

## KPP1 Class 2019 Parent Information Night



Welcome to your child's classroom for 2019, especially to the families of our four new Kindies and Shannon! We are sincerely looking forward to helping your children to learn and reach their full potential while having lots of fun along the way.

### Tandem Teaching:

Mrs Pip Ellis	Monday, Tuesday
Mrs Ruth Kelly	Wednesday & Thursday & Friday
Mrs Ronnie McRae	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

### Our Early Childhood Philosophy:

*'Our school community calls to life the uniqueness of each child in meeting their educational and spiritual needs'*

At St Joseph's School, Pemberton, the Early Childhood Team embraces and nurtures each student as a whole child across all learning domains.

We aim to incorporate into the curriculum a range of teaching and learning pedagogies and provide school environments that enhance and nurture student learning. We implement a variety of explicit, collaborate, inquiry and play-based learning pedagogies, based on student needs. In doing this, we are able to provide a balance between student-driven and teacher-initiated learning experiences. Programming and teaching is flexible and caters for all students' strengths, interests and cultural backgrounds. We believe in the importance of continually reflecting on student learning and on our own teaching, as we strive to provide the best educational experiences for our students.

We believe positive and meaningful interactions between staff and students develop and nurture self-esteem and ensure all students feel safe, valued and respected.






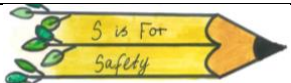


We consider parents to be fellow educators of their children and embrace and support a variety of opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education. We value open communication between home and school through a range of communication pathways.

## School and Classroom Expectations:

The whole schools and classrooms behaviour expectations are closely linked and guided by the schools Positive Behaviours in Schools (PBS) Program and Making Jesus Real (MJR) Program. Both of these programs focus on developing and promoting the use of positive behaviours throughout the entire school. This occurs through both explicit lessons focusing on different expectations and positive rewards for students demonstrating school expectations both in and out of the classroom.

There are four guiding pillars of the PBS program: **Compassion; Safety; Respect; and Responsibility.** These pillars are the overarching expectations for all staff and students at St Joseph's. The school's playground and classroom expectations are developed under these pillars.

**These are the expectations of our class:**

  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We listen with our ears turned on, lips closed and eyes looking.</li><li>• We are gentle with our toys and friends.</li></ul>	  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We take turns when playing.</li><li>• We help our friends.</li><li>• We encourage each other.</li></ul>
  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We sit with our legs crossed and hands on our lap</li><li>• We walk in the classroom</li></ul>	  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We put hands on our head when the bell rings.</li><li>• We all help pack away our toys.</li></ul>

**Class Marbles:** When students are observed exhibiting these expectations, or other positive behaviours and attitudes in the classroom, they receive a marble to place into our class jar. There are different levels on the jar corresponding to a whole class reward.

**'Jigsaw Pieces' at Recess and Lunch time play:** During recess and lunch time 'jigsaw pieces' are awarded for behaviour that reflects the school's four pillars. These puzzle pieces are part of a "Big Mystery Puzzle" to be solved in the hall and once this puzzle is completed there will be a whole school reward.

During the rare occurrences of misconduct, students will firstly be given a verbal warning, then five minutes timeout for the next incident. For serious misconduct, a student will be sent to the office and their parents notified. Students are also supported to identify and practise more positive actions that they could use when a similar situation may arise.

## Subject and Learning Areas:



**Religion:** We teach 3 religion units per term and sessions are scheduled 3-4 times a week. This programme is also linked to our MJR and PBS focus for the week. The topics relate to the children themselves and their families, making good choices, forgiveness, living like Jesus, and the main Sacraments and Christian seasons throughout the year.

**Making Jesus Real (MJR)** This wonderful whole school program involves supporting students in understanding that by making positive choices they are living a life as Jesus taught through his life and the Gospels. Fortnightly, a whole school focus is explicitly taught within each class with a student from each class receiving an in class MJR certificate. As an extra special award, "Joseph the Bear" is presented at the end of a school Mass to a student who has demonstrated outstanding MJR characteristics.

**English:** Our main focus for this class is the development of pre and early reading and writing skills. These skills are explicitly taught through our spelling, reading and writing sessions and further developed during all other learning experiences.

**Spelling:** Our current programme, PLD or Diana Rigg Spelling Programme, is a sequential and targeted program. It focuses on the development of pre-literacy oral skills eg hearing syllables in words and segmenting and blending words orally, followed by the formal teaching of alphabet sounds and then letter combinations commonly found in words.



**Reading:** All students participate in a weekly guided reading session with the teacher directed at their own literacy level, with the focus of further developing the strategies and concepts required to become proficient early readers.

**Shared Book Sessions:** We also provide students with an integrated shared book program which involves modelled and shared reading, a comprehension activity, fine motor skill activity and some guided writing all linked to the book of the week.

**Writing:** Over the year we will teach the various genres of writing suggested for our year level in the Australian Curriculum. Forms of writing we will teach will be information reports, recounts, narratives and procedures.

**Maths:** This year, the children will engage in a more 'hands on' programme linked to the Australian Curriculum. This will see the students working each Monday and Tuesday on Space & Geometry or Measurement concepts and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Number skills.



**Fine & Gross Motor Development:** In many of our learning areas we aim to integrate some form of fine motor skill development. For example, this could be in the form of cutting, drawing, painting or threading. The children's Gross Motor skills are developed during sport, fitness, obstacle courses and play times. Our 'Hands and Fingers' programme implemented by Mr Kelly and Mrs. McRae on Wednesday afternoons is valuable in teaching these skills also. The development of motor control is extremely important and if your child is struggling we may recommend referral to a professional such as an Occupational Therapist for further advice.

**Technologies:** There are two components to this area - Design and Technologies, which will be taught and reported on by Mr Kelly, and Digital Technologies which will be integrated into the classroom across all learning areas and reported on by the classroom teachers.

The students are already familiar with many Digital Technologies and we will be supporting them to safely navigate around particular parts of the internet for research and investigation and also using some educationally appropriate apps to support classroom learning.

### **Specialty Areas:**

**Mr Kelly:** Science, Physical Education, Design and Technologies and Health



### **Keeping Safe Program:**

All schools are required to teach students "Protective Behaviours" at an age appropriate level. The Catholic Education Office WA has implemented a program called "Keeping Safe" as the program that will be used across all year levels in their primary schools. The lessons are linked very closely to the Health Curriculum and will be taught throughout the year in the classroom as part of our Health programme. Further information about the program will be given to you as the year progresses and we move through the different units of the program.

### **General Information:**

**No Surprises!** As a school we have a "no surprises policy" which simply means we aim to foster an open channel of communication between home and school regarding each child's progress throughout the year. To help ensure this occurs we strongly encourage you to come and talk to us about any issues or concerns you have as they arise. This will help to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of each other's expectations and most importantly your child's individual needs.

**Communication Book:** All students have their own communication book which is to be returned daily. This great little book contains lots of information such as the rosters, news themes and, from time to time, feedback about your child's day. It is intended for two-way communication so please feel free to ask questions and write notes anytime.

**Interviews:** Towards the end of Term we will request an interview with you to discuss your child's progress and participation in class activities. You are also most welcome to make additional appointments at a mutually convenient time at any stage of the year.

**Portfolios:** Each child possesses a portfolio that will contain samples of work demonstrating their progress during the year. The portfolios will be sent home for you to see at the end of each term. **Please return these promptly at the beginning of the next term.**

**Digital Portfolios:** As part of our Digital Technology programme we teach the children how to use an App called Seesaw. The students choose and upload samples of their work into a digital portfolio to share their learning with teachers and parents. This is a trusted, teacher driven site where the children can see and comment on their peers' posts but families can only view their own child's posts.

**Parent Help:** You are most welcome to come into the classroom each morning to settle your child by helping them complete a puzzle, read a book or spend some time playing prior to lessons commencing. We also enjoy having parents in to assist with activities and would love to know how you would like to support us this year.

**Homework:** Homework will be set for both our Pre-primary and Year One students beginning next week. Each child's homework tasks may look slightly different as they will be directly

focused on their particular area/s of need. Please remember homework is sent home on Monday and is to be returned each Friday.

**Yr1** homework will comprise of 4 reading books that your child should be able to read easily with limited support. A chart of sight words carrying on from their sight words lists used last year. Finally a homework journal with a set of spelling words and one task to be completed each night directly linked to each weeks spelling list.

**Pp** homework will start with a shared book and some questions to talk about related to the book and an alphabet writing book. There will also be selected activities set for different students that will support their literacy and possibly number skills as the need arises. These will be personally explained to you before they are sent home.

**How long?** No more than 10 minutes a night as students tend to feel tired and will have limited success beyond this time.

**Absentees:** If your child is absent from school we will always require a signed note for our records. Please send this in with your child's communication book before or after their absence.



**Library Days:** This term our library day is Friday for P/1 students only. The children may choose one book to take home for the week.

**Canteen:** Our canteen service is provided on Tuesdays and the children enjoy ordering one or two items. A parent help roster and a menu have been sent home.

**Birthdays:** We love to celebrate your child's birthday with them in class. Just a small cake or a cupcake for each child (ten students!) is plenty. We will sing "Happy Birthday" with them and share their treat at recess time.



Thank you for making time to join us for our Parent Meeting tonight and supporting our teaching and learning programme this year!

Ruth Kelly, Pip Ellis and Ronnie McRae