

# Room A4 Term 1 2012 Newsletter.



## Welcome

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your children to St Patrick's school and to Room A4.

Welcome to Mollie, Sophie, Jasmine, Talia, Zoja, Freddie, Makaela, Georgia, Jack, Lauren and Alyssa. Soon we will welcome Cara, Danyon, Beatrix and Britney.

This newsletter is to tell you about the programme for the Term. There will be many opportunities for you to join us and you are most welcome.

## Religious Education:

Our first learning module is the Charism of our school - we are a Catholic school and there are many things that make us special. Look at the classroom display.

Our next unit is Prayer and we will be focussing on what prayer is and how we pray. We will be learning those traditional prayers that we have all grown up with. Remember to use them often with your children at home too.

In week 4 we begin the God strand. It is a lovely unit talking about how God has created this world for us.

Lent begins on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We will have a liturgy in the Chapel for Juniors that day.

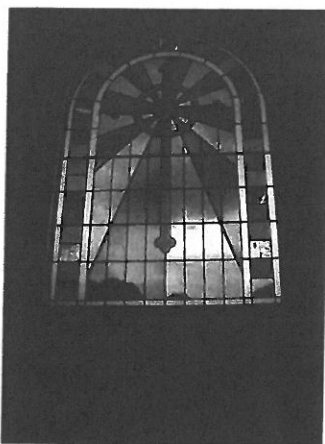
School Masses will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February and St Patrick's day 16<sup>th</sup> March.

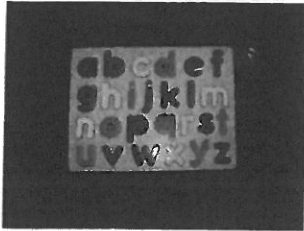
## Written Language

Skills being taught here include - knowing what to write about, being able to tell someone what you are going to write about, drawing a picture plan, beginning to write with help, writing known words and using phonics skills to attempt new words.

## Printing

We need lots of practise holding pencils correctly, beginning letters in the right place and forming them correctly. We use felt pens, whiteboards and pencil and paper and the letters are linked to the alphabet focus letter of the week. Please encourage your child to write at home.





## Reading

We are learning the early skills necessary for reading. These include linking the pictures to the print, pointing to the text as you read, beginning to read in the correct place and reading from left to right, matching the words to speech and most importantly listening to and participating in stories. Please don't cover up the pictures as your child reads, they are there to help make sense of the words. Read together each night and share the stories that come home.

Knowing the names and sounds of all the letters of the alphabet in any order is also important for reading and writing. The students will bring home their ABC book on Wednesday night and poem books on a Friday night for you to read together. Poems are a good way to help memory and recognition of sounds and rhymes.

A library book comes home each Friday for you to read to your child. Library day is Thursday so please see that the book is back before then.

## Maths

We are learning about numbers from 1 to 20, how to write them, read them and form sets of them. We are counting backwards and forwards starting at any number. I will also be teaching colour, shapes, measurement, position and classifying.

## Physical Education

Skills for this Term will be games, ball skills, swimming and a week of outdoor education activities in week 8. A swimming letter will come home soon.

## Computer Skills

We will be learning how to use a computer, how to log on and off programmes and how to identify parts of the computer.

## Inquiry Unit

Our big question will be "Who am I?" so we will be finding out about our Culture and our Heritages.

*I am always happy to discuss any concerns you may have - just see me in the class. I look forward to a very busy and exciting term.*

*May God continue to bless you and your children,*

*Pam Bartlett*

## General notes

1. Each night the leaders will bring home either the class prayer book bag or the Rosary statue bag. Share these together and return them to school the next day.
  2. Homework - your child will have a short activity to complete each night with your help. Enjoy this time together, it is not meant to be stressful for anyone! Please see that the bookbag and its contents are returned to school the next day.
  3. Remember that school starts at 8.45am and your child needs to be in class ready to begin school before that time. Read the posters in the bag room together.
  4. I am trying to encourage the children to be independent so that means them packing and carrying their own bags.
  5. Remember each child needs a sun hat and water bottle every day.
  6. Girls should be wearing the blue school PE shorts each day.
  7. Please name everything - clothes, sun hat, shoes, bags, drink bottles.
  8. Please check the contents of your child's lunch box. Are they able to open the packets themselves and have they got a spoon to eat their yoghurt with?
- Thank you.