students will create leafy layers and bold animal shapes to explore texture and setting. Finally, we'll zoom in on flowers and natural shapes in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe, using soft blending and close-up detail.



Through drawing, painting, and collage, students will develop their fine motor skills, creativity, and confidence. It's a joyful, hands-on term full of vibrant colour, wild animals, and big ideas!

IMPORTANT DATES

<p>Week 1: 21st - 25th July</p>	<p>21: Term 3 begins 25: Grandparents Day</p>
<p>Week 2: 28th July - 1st August</p>	<p>28: Pet Responsibility and Safety 29: 100 Days of School for Foundation Students 30: Girls Football (Grade 4/5/6 girls) 30: Shoelace Incursion (Grade F/1/2) 31: Inform & Empower parent session @ 7.00pm</p>
<p>Week 3: 4th - 8th August</p>	
<p>Week 4: 11th - 15th August <i>National Week of Action Against Bullying</i> <i>Science Week</i></p>	<p>11: School Advisory Council meeting 12: Principal Tour 12: 5/6 Science Webinar 13: PUPIL FREE Day 13: Parents & Friends Meeting 14: 3/4 Science Excursion 15: Science Week Community Learning Day 15: Feast of the Assumption</p>
<p>Week 5: 18th - 22nd August <i>Book Week</i></p>	<p>18: The Blurbs - performance 22: Book Week Parade</p>
<p>Week 6: 25th - 29th August</p>	<p>26 - 29: Dental Van visit</p>
<p>Week 7: 1st - 5th September <i>Teacher Aide Appreciation Week</i></p>	<p>4: Father's Day celebration - Footy Colours Day</p>

IMPORTANT DATES

Week 8: 8th - 12th September <i>Wellbeing Week</i>	9: Principal Tour 9/10: Learning Conversations 11: R U OK Day
Week 9: 15th - 19th September	19: End of Term 3 - 2.15pm dismissal



SCHOOL INFORMATION

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