

Curriculum Notes

Year 5/6



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It's hard to believe that we've reached this point in the school year already! We're excited to kick off our final term together, filled with fantastic learning experiences for your Year 5/6 students.

This term promises to be a bustling one, with various events and activities on the horizon. To stay well-informed about all that's happening, we encourage you to read our newsletters every fortnight and follow our updates on social media each week. This way, you won't miss any important announcements or additional events that may arise.

One exciting aspect of this term is our new school-wide Inquiry focus. It's designed to captivate, challenge, and support the children in an enjoyable and interactive manner. We can't wait to see the students engage with these community sessions!

If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, Ms. Lupa, or Miss Eade via email. We're here to ensure a smooth and successful final term for your child.

Let's make this last term together a memorable one!

Warm regards,

ylupa@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

aeade@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au



English



Reading and Viewing

This term students will continue to develop their reading fluency skills. Regular Guided reading sessions will continue throughout the term, students will read and discuss rich texts suited to their reading levels.

Comprehension of texts is an important area of reading and students will be given opportunities to look at inferred and literal understanding of texts. Activities will vary in complexity and be meaningful to learning reading opportunities and guidance.

By reading fluently, students are able to understand a text more deeply. They will develop skills that will enable them to summarise and compare texts. They will be able to pinpoint the important parts of a text, while determining similarities and differences in content, structure and language.

Spelling

In our upcoming spelling lessons, we have an exciting plan to enhance your child's vocabulary and spelling skills. We will be implementing the S.M.A.R.T. spelling approach, which stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This approach will enable us to provide focused and effective spelling instruction.

Each week, we will concentrate on a specific vowel digraph. Vowel digraphs are combinations of letters that work together to create distinct sounds in words, such as 'ai' in 'snail.' This targeted approach will help students grasp the nuances of these sound combinations and improve their spelling accuracy.

Furthermore, our spelling lessons will incorporate theme-based words related to our Inquiry, Religion, and Math curriculum. This integration ensures that students not only acquire essential spelling skills but also build a strong foundation in subject-specific vocabulary. We're enthusiastic about this approach and look forward to witnessing your child's growth in spelling and language proficiency.

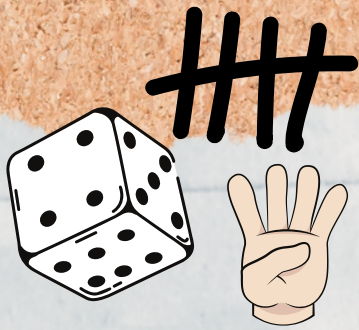
Writing

We are excited to share our writing focus for the upcoming term, which will centre around the engaging genres of 'interviewing and newspaper report writing.' Throughout this term, your child will have the chance to dive into these genres, exploring their unique structures and language features, all while being introduced to various real-life examples.

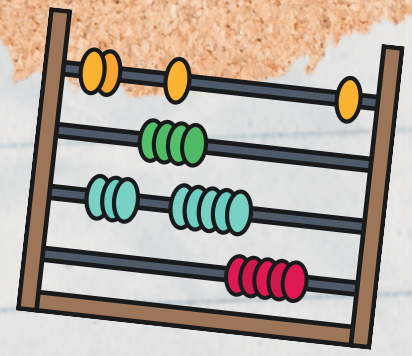
In our writing lessons, students will be actively involved in preparing questions to gather information. They will then harness this gathered knowledge to craft clear and concise newspaper reports, honing their communication skills along the way.

But that's not all! We will also continue to nurture your child's creativity through narrative and creative writing. They will be presented with both visual and verbal prompts, providing them with opportunities to express themselves creatively through the written word.

We look forward to a term filled with writing exploration and growth and we are excited to see your child's skills flourish!



Mathematics



Measurement and Geometry

In our math curriculum, students will be engaging in activities that sharpen their spatial awareness and mathematical skills. Specifically, they'll be exploring the grid reference system, a valuable tool for describing locations accurately on maps. Throughout this math-focused journey, your child will not only learn how to use grid references effectively but also master the art of describing routes using landmarks and directional language. They will even apply these skills right in their classroom, creating their own grid references to locate objects and map out routes between them. This hands-on experience will enhance their mathematical abilities while fostering a deep understanding of spatial relationships.

Numeracy and Algebra

In this term, we're delving into the fascinating world of fractions and decimals in our math lessons. Your child will embark on a journey to grasp the concept of these numbers, exploring their magnitude and how we can group them together (think of it like creating collections). As we progress through the term, students will go beyond the basics and learn how to perform addition and subtraction with fractions and decimals. They'll also gain insights into comparing fractions, counting them, understanding fraction families, and mastering the art of adding and subtracting common fractions.

In addition to this, your child will be introduced to some practical multiplication and division strategies that they can apply in real-life situations. It's going to be an exciting and educational term ahead!

Statistics and Probability

In our math lessons, your child will be diving into the fascinating world of probability. They will engage in chance experiments and learn to list the possible outcomes. Additionally, students will develop a strong grasp of probability-related vocabulary, including terms like 'highly probable' and 'unlikely.' A significant part of this journey will involve assigning probabilities on a number line ranging from 0 to 1. Your child will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to express probabilities using percentages, decimals, and fractions. This knowledge will not only strengthen their math skills but also their ability to analyse and make informed decisions involving chance.

Retrieval Grid

"We're excited to let you know that our Number Blast and retrieval grids will remain a key part of our math warm-up routine. These grids offer a mix of quick, daily challenges, both numerical and word-based, as well as fun games that allow students to challenge themselves according to their own abilities. This activity is designed to integrate skills from various math areas, including Number, Measurement, and Chance and Data. By doing so, it helps our students not only retain their math skills but also consolidate their knowledge.

Throughout the year, these problems will touch on a wide range of topics we've covered in class, ensuring that your child continues to build a strong foundation in mathematics."

Religion

LIFE RELATIONSHIPS: Christian Morality and Social Justice

In this educational unit, students will be exploring the intricacies of relationships. They will delve into various aspects, including family dynamics, the emotional and physical transformations that come with puberty and adolescence, as well as an in-depth examination of the reproductive system.

Throughout this unit, our goal is to guide students towards an understanding of the profound significance of our sexuality as a precious gift from a higher power. We will emphasize the importance of self-respect and instill in them a deep appreciation for treating others with respect and empathy in all aspects of their lives.

CHURCH AND TRADITION: Feast of the Christmas Season

In this unit of study, our students will embark on a wonderful journey through the festive season of Christmas. They will explore the rich traditions and celebrations that follow the Christmas day itself.

During this exploration, students will identify and explore the significance of major feasts that are part of the Christmas season. For instance, they will learn about the Feast of the Mother of God and the Epiphany, gaining a deeper understanding of their importance.

As the unit concludes, our students will also engage in meaningful reflections, interpreting the metaphor of 'Jesus as light' and drawing personal connections from their own life experiences. It's a delightful way for them to embrace the true spirit of the holiday season.

Inquiry

Connections are everywhere in our lives. Our brains are made up of billions of connections that help us talk, walk, think and dream. We make connections with other people, places and things all the time.

During term 4 students will connect with people and places in our Rochester community. Students will work in multi age groups (Foundation to Year 6) twice a week to engage in a learning experience of their choice.

Students will have the opportunity to choose between the following learning experiences;

- Active
- Arts
- Sustainability
- Cooking

The sessions will occur on Monday and Thursday afternoon from 12:40 - 1:40 and will be facilitated by a variety of different school staff and community members.

There will be two activity blocks - Weeks 1 - 4 and Weeks 5 - 8. During Weeks 9&10 students will focus on the History and Geography component of the curriculum. They will have the opportunity to explore and learn about many different locations in the Rochester community such as Rochester Sports Museum, Wirima playground, Murals and Silos and our beautiful river walk to the Red Bridge.



RRRR

with Mrs Bennett

This term in RRRR's children will explore Gender and Identity. Learning experiences will support the students to learn about some of the differences and similarities between students in the class and appreciate that it is important to respect differences between people. Students will play games such as Human Bingo and create an Identity wheel to learn about the similarities and differences between each other. Discussion will support students to value and show respect for diversity and difference, and learn how to apply these attitudes within respectful relationships. The second unit, Positive Gender Relations, is focused on identifying different forms of gender-based violence, including physical, verbal and psychological and the effects this has on targets, witnesses and perpetrators. Students will describe and demonstrate what respectful, gender inclusive behaviours look like in action informed by human rights. They will also describe and practice help-seeking and strategies that can be used when encountering uncomfortable or unsafe situations involving peers or adults.



Digital Tech

with Mr Davison

This term in our digital technologies class, we are embarking on an exciting journey of problem-solving and creative exploration. As part of our curriculum, students will delve into the realm of computational thinking, honing their skills in logical data organisation, problem deconstruction, and the art of designing algorithms and models. The process involves a thoughtful consideration of the end user, ensuring our digital solutions not only function seamlessly but also cater to the needs and preferences of those interacting with them. Using visual programming languages, our students will bring their innovative ideas to life, communicating precise instructions to digital systems. The journey doesn't end with creation; we'll evaluate our solutions against key criteria, whether it's the entertainment factor for games or the adaptability to future data updates. Get ready for a term filled with creativity, problem-solving prowess and the joy of seeing digital solutions come to life!

Physical Education

with Miss MCEVOY

This term the Foundation to Grade 6 students are extremely fortunate to have specialist tennis coach, Paul' Milo' provide students tennis skills and tips in a fun and supportive environment. These lessons will be conducted under the pavilion over an 8 week period.

For the junior students these lessons will be fun-filled and conducted in a scaled-down environment which is designed for little players to learn the basic tennis strokes and ball skills. This aims to support students' motor skills such as hand-eye coordination, balance, movement and spatial awareness. For students who already have a grasp of tennis, these students will learn consistency, hitting to different targets and will be introduced to playing with a variety of spin. As the players skills progress, lessons will incorporate serve, rally and scoring together in various point play games with a strong emphasis on guiding the player towards competition.

A big thanks goes to a parent of St Joseph's who received some funding for the school which will provide students brand new equipment for each lesson. This includes new nets, racquets and tennis balls. We can't wait to see students showcase their skills and talents and look forward to seeing some super star tennis players in future years!

Visual Art

with Mrs Carmichael

This term students will explore this great land of Australia and Australian artists such as Fredrick McCubbin, Ken Done, Pro Hart, Sarah Robey, Coolabah Art, Margaret Preston and Leah Bartholomew. Using the places that make our land our home; the colours, the landmarks, the places and the animals students will use a range of mediums, from paint to collage, oil pastel to watercolours to produce true blue inspired art.



Students will work learn about an artist each week and spend time analysing a piece of their work via Google Slides. They will continue to consolidate their ability to personally and critically reflect on pieces, provide feedback to peers and use art vocabulary during discussions.

AUSLAN with Tim

At St Joseph's we use the TCL (Teachers as Co Learners) approach to language teaching. In a TCL approach, all teachers and students are co-learners of the school's target language. The TCL approach requires access to a proficient speaker of the language to facilitate the learning journey for teachers and students. Our facilitator, Tim , will again work with both students and teachers weekly (on a Friday). He will revise previously taught vocabulary/signs and introduce new vocabulary/signs throughout the term.



Kelly Sport with Coach Wade

Welcome to term 4 . This term students will participate in an 11 week Kelly Sports program with a "Sports" focus. Students will have a 40 minute session each week (on a Friday). They will have the opportunity to focus on the following sports; cricket, golf, T- ball, frisbee, basketball, netball, soccer and AFL. Each week, through a focus on a sport, students will learn the basic skills associated with each sport eg throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling, shooting and passing. Students will also participate in a mini Olympics circuit with a range of events to test their athletic abilities. They will be invited to create team banners and choose a country to support for the session. Students will participate in team building activities where they will need to work in teams throughout a variety of challenges to promote working together as a team. The final session will be an end of year celebration where students will celebrate their year of Kelly sports with activities such as parachute and water sports. It is certainly an action packed term of Kelly sports.

KEY DATES

Week	What's on
Week 1 2 - 6th October	3rd: Elmore Field days 4th: Elmore Field days 5th: Elmore Field days 6th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 2 9 - 13th October	10th: Foundation Excursion - Kyabram 11th: Heartkids Fundraiser 13th: Campaspe Basketball 13th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 3 16 - 20th October	18th: DUO Day - PBIS Whole School Dress Up Reward 19th: Waranga Summer Sports Day (Grade 5/6) 20th: Waranga Summer Sports Day (Grades 3/4) 20th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 4 23 - 27th October	23rd: Life Relationships Evening 6pm (Grade 5/6) 27th: World Teachers Day 27th: Granparent's Day Assembly 27th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 5 30 - 3rd November	30th: Real Schools Parent Information evening 30th: RSC Transition Visit (Grade 5/6) 3rd: Kelly Sports & Auslan - Community Learning Day
Week 6 6th - 10th November	6th: Pupil free day 7th: Melbourne Cup Day Holiday 10th McKillop Art Exhibition (Bendigo) 10th: Kelly Sports & Auslan 11th: Remembrance Day
Week 7 13th - 17th November	17th Kelly Sports & Auslan

KEY DATES

Week	What's on
Week 8 20 -24th November	21st: Learning Conversations 22nd: Learning Conversations 24th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 9 27 - 1st December	1st: F - 2 Kaboom sports (Kyabram) 1st: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 10 4 - 8th December	4th: First Aid for children 5th: First Aid for children 6th: Year 5/6 North Melbourne Huddle excursion, Melbourne 8th: Pupil free day
Week 11 11 - 15th December	11th: Pupil free day 15th: Kelly Sports & Auslan
Week 12 18 - 20 December	

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Principal:

Mrs Elizabeth Trewick
principal@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal and Pastoral Wellbeing:

Mrs Jessica Carmichael
deputy@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Learning and Teaching:

Mrs Susan Kerlin
skerlin@sjrochester.catholic.edu.au

Learning Diversity:

Mrs Cheryl Schwab
cschwab@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)