

# School Prayer

*God of Love and Mercy  
bless our school, our parish and community  
as we aspire to walk in the footsteps of  
Catherine McAuley.*

*We ask for your help to live by  
the Mercy values that we hold dear.  
Holy Spirit, we ask you to guide us  
to act more justly  
to strive for excellence  
to be generous in your service  
to show compassion  
and to be examples of your mercy.*

*Guided by St. Columba, let us  
grow in faith  
seek wisdom  
and live in peace.*

*St. Columba,  
pray for us.*

*Catherine McAuley,  
pray for us.*

*Amen.*

*Introduction*

Welcome to Year Five, 2017. We are looking forward to an exciting, creative, challenging and busy year working with this amazing group of individuals. This booklet is designed to provide you with some general information that you will be able to refer to throughout the year.

## *Teaching Philosophy*

We strongly believe that we go to school not only to learn to read, write and do arithmetic, but to discover our PASSION in life!

We each have different gifts, talents, interests and abilities and therefore we aim to expose all of our students to a variety of subjects, topics, learning experiences, resources and opportunities. Likewise all students learn differently and, in our desire to encourage them to become lifelong, eager, enthusiastic learners, we will be employing a variety of teaching and learning strategies focused on meeting each student's individual needs.

Both visual and auditory cues will be used as we provide your child with the opportunity to build on their strengths and work towards overcoming their weaknesses. Students' achievement will be defined by their personal effort, rather than by comparison with others in the class, and while our expectations of students will be high, to encourage them to always do their best, they will also be realistic.

## *Positive Reinforcement*

To encourage and foster a positive learning environment,  
students can expect to receive :

- Verbal praise
- Merit certificates
- Classroom certificates
- Showing work to principal or other teachers
- Small rewards / prizes
- Stickers / stamps / bookmarks
- Group and whole class rewards

## Consequences

To remind students of their behavioural boundaries, they may be  
given :

- A verbal warning
- Time out in class
- Time out at recess or lunch

Please note that for serious or continuous infractions, parents  
will be notified.

## Specialist Learning Areas & Support

Year 5 Green : Miss Clare Wright

All children will be involved in the following specialist areas, while some children will be involved in Enrichment & Support programs.

<i>MONDAY</i>	Science /Humanities (Kristen Trott)
<i>TUESDAY</i>	Italian (Signora Leahy) Design and Digital Technologies (Kristen Trott and Eugene Potito) Physical Education (Mrs Jo McCluskey)
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	Extension (Olivia Ioppolo) Support (Kerry Smith) Science / Humanities (Kristen Trott)
<i>THURSDAY</i>	Music (Mrs Kerry Smith) Choir (Mrs Kerry Smith) Support (Mrs Olivia Ioppolo)
<i>FRIDAY</i>	Support (Kerry Smith) Library (Rita Cuthbert)

***PLEASE NOTE:***

- \* Students are to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. (Please see the School Uniform Policy for correct attire)
- \* Students will need a Library Bag for book borrowing on Fridays. Borrowing and reading library books is a compulsory element of the Literacy learning area.

*Specialist Learning Areas & Support*

*Year 5 White : Mrs Leesa Vinciullo*

All children will be involved in the following specialist areas, while some children will be involved in Enrichment & Support programs.

*MONDAY* Science /Humanities (Kristen Trott)

*TUESDAY* Italian (Signora Leahy)  
Design and Digital Technologies  
(Kristen Trott and Eugene Potito)  
Support (Olivia Ioppolo)

*WEDNESDAY* Extension (Olivia Ioppolo)  
Library (Rita Cuthbert)  
Support (Jo McCluskey)

*THURSDAY* Music (Mrs Kerry Smith)  
Choir (Mrs Kerry Smith)  
Support (Jo McCluskey)  
Physical Education (Jo McCluskey)

*FRIDAY* Humanities (Kristen Trott)

*PLEASE NOTE:*

\* Students are to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only. (Please see the School Uniform Policy for correct attire)

\* Students will need a Library Bag for book borrowing on Wednesday. Borrowing and reading library books is a compulsory element of the Literacy learning area.

*HOMEWORK*

Homework is an important part of your child's education. It consolidates classroom learning, encourages self-discipline, reliability and responsibility, while fostering sound study habits and organisational skills. Year Fives are expected to complete between 30 and 45 minutes of homework Monday – Thursday.

Completion of homework is the responsibility of the child/parent. If a child is unable to complete homework for a given night, it is expected that the child will *catch up* the following night. Should the child miss consecutive nights of homework, a note in their diary will be required. It is the parents' responsibility to check homework regularly and sign the diary at least once a week.

The presentation of homework is expected to be of classroom standards and on standard classroom materials. This includes:

- \* Ruling pages in red pen.
- \* Title and date on all work.

We understand that students have many afterschool activities. However, it is not good educational practise to complete all homework in one evening. *Please help your child organise their time, so that they are thinking about their education on a regular basis.*

Homework will consist of two types –

- Compulsory – numeracy and literacy work set each week (including but not limited to Spelling and Word Work and Maths Revision sheets, primarily found on Google Classroom).
- Supplementary – Athletics, Studyladder and Reading Eggs (activities set for when other homework has been completed).

## *Diary of Events*

The following is a list of important dates for Semester 1.

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Community Mass 9.30am
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Parent Information Evening
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole School Mass (Commissioning of Leaders)
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Mass 9am
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Board / P&F Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass 9am
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Swimming Carnival Years 4 - 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 5 White – Assembly Item 9am
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Labour Day Public Holiday
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Italian Puppet Show
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Harmony Day Board / P&F Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Mass 9am
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parish Stations of the Cross 7pm
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Week Liturgy 2pm Term One Concludes
25 <sup>th</sup> April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Term Two Commences ANZAC Day ceremony
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Sacred Saints
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Interschool Swimming Carnival
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Community Mass 6.00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Two-Way Interviews
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Mother's Day Mass 9am
9 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> May	NAPLAN
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Green – Assembly Item 9am

The school website is updated daily. Please register online for access to the website :

<http://www.saintcolumbas.com.au>

Please go to the school website to access the newsletter, school policies and the school calendar.

*The Curriculum*

The students will be engaged in learning across the following curriculum strands: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, The Arts, Design and Digital Technologies and LOTE (Italian).

### *Religious Education*

As teachers in a Catholic primary school we see this area of the curriculum as the most important. It gives us an opportunity to share our faith and knowledge of the teachings of Jesus with the children.

We believe that for children to come to know, understand and live out the values of our Catholic tradition, there needs to be a partnership between the parents, the first educators of their children, and the school. Parents are key role models for their children, particularly with regard to faith and church experiences.

As teachers, we aim to support parents by mainly focusing on the learning of knowledge. As well as completing two units of work per term from the CEO guidelines, the students will engage in daily prayers, school and class masses and appropriate liturgies.

### *Literacy*

The Curriculum Framework outlines that, “the development of functional and critical literacy helps students to become competent, reflective, adaptable and critical users of language. It provides them with the skills necessary for the pursuit of knowledge and the achievement of their potential,” (p.85)

Literacy is therefore, a significant feature of our curriculum and has a variety of components in our learning program. Students will engage in reading (both silently and aloud) a variety of genres, analysing and comprehending a variety of genres (through multiple choice, short answer and extended answers as well as listening comprehension) and creating their own work based on these genres. They will also partake in regular Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation lessons and during these Literacy Dedicated lessons students will be involved in whole class, small group and individual activities.

## *Numeracy*

Mathematical knowledge and thinking are required to function effectively in our society on a day-to-day basis. Mathematics provides a powerful problem-solving tool, which is used in social, technical and scientific contexts.

Mathematics is taught under three main content strands: Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability. As students engage in their learning and use this content we aim to: develop their deep understanding of concepts so that they can connect and transfer their knowledge to different situations; develop fluency in choosing and carrying out mathematical procedures; develop their problem solving skills; and increase their capacity for sophisticated thought and action. Students will have the opportunity to work in whole class situations, small groups and individually.

## *Health and Physical Education*

Health and Physical Education recognises the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of the health of the individual. Children participate in a variety of activities, which are designed to enable them to make informed decisions for an active healthy lifestyle. Furthermore children are taught movement skills and strategies to allow for confident participation in physical activity.

## *The Arts*

Children are expected to gain an understanding of the Arts developed through the Art forms of:

- Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts.

Students are encouraged to develop creative ways of expressing themselves and develop a critical appreciation for their works and those of others.

## *Assessment and Reporting*

The Assessment and Reporting Policy is as per direction from the Catholic Education Office of WA. The Policy is available from the school website.

We are more than happy to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have throughout the year. If you have any concerns about your child please make an appointment to see us.

## *School Routines*

\* School begins promptly at 8:40am. It is essential that all children are organised and ready to begin their learning at this time. Students are expected to be in the classroom by 8.30am.

\* Students are not permitted to be on the school grounds before 8.15am.

\* If students arrive at school before 8:30am they must wait outside the Library area, where there is a teacher on duty. Students are NOT to be outside classrooms at this time.

\* Between 8:30 and 9:00am each morning the class undertakes morning administrative duties including the roll, prayer, collecting money and notes etc. Please do not try to meet with staff during this time.

## *Areas of Importance*

### *Medical Conditions and Medication*

Please ensure that your child's medical conditions have been noted at the office and that you keep the file up to date (including a current Action Plan for staff to have in the classroom). If puffers, antihistamines etc. are required in an emergency situation please supply the school office with spares and ensure they are clearly labelled with the child's name. If your child

requires medication during school hours please take the medication to the office and fill out the relevant forms.

### *Updating Records*

It is important that parents notify the office of any changes to their address, phone numbers, medical conditions and emergency contacts.

### *Collecting Children, Car park and 'Kiss and Drive' areas*

Parents are requested to be vigilant when parking their vehicles and using the 'Kiss and Drive' area. For safety reasons, parents are requested to follow the rules when using the car park and 'Kiss and Drive' areas. If students have not been collected by 3:15pm, they will wait on the basketball courts until collected. If you are collecting your child within the school grounds, please wait outside the classrooms and not disturb the children. Parents are requested not to enter the classrooms during the dismissal period to minimise distractions for the children.

### *Allergy Friendly School*

St. Columba's School is an 'Allergy Friendly School'. Children are not permitted to bring any nut products to school as some children have life threatening conditions, even when exposed to nuts and other products. The school's policy is attached to this booklet and parents are requested to read the document and abide by the procedures and rules.

### *Parent interviews/appointments*

Parents are welcome to arrange appointment times throughout the year at short notice. We would appreciate that the time from 8:30 – 8.45am be reserved for children to get organised and to have a chance to speak to the classroom teacher. Appointments can be arranged for after school hours. Diaries and email can be used as a means of communication. *Please remind the students to tell the teacher if there is a written communication in the diary.*

### *Absentees*

If your child is absent from school or arrives after the 8.40 am bell, and no notification has been received by the office, you will receive an SMS (approx. 9.30 am) making you aware of your child's absence.

Parents need to send in a note explaining their child's absence from school, upon returning to school. This is a legal requirement for records when maintaining a register of attendance.

### *Supervision and Duty of Care*

Children are not supervised at school before 8:15am and it is important that they are at school and settled ready to start at 8:40am. Late arrivals and disorganisation cause disruption at the start of the day and cut into learning time. Children are only supervised until 3:15pm, by which time they need to be picked up, as staff need time to plan and prepare for the following day's lessons.

### *Sign in/out*

If you are taking your child out of school during school hours, it is important to sign them out at the front office and then in again if they are returning on that same day. Please inform the classroom teacher of any planned activities scheduled in the morning, preferably via a written note. Also, if a child arrives at school after 8:40am they will need to be signed in at the office.

### *Uniform*

The school has a set uniform which students need to wear and adhere to at all times. Please send in a note if your child is unable to wear the correct uniform. Any student not in the correct uniform will need to explain why they are breaching the school policy.

### *Confidentiality*

It is imperative that all parent helpers/volunteers agree to support the confidentiality policy of our school. Parent volunteers are asked not to discuss the happenings of the classroom with any other parent or the community.

### *Communication*

Communication between the teacher, students, parents and colleagues is vital in order to receive support and improve the learning of each student in the classroom. We value a good relationship between teacher and parents, and believe there is a need for strong parent support throughout a child's education. Above all education should be an enjoyable experience for all concerned, the teacher, students, parents, families and the wider community. We will strive as teachers to ensure that we are positive role models, and provide students with opportunities and equip them with skills to function within society. We will provide enriched learning experiences in a safe environment so students can reach their full potential. We will ensure that we continue to be reflective teachers and when necessary adapt our teaching strategies to support students' needs.

## *Contact Details*

Please feel free to use email as a form of communication with us. Our email addresses are:

wright.clare@cathednet.wa.edu.au  
vinciullo.leesa@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Miss Clare Wright and Mrs Leesa Vinciullo  
Year 5 Class Teachers