Year 1
Parent Information Booklet 2015

Teachers:
I Green— Mrs Kristy Graffin
I Red— Mrs Michelle Bratich
Education Assistant— Mrs Shirley Van Rullen

Teaching and Learning in Year 1

- Religious Education- The Religious Education Program offered to all students in Catholic schools is based on the Archdiocese Religious Education Units of Work.
- National Curriculum- At Liwara we plan, teach and evaluate using the National Curriculum documents. This year we will be implementing Geography and continuing with Mathematics, English, Science and History.
- Thinking skills- At Liwara we have designed our own Thinking Skills Progression Map which allows all students to leave Liwara with their own ‘toolbox’ of thinking skills and strategies.
- Explicit Instruction- Liwara will be implementing some Explicit Instruction from Kindy-Year 6. This is a school based decision with a firm balance in the Early Childhood years on ‘Learning through play’ and ‘intentional teaching.’
Explicit instruction includes:

1. Teacher directed learning.
2. Explicit instruction of core skills.
3. Moving children’s knowledge from short term to long term memory.
4. The relationship between teacher and students is vital to learning.

Assessment

Children are assessed throughout their learning experiences. We observe and collect evidence of their learning in a variety of forms to give us a holistic representation of your child’s progress.

Communication of your child’s progress will be through:

- Parent /teacher meetings
- Written reports
- Work sample books
- Learning Journey

School Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom Opens</th>
<th>8:30am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Starts</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>10:35-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:40-1:20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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</tbody>
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Absentees

If your child is absent please send a written note the next day to explain your child’s absence. Notes are also required prior to any extended time away.

Please avoid extended holidays during the school term as your child will miss important concepts and skills. If you are away they can continue with their own reading and writing. We will not be providing homework during this time.
Late arrival / Early leavers

All students who arrive at school late must go with their parents to the office to sign in. You must then give the class teacher the late slip for recording purposes. This procedure also applies to children leaving early. Please sign them out at the office and give the slip to your teacher when collecting your child.

Developing Independence

Please encourage your child to be independent this year. They need to organise themselves for the day and follow the classroom routines. It would be wonderful to see the children unpacking their own bags, bringing in their crunch snack, and sorting out their desk/chair before the bell rings. The children will also need to change their own reader and hand in any notes or lunch orders. Unless you need to see us urgently please drop your child off at the door and allow them the opportunity to settle and start the day.

Parents are welcome to see the children’s activities on display in the classroom on Friday mornings between 8:30am and 8:50am. If you can not make Friday please let us know so you can come in another day.

Housekeeping

- Please have a spare change of clothes in your child’s bag.
- Remember to include a small fruit or vegetable snack each day.
- Any medication needs to be administered through the office. No medication is to be kept in the children’s bags.
- Money for the canteen needs to be kept by the child. It is best in their lunch box or zipped money bag.
- We are happy for you to send in a small treat for the class on your child’s birthday. Please make sure it is an individual item as we do not have kitchen facilities / cutlery.
- If you child is ill please keep them home.

Communication

- If you wish to make an appointment with us please come in to make a time, alternatively request a meeting through the diary.
- The diary will be used as a communication book between teachers and parents. Please write any messages into the diary and we will sign / reply when it has been read.
You may email us if we need to know any important information.
Mrs Bratich- bratich.michelle@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Mrs Graffin- graffin.kristy@cathednet.wa.edu.au

As we are in the classroom teaching most of the day, please do not expect an immediate reply.

**Homework**

- The children will be bringing home homework from Monday to Thursday.
- Reading - The books sent home are set at an independent level. The children should be able to read them quite easily to encourage fluency, expression and comprehension. We will increase the child’s level when they are reading confidently and displaying good comprehension of the text they are reading. Please record the book read in the diary.
- Sight Word Reading- The children will bring home a word list in their homework book. Please work on 5 words per week. We will indicate which words to start on and the children will progress from there.
- Maths-2 activities per week. A consolidation activity to practice the concepts we are covering in class. Some of these activities will involve ‘real life’ maths around the home. Many activities will focus on oral recall of number facts.
- News-Your child will have the opportunity to share news with the class each fortnight. We will send home a list of the weeks your child will have news and the topic it will be on. Your child will be given a news plan to assist them. They may bring in a small visual aid such as a poster, photo or statue to enhance their presentation. If the children need help to present their news we can also use the plan to prompt and encourage them. Please be mindful that the teachers cannot look after personal belongings so avoid sending in expensive objects.
- Spelling-Spelling homework will start later in the year.
- Diaries-please sign your child’s diary each night.
**Behaviour Management**

- We focus on positive behavior in the classroom and in the playground.
- Each class has formulated a list of rules which encourage positive behavior.
- Class Dojo is an online reward system where children gain positive points. In Term 1 five points earns a sticker and ten is rewarded with a prize. If children choose to display negative behavior the children will be verbally warned, if this behavior continues they will lose a dojo point. Continuous negative behaviour throughout a day will result in a written note in the diary. A meeting may be required depending on the severity of the situation.
- Please let us know if your child discusses matters with you that have happened throughout the day that we may not be aware of.

**Specialist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Mrs Dominish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Mrs Barclay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>History/Geography</td>
<td>Mrs Weston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Mrs Kelsall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Mrs Venaille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Miss Bryce</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Mr Morrison</td>
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</tbody>
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- Children are required to wear their sport uniforms on MONDAY and THURSDAY.

**Art**

Please ensure your child has an art shirt (with their name on it). The children will need their pencil cases for art so please ensure their belongings have names and your child has all items required.

I welcome you to visit the art room to view your child’s work before school.

From Mrs Anne-Marie Kelsall

**Support a reader program**

This is a program which provides additional support to the home/class reading program for children who need extra encouragement/support as they develop their early literacy skills.

The program is very well structured and training and support will be provided.
Parent Helpers

At times we will require parent helpers, we will let you know when your help will be needed. Please remember that each child is an individual and we ask you to keep information about the children confidential.

Thank you for attending the Year One Parent Information Meeting. We look forward to getting to know your child and guiding them on their learning journey.