

# Year 1 & 2 2026 Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the 2026 school year. We hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed catch ups with friends and family! We are looking forward to working collaboratively with you this year.

Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Week 9. In the meantime, we are available to touch base with you about your child via email or after school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Furthermore, our Learning Diversity Leader, Michelle Garvey will contact you if your child has a PSG scheduled.



Look out for 'My Child as a Learner' forms which will be sent out in the coming weeks via SIMON. Please fill in your child's information on the Google form. If you feel that you would like to discuss your child's needs and interests sooner, please organise a time with your child's classroom teacher.

## Religion



During Term 1, we are learning about Prayer. Students will explore how prayer is a way to talk and listen to God. They will learn different ways to pray and the many reasons people pray. We will also look at how Jesus teaches Christians to be kind, loving and caring towards others.

Later in the term, we will begin our second unit on the season of Lent. In this unit, students will learn that Lent is a special time for growth, change and helping others. They will hear about the Last Supper and Jesus' journey to the cross during Holy Week.

As part of our Lenten focus, students will be invited to raise money for Project Compassion. By completing small jobs at home, they will learn that even small acts can make a big difference in the lives of others.

## Literacy

During Term 1, our writing has begun with a focus on sentence structure, using nouns, verbs, pronouns and adjectives. We will learn to identify statements and questions. Students will also focus on developing their knowledge of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Students will learn to edit their writing by using correct punctuation, and will learn to expand their sentences by adding further detail using when and where. We will learn about different types of writing, such as factual and information texts. Students will have the opportunity to plan, compose, revise, edit and publish their writing.

In Reading, students will continue to develop their ability to read fluently, decode unfamiliar words and comprehend a range of texts. We are continuing to use the InitialLit program for Year 1 and Year 2 students. This sequential literacy program is a scientific evidence-based practice that we are very excited to continue implementing in 2026.



## **Knowledge Based Learning**

This term, we have begun the topic *Exploring Land and Water* which is a knowledge based unit. Students are learning how erosion and weather change the landscape, how volcanic rock forms land, and how land moves rapidly during landslides. Students will learn what sandstone is and how it changes, and how wind and water affect sand formations. They will explain how groundwater supports life in arid regions. They will describe what a map is and its key features.

## **Mathematics**

We have begun our Mathematics learning with a unit about Data. Students created survey questions, collected information from their peers and used this data to create pictographs. They reflected on their findings and compared their results with others in the class.



This unit will follow with a focus on Place Value. Students will take part in a range of hands-on activities and games to strengthen their understanding of reading, writing, interpreting and ordering numbers. We will continue to build their counting skills, including skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s from any starting number.

Later in the term, we will focus on Addition and Subtraction. Students will deepen their understanding of these concepts through practical activities and games that support problem-solving and number fluency.

## **Homework**

Children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes for at least four nights a week. Two books will be sent home every Friday in their Blue Pouches. Begin by having your child read one of the two books, re-reading it until they are reading fluently. Repeated reading is very important in the development of reading. When your child reads the first book fluently they may begin reading the second book. If you don't get up to the second book just note this in their journal and it will be sent home again. Please ensure that the home reader diary is filled out and returned to your child's classroom teacher on Fridays.



Students are required to bring their Blue Pouches to school every day.

This year we are continuing to use Rockstar Maths. This is an online maths program that you can access from home on a tablet, phone or computer. Your password for Rockstar Maths will be pasted in the front of your child's reader diary in the coming week.

## **Specialist Days**

	<b>1/2 Blue</b>	<b>1/2 Yellow</b>	<b>1/2 Green</b>
<b>PE</b>	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Italian/ Performing Arts</b>	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Digi Tech</b>	Thursday	Thursday	Wednesday
<b>Visual Arts</b>	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday
<b>Library</b>	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday

### **Food Policy & Birthdays**

Please remember that sharing food is not permitted, including birthdays, Easter and Christmas. If your child would like to share a small gift to celebrate their birthday, please ensure that it is not edible, e.g. pencils, gel pens.

### **Swimming**

Students will be attending swimming lessons every Friday, starting Friday 13th February. Students must bring along a small bag that has been provided with their towel, spare undies, goggles (if needed) and thongs/crocs. Please ensure all items of students' clothing are labelled.

### **Important Dates - Term 1**

Please ensure to check the School Newsletter for all important dates.

### **Contact:**

Our classroom doors open at 8:45am and we will be available after school for quick chats and messages. Please make an appointment with us for any longer discussions.

### **Our emails are listed below:**

1/2 Green - Mrs Gaffy [agaffy@htws.catholic.edu.au](mailto:agaffy@htws.catholic.edu.au)

1/2 Yellow - Miss Cowie [ocowie@htws.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ocowie@htws.catholic.edu.au)

1/2 Green - Mrs North-Coombes [cnorthcoombes@htws.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cnorthcoombes@htws.catholic.edu.au) (Mon-Thurs), Mr Harvie [धारvie@htws.catholic.edu.au](mailto:धारvie@htws.catholic.edu.au) (Friday)

St Mary's - Mrs Brennan [kbrennan@smdeaf.vic.edu.au](mailto:kbrennan@smdeaf.vic.edu.au)

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure a wonderful year!

Kind regards,

Alexandra Gaffy (1/2 Green), Claudine North-Coombes and Denham Harvie (1/2 Blue), Olivia Cowie (1/2 Yellow) and Kylie Brennan (St Mary's Teacher). This year students will be supported by Elise O'Carroll and Christine Stephen, our Learning Support Officers (LSO).