Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten 2015 😊
For those who are new parents to St Rose and unfamiliar with what happens at school, there are seven Key Learning Areas:
- Religion
- English
- Mathematics
- HSIE (Human Society and its Environment)
- Science and Technology
- Creative Arts (Music, Visual Arts, Drama)
- PDHPE - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

This is an overview of the subject matter which will be covered in each of these Key Learning Areas this term. I would also like to highlight below additional information about school routines.

DISCIPLINE

St Rose Catholic School has adopted a Whole School Approach to bring about positive behaviour - Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). This approach has a strong emphasis on teaching appropriate behaviour and providing systems of support to bring about these positive behaviours.

Each student has a 'jar' reward chart in the classroom. Students are awarded a 'spot' to put on their jar for positive behaviour e.g. trying their best, being helpful, being kind, taking turns, being patient, being responsible, being respectful, being a good listener etc. Once a child fills up their jar with 10 spots they are able to visit Mrs Vescio for a 'Dip in the Box' where they will be awarded a sticker and prize from the Principal to reinforce their efforts and positive behaviour.

PROCEDURES

Communication will be through the school newsletter, emails, 'Primary Parent Planner' App, notice board display and phone calls. St Rose prides itself on being a mostly paperless school, so in order to limit excess use of paper all parent communication is emailed to you. Please ensure you always read the school newsletter, it is your lifeline to the school and will keep you updated with the many different things happening at St Rose. Any information regarding Kindergarten will also be displayed on the notice board located directly outside the kindergarten classroom.

- Please include a spare pair of underpants and socks in your child's bag.
- Please ensure your child always has a raincoat in the bottom of their school bag.
- Please clearly label all clothing, drink bottles and lunch boxes (including 'crunch & sip' containers).
- All absences require a written email to be sent promptly after the day/s of absence for legal reasons.
- You are more than welcome to send in birthday cakes for your child's special day - cup cakes are much easier to share out. Ice blocks and Freddo Frogs are also popular choices. For safety reasons please do not send lollipops.
- If you need to talk to me, please make an appointment for a 10 minute interview (before or after school) as this enables me to give you my undivided attention. I can be reached via email (Meghan.bermingham@dbb.edu.au), however please keep in mind that I am teaching all day and may not get back to straight away. Your email is important to me and I will answer your email as soon as I can.
- You can always get a message to me via the school office. There is a direct telephone line from the office into the classroom and I can be reached by our Administration Officer, Mrs Helen Prentice at anytime. Please leave any message with Helen to pass on to me.
- If you are coming into the school to pick up your child, you need to collect them from the assembly area in the undercroft. Children are not allowed to walk unsupervised to the front of the school.
Children are encouraged to drink water throughout their day at school. We have an allocated ten minute 'Crunch & Sip' at 10 o’clock every day. Your child needs to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable which has been cut up and placed in a small container separate from their lunch box, clearly marked with their name. Water bottles need to be clearly labelled with your child's name and can be brought into the classroom for your child to sip from throughout the day. Every morning your child will need to bring their water bottle and fruit/ veg into the classroom- please pack this in the smaller front pocket of your child's bag so that it is easy for them to reach and find upon entering the classroom.

The school canteen is open on Mondays and Fridays. Your child is able to have a lunch order on any of these days and can also purchase food from the canteen at both recess and lunchtime. All ordering for the school canteen is done online. Please ensure you purchase your child a black 'Sticky Beak' bag for their lunch order to be placed in. These are left at school and cleaned out after each lunch order.

Please note that the Parent Information Night is on at St Rose on Thursday evening 12th February- please refer to the school newsletter for more details. On this evening I will go through everything that you need to know for your child this year. Please ensure at least one parent is present on this evening.

**DEVELOPING RESPONSIBILITY**

Children are capable little people who often surprise us with how responsible they can be. In order to develop responsibility in your child, help them by:

- being punctual
- attending school
- getting enough sleep
- being aware of their belongings
- allowing them (or practising with them), to pack and unpack their own bag, carry it and hang it on their hook
- ensuring homework (readers and sight words) has a priority with a set time and place
- wearing the correct uniform
- allowing your child to enter the classroom by themselves and to unpack their fruit break and water bottle.

Remember it is not uncommon for children to complain of ‘feeling sick’, 'not liking' or 'getting sick of school'. This is all part of settling in and can take differing lengths of time for each child.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework will consist of sight words, sounds and home readers. At times homework might also include an additional Religion, Science or HSIE task depending on what is being undertaken in class. Written homework will be kept to a minimum, as developing a love of reading is more important at this stage. It is important to remember that "playing is learning" for Kindergarten students and that young children learn through play.

Homework will be sent out on Monday and returned on Friday. Homework will begin in **Week 4** (Monday 16th Feb). There is no homework set over the weekends or during the school holidays. **Week 6** of each term is 'Mental Health Week' at St Rose. No homework is set during this week of school as students are encouraged to spend quality time with their friends and family, relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

**LIBRARY**

Kindergarten has a 1 hour library lesson each Wednesday with our school librarian, Mrs Brown. Students need to bring their school library bag in order to borrow. Kindergarten will start borrowing once they have become familiar with the library procedures. Kindergarten students are allowed to borrow one book. Students can return their book each week or keep it for a maximum of two weeks. Replacement costs must be paid for lost or damaged books.
PARENT HELPERS

There will be an opportunity for parent helpers to assist in the classroom from mid Term 2 onwards. All parent helpers need to have completed the ‘Parent Induction Session’ prior to volunteering to be a classroom helper. More information regarding parent helpers will be sent out closer to the time. Assistance will be required in the following areas:

- Reading
- Literacy Groups

CLASS TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Sight words and readers go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Homework and readers returned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My number one aim this year is to make your child feel happy and secure at school. It is important for you to assist your child with learning the school routine by being organised and well prepared. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

I look forward to a wonderful and exciting year,

Meghan Bermingham.

KINDERGARTEN TERM ONE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

RELIGION

‘Belonging to God’s Family’
This module focuses on how we experience love as members of God’s family. As baptised people, we are members of the church family. We are loved and supported by our church family, but are also called to reach out to other people in love, especially those in need. Children will be invited to explore being a part of family as a way to come to know God’s love.

‘Lent/Easter Triduum’
In this module students will explore the themes of Lent/Easter in a creative way. Through participation and involvement in the whole school Lent and Easter activities and celebrations, students will gain an awareness of the signs and symbols of Lent and Easter.

Parent Tip:
- Attend Mass regularly with your child
- Set up a prayer space in your home
- Read and discuss the ‘Easter Story’ from the New Testament with your child
- Celebrate Shrove Tuesday on 17th February by having pancakes for dessert!
- Talk to your child about Ash Wednesday

MATHEMATICS

Whole Number
* sorting and describing objects in terms of their features
* numbers 1 - 20
* one-to-one correspondence
* ordering groups

Patterns and Algebra
* recognising, describing, creating and continuing repeating patterns

2D Shapes
* manipulating, sorting and describing representations of two-dimensional shapes using everyday language

Time
* days of the week
* sequence of events within one day and over more than one day

Parent Tip:
- Practise counting forwards and backwards
- Count forwards and backwards
- Begin to practise counting by 2’s
- Sequence numbers (smallest to largest/largest to smallest)
and Lent

- Find 2D shapes in the environment. Practise drawing these
- Practise writing numerals (ensuring all numbers are facing the correct way)
- Discuss the different days of the week, talk about what you do on each different day e.g. swimming lessons, ballet, soccer etc.
- Help your child understand the concept of o'clock. We will also be learning and practising this in class.

**HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT**

**‘In Our Classroom’**

In this unit, the students will investigate the classroom as an environment where they can learn, be happy and safe. They will identify each student as a special and unique part of the class. They will discuss times when they feel happy and safe within the classroom, and focus on their rights and responsibilities. The students will contribute to the writing of class rules and describe the role that they can play in caring for their classroom.

**SCIENCE**

**‘How Do We Communicate?’**

In this unit, the students will investigate some of the different ways people communicate. They will identify the following methods of communicating: speaking, pictures, body language, machines such as telephones and computers, bells, signs and symbols and written messages.

**CREATIVE ARTS**

**Visual Arts – ‘About Me’**

In this unit, students will make self portraits developing their observational skills and considering the qualities and relationships between features and how these are represented in their picture making. Students will experiment with a range of media and make individual and group works based on their experiences. Students will also develop some imaginative works as they collectively use their hands as a stimulus for pattern making.

**Parent Tip:**

- Practise drawing skills with your child - drawing people/animals/shapes/objects etc.
- Practise colouring in with your child and help them to differentiate between ‘scribble’ and ‘neat work’ paying close attention to keeping within the lines and taking their time to produce a higher quality of work.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Physical Education**

Kindergartens have a weekly 1 hour sports lesson with our sports teacher, Mrs Lillycrop. Please ensure your child is dressed in their full sports uniform on both Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Health – ‘Me and My Mates’**

This unit focuses on developing good relationships with our family, friends and others.
ENGLISH:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SIGHT WORDS</th>
<th>SOUND</th>
<th>LITERATURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>a, the</td>
<td>Alphabet</td>
<td>School Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I, am, see, look</td>
<td>a, m</td>
<td>Smarty Pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>what, do, here</td>
<td>s, t</td>
<td>Meanies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>came, to, in, off</td>
<td>i, f</td>
<td>To Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>will, go, my</td>
<td>d, r</td>
<td>Dan the Flying Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>little, like, night</td>
<td>g, h</td>
<td>Five Little Bats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>and, man</td>
<td>c, n</td>
<td>Grandpa, Grandpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>there, that</td>
<td>k, b</td>
<td>If You Meet A Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>he, she, I, see</td>
<td>e, v</td>
<td>Danger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten will be focusing on the following types of text this term:
- literary and personal recounts
- factual description

The English syllabus is divided into three strands – Reading and Viewing, Writing and Representing and Speaking and Listening. Below is a list of learning tasks your child will be undertaking in these strands:

**SPEAKING and LISTENING**
- Theme related discussion
- Listening to class stories
- Nursery rhymes and poems
- Singing of songs and chants
- Role play
- Assembly items
- Asking relevant questions
- Making relevant comments

*Please note your child will not have a set ‘News’ day or topic to present. If your child has something special to share with the class we will try and fit it into our day where possible.

**READING and VIEWING**
- Silent reading
- Guided reading groups
- Reading games and activities
- Big Books
- Home reading program
- Flashcards (sight words)
- Phonics
- Reading comprehension
- Reading a wide range of texts

**WRITING and REPRESENTING**
- Writing
- Personal writing
- Theme writing
- Grammar
- Handwriting
- Handwriting textbook
- Rainbow writing
- Tracing and copying patterns
- Writing letters and numerals
- Writing their name
- Lacing and bead threading
- Play dough
- Fine motor tasks to strengthen hands and fingers

**HANDWRITING**
- Handwriting textbook
- Rainbow writing
- Tracing and copying patterns
- Writing letters and numerals
- Writing their name
- Lacing and bead threading
- Play dough
- Fine motor tasks to strengthen hands and fingers

**Parent Tip:**
- Practise and revise sight words. Find sight words in readers and story books.
- Read every day! Hire books from the local library as well as the school library.
- Focus on punctuation when reading- capital letters, full stops, commas, exclamation marks, question marks etc.
- Practise handwriting and numeral writing using the correct formations.
- Encourage your child to write letters, stories, cards etc.
- Play alphabet games e.g. snap, memory, bingo, matching games etc.
- Phonics, visit the ‘Starfall’ website

**DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:** Please download the ‘Primary Parent Planner.’ App for all the up to date school dates and check the weekly school Newsletter.