



# St Thomas the Apostle Primary School

Term 1 2017

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## WELCOME TO TERM 1

Mates Are:

Thoughtful,

Engaged,

Safe



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### Teachers:

Miss Rachel Kelly	5/6K
Mrs Natasha Pank	5/6P
Ms Tona Tallarida	
Mrs Leah Godfrey	5/6 G

### Days to Remember:

**Sports Days** - Tuesday & Friday  
**Library & Indonesian** - Wednesday  
**Chess** - Thursday  
**School Prayer** - Monday morning in the Church 9am  
**Module Prayer** - Friday morning  
**Assembly** - Friday 1:45pm

### Important Dates:

7/2: ICT Boot Camp—AFP Cyber Safety Visit  
7/2: Parent Information Evening  
8/2: Kid Fit Leaders Training  
15/2-17/2: Camp Cooba  
24/2: Swimming Carnival  
28/2: Parent Literacy Evening  
1/3: Ash Wednesday  
2/3: Questacon Visit to School  
3/3: 5/6 Camp Assembly  
7/3: Parent Numeracy Evening  
13/3: Canberra Day  
17/3: Ride to School Day  
21/3: Harmony Day  
24/3: Cross Country Carnival  
26/3: Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival  
29/3: Confirmation Information Night  
3/4 & 7/4: Democracy Excursions

Please check the school newsletter for updated dates throughout the term.

Welcome to 2017! We hope you had a restful break with your family during the Christmas and New Year period.

### Curriculum

**Religion:** In this unit, the children will learn about the gift of the Holy Spirit in preparation for Confirmation in May. There will be a Confirmation Retreat Day on Friday, 26th May and Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 28th May.

**English:** In English we will explore a variety of literary forms and genres as we develop their skills in reading, listening and viewing and in comprehension, spelling, writing, and oral language. Our class novel for this term is called *Wonder* which explores themes of disability, inclusion and acceptance.

**Mathematics:** During the first few weeks the students will participate in a number of assessments and observations in order to appropriately group the students across four classes. Mr Mark Bazzana will teach the 4th class during this time.

**PD/H/PE:** Sport days this term will be **Tuesday and Friday**. The children will need to be in full sports uniform on these days. The students will participate in cricket, netball and athletics lessons. This term major events also include the Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals.

**Pathways:** The school has moved to a concept based, integrated curriculum. This term the focus is 'Community'. The students will be learning about democracy and government in Australia. We will be visiting Old Parliament House and the Electoral Commission at the end of the term.

**Arts:** Visual Arts will be integrated across the curriculum, particularly in the interpretation and drawing of political cartoons, and will continue to develop the children's skills in sculpting, drawing and design. In Drama, the children will be exploring dramatic techniques.

**Chess:** The children will attend Chess lessons on Thursdays.

**Indonesian & Library:** This term we attend Library and Indonesian on Wednesday mornings. We encourage students to borrow from the class, school and public libraries.

### **ICT**

The students have already begun to use their iPads. The students will attend a 'Bootcamp' to learn about cyber-safety and the safe use of the iPads in class. A lock for their locker is required to ensure that their iPad remains secure during break times or while not in class.



# St Thomas The Apostle Primary School

## Important Information:

**Module Prayer:** A reminder that every Friday morning we participate in prayer. Parents and families are most welcome to join us in the Church for Mass, Module Prayer and Monday Prayer.

**Uniform Expectations:** Please ensure every item of your child's clothing is clearly labelled. Accessories such as coats and hair ribbons should be in school colours. Earrings should be simple sleepers or studs and nail polish is not to be worn. Socks should be plain and above the ankle.

**Fruit Break and Water:** Please ensure you send in a water bottle and a piece of fruit for your child daily. We ask that this is a small fruit snack only.

**Home Learning:** Children are expected to **read every night** and benefit greatly in doing so. Home Learning should be an enjoyable experience for all. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions about this. Mathematics work will be sent home by the students Mathematic's teacher. Home Learning will be handed out on a Monday and is then due the following Monday.

**Medications:** If your child is sick and requires medication to be given at school, it is part of the school policy that you provide a written note outlining its administration. All medication is distributed by Jodie Luhrs in the Front Office.

**Nut Allergies:** St Thomas the Apostle is a **nut free** environment due to many children having severe nut allergies. Please ensure you do not pack any nuts or nut products (e.g. nutella, peanut butter, satays) in your child's lunch box. For this same reason sharing food is not permitted.

**Absent Notes:** A reminder that a note explaining your child's absence from school is required within 3 days of their return. You are able to use the St. Thomas Skoolbag app for this. Please support us in reducing paperwork and administration time by returning these notes the day that the students return.

**Birthdays:** If you wish to send in cake for your child's birthday we are more than happy to celebrate with the class. We encourage you to send cupcakes (not whole cakes) as they are easier to distribute and we do not keep knives in the classroom for safety reasons. All food for the class needs to have a list of ingredients.

**Teacher Interviews:** Please feel free to call and make an appointment during the term if you have any concerns.

We are looking forward to a fulfilling and enjoyable year ahead.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Natasha Pank, Mrs Leah Godfrey, Miss Rachel Kelly and Ms Tona Tallarida