



YEAR 4 PARENT INFORMATION 2017

A PARENT'S PRAYER

God of Wisdom

we thank you for having given us children
and making us part of your creation.

Our children are our joy
and at times a source of our stress and anxiety.

Help us to accept with serenity the worries, fears and labours
that accompany their upbringing.

Help us to love our children sincerely.

Give us the wisdom to guide them,

patience to teach them,

and the courage to give them the space they need to grow and learn.

Grant that they may always see their home and their school
as a safe haven in their times of struggle.

Amen

Welcome to Year 4 2017!

We look forward to an enjoyable year filled with happiness, success and great engagement from the students.

This year we aim to develop, in the children, their independence and self-management skills. One way to develop this with the children is to encourage them to ready themselves for the following day by attending to their school bag, iPad, homework and diary and associated requirements the night before.

GENERAL BUSINESS

YEAR 4 CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Josephine Pitt – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Tonia Poggioli – Thursday and Friday

ATTENDANCE

It is important that if your child is away, we receive either an email or a note, which can be found at the back of the Diary, explaining his/her absence upon returning to school. Emails are to be sent to the office <mailto:admin@stpiusx.wa.edu.au>

MORNING PROCEDURE

Our classroom is open from 8.30am. Students are expected to organise *themselves* for the day, entering the class with all the required material. They then select a quiet activity until the bell at 8.45am.

HOMEWORK

The homework set for Year 4 is 30 minutes per night (maximum), Monday to Thursday. The contract will be handed out on a Monday and is to be returned to school each Friday.

Homework consists of:

- Spelling words (**Look / Cover / Say / Write / Check**)
- Maths – Times tables and class topic related math sheets
- Mathletics – internet computer program consisting of up to 2 activities per week
- Reading

Students are expected to record their personal reading in their Reading Log. We highly 'encourage' the children to select literature rich novels to record in their Reading Log. Other genres, for example graphic novels, are also encouraged, but as supplementary/additional reading.

If your child is having difficulty with their homework, please let us know so that we can modify the requirements to suit your child.

If your child has not completed their homework three times within the term, a note informing you of this will be sent home via your child. However, if you are aware that your child was unable to complete homework for the given week, please send a note in with your child or via email informing us of this.

HOMWORK FOLDER, READING LOG AND DIARY

Diary, all homework and notes need to be taken home and returned in their folders.

We encourage the children to be independent in filling out their Reading Log and Diary; also, showing independence in ensuring that these are signed. Prior to signing, please check that their weekly homework is complete and that they have filled out their Reading Log and Diary each day.

The Reading Log needs to be signed Monday to Thursday; whilst the Diary only on a Thursday night.

MORNING PROCEDURE

Our classroom is open from 8.30am. Students are expected to organise *themselves* for the day, entering the class with all the required material. They then select a quiet activity until the bell at 8.45am.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

We are available before school if you need to pass on simple messages; however, please be mindful that those few minutes prior to the bell is when we begin attending to class matters/requirements. Therefore, you may prefer to send a quick note in with your child. If you would like an interview to discuss your child, please make an appointment as we are then able to dedicate more time in a more private and quieter environment!

IPADS

The children need to bring their device to school daily, fully encased and charged. Please encourage your child to clean their device on a daily basis and ensure applications are regularly updated. When apps need to be purchased, you will be notified via the school diary, with further reference to the class app list being updated on the school website. We encourage the implementation of a Home Agreement negotiated with you and your child to encourage time management of the device. The consequences for the misuse of the iPad at school will be dealt with in accordance with the *iPad Code of Conduct and Agreement Policy* and the *Acceptable Internet, Myinternet and Myclasses Use Policy*. Further information and clarification can be found on the school website.

DISCIPLINE

We prefer a positive approach to discipline in the classroom, with the aim of developing intrinsic motivation for their **own learning** and taking responsibility for their **own behaviour**. Positive behaviour and work is recognised and re-enforced by means of verbal praise.

At all times, we strive to be consistent and fair, keeping in mind that our classroom and school rules apply to each child, unless informed of any extenuating circumstances. However, if necessary, the consequence for disruptive or inappropriate behaviour follows the **1-2-3 Magic! Program** that St Pius X School has adopted: whereby, the student will be verbally given 3 (consecutively) numbered warnings (i.e.1,2,3). Then, if necessary, the fourth warning results in 5 minutes time out. During 'time out', the focus will be to develop the child's sense of self-discipline and self-control. If the behaviour continues, the child is sent to a member from the Leadership Team and you will be notified via the student Diary or in person.

HIGHWAY HEROES

This year we are embarking on a whole school Social and Emotional Learning Program called Highway Heroes. The program utilises an overarching metaphor of travelling along the 'Highway of Life' and becoming a 'Highway Hero'. By acquiring and learning 'Highway Tools', children are encouraged to successfully deal with the inevitable 'Bumps and Hazards' they may encounter along the way. Highway Heroes aims to develop children's proactive skills (forming friendships, gaining inclusion, thought/mood management) and reactive skills (dealing with play refusals, friendship difficulties, teasing and bullying) by using tools, resources and activities with structured stand-alone modules and lesson plans on particular topics such as Resilience and Bullying.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

In terms 2 and 3, Juliet King, the school Social Worker, will be teaching Protective Behaviours. The program she will be using is Holding Hands from Protective Behaviours WA. It is encouraged that parents get a copy of the Parent Handbook and attend one of the parent workshops held at Protective Behaviours WA. Juliet will be sending home information about the program and the topics she will be covering each week closer to Term 2.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - SOCIAL WORK

Please note that Juliet will be posting information about various things on the St Pius X website under the Social Work section. These might be resources, links to information, courses and workshops that may be of relevance. If you would like Juliet to post information about something that you find of interest, have any questions or would like to make an appointment to see her, her email address is <mailto:king.juliet@cathednet.wa.edu.au>

SPECIALIST LESSONS

- Tuesday: Sport (Mrs Linda Matthews)
- Tuesday: Italian (Mrs Zena Gangemi)
- Wednesday: Science (Mr Brett Wilkie)
- Thursday: Music (Ms Tiffany Tan)
- Thursday: Library (Mr Brett Wilkie)
- Friday: Sport (Mrs Linda Matthews)

HOLY COMMUNION DATES

- *10 September @ 9am*
- *17 September @ 9am*

We look forward to a wonderful year with your children and thank you in anticipation of your support.

Kind Regards

Jo Pitt and Tonia Poggioli
Year 4 Teachers



Don't become preoccupied with ONLY
Your child's academic ability,
But instead,
Teach them to be kind
Teach them to offer their help
Teach them to be a friend to the lonely
Teach them to encourage others
Teach them to think about other people
Teach them to share
Teach them to look for the good
For this is how they'll change the world.

(Swords&Snoodles)

