Welcome to Grade 1! We are very proud of how the Grade 1s have started the year and are looking forward to a great year of learning and fun with your beautiful children.

**Religion**

This year the theme for the community of Our Lady of the Nativity Primary School is ‘I See You Lord’. Throughout the term students will be identifying where they see the Lord in their daily lives. We will explore what it means to be a Franciscan community and how we see the Lord through the life of St Francis.

**Lent & Holy Week**

This unit focuses on the season of Lent as a time to grow in the life of God. Students will explore ways they can foster that growth by trying to be better people. Together we will look at Jesus’ journey in Holy Week from the Last Supper to Holy Saturday.

**Unit of Inquiry**

This term students will be exploring the transdisciplinary themes of ‘How We Organise Ourselves’ and ‘How the World Works’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transdisciplinary Theme: Who We Are</th>
<th>Lines of Inquiry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.</td>
<td>An inquiry into:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Idea</td>
<td>1. our class learning community</td>
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<tr>
<td>A community consists of people working towards a common goal</td>
<td>2. how we work together</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. our roles and responsibilities within our class learning community</td>
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<tr>
<th>Learner Profile Attributes</th>
<th>Attitudes</th>
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How the World Works

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment

Central Idea
The environment responds to seasonal cycles

Lines of Inquiry
An inquiry into:
1. How seasons change throughout the year.
2. The unique properties and features of seasons
3. Extreme weather and how it affects the environment

Learner Profile Attributes
* Reflective, * Communicator

Attitudes
* Appreciation

Handwriting

Handwriting will continue to be a big focus this term, with students practising the correct formation of their letters everyday. Handwriting tips:

- Ensure your child uses a sharpened pencil
- Monitor their correct pencil grip
- Encourage your child to take their time with their letter formation
- Practise starting letters at the correct starting points

Writing

This term we will focus on descriptions and recounts. Students will be exposed to the correct structure of a recount and continue to develop their writing vocabulary and knowledge, sentence structure and punctuation skills. They will develop their knowledge of adjectives and practise using adjectives correctly in their writing pieces. Free writing will be encouraged to give purpose to their own writing.
**Reading**

We will continue to work on word attack strategies, such as chunking, blending, reading on, rereading and using picture cues. We will revise blend sounds and vowel patterns. Our main focus will be on comprehension, particularly the skills needed to answer literal questions.

Children will continue to develop their understanding of Good-Fit books with a particular focus on the different purposes of choosing a book (enjoyment, fluency, expression).

They will be given opportunities to develop their reading stamina with time for Read to Self from 8:45- 8:55 and during the literacy block.

**Mathematics**

Maths sessions will include forward and backward counting, skip counting, solving number patterns and reading and writing numbers. There will be a focus on students developing a quick automatic response of number facts using the numbers 1 – 10. The focus for sessions this term will be:

- **Number**: doubles, ordering numbers, representing numbers as tens and ones, developing an understanding of the place value of each digit in a number, correctly forming numbers,
- **Shape**: Recognising and classifying two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional objects.
- **Working mathematically**: Students will be encouraged to explain their thinking (This is what I did, this is what I found out, this is what I know).

**Specialist Lessons**

The Grade 1s will participate in specialist lessons every TUESDAY and students will need to wear their sports uniform every TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. Library borrowing will happen every THURSDAY with your child’s classroom teacher and visual arts lessons will take place every Friday in the art room.
**Brainfood**

Please send along two pieces of brain food each day. Some ideas for brain food include fresh fruit and vegetables, and dried fruit. Please note on Tuesday due to specialists the Grade 1s may only get time to eat one piece of brainfood.

**Parent Helpers**

Parent helpers will begin in Week 3. A term roster will be placed outside the Grade 1 classrooms please place your names where you are available to help.

**10-Minute Helpers**

We would also like to continue the 10-minute helpers this year, parents will assist with students practicing reading and spelling high frequency words. Toddlers are very welcome for the 10 minute helping each morning.

**Dates for your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th February</td>
<td>Grade 1 attending 9:15 mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th February</td>
<td>Parent information exchanges 3:30 – 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>Parent information exchanges 3:30 – 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th February</td>
<td>Grade 1 preparing 9:15 mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>Clean Up Schools Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Grade 1 attending 9:15 mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
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We are looking forward to a great term! Please see us if you have any questions or concerns.

😊 The Grade 1 Team 😊

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Wendy Gibbs  wgibbs@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au