

## Curriculum Information for Term 1 2025 for Year 6

*Dear Parents,*

*Welcome back to the 2025 school year. After our holiday break period, it's great to be back to routine and learning! I am so happy to be teaching your children in their last year of primary school. It is such a special and important year for them and I look forward to an exciting and challenge-filled year. The 2025 Year 6 class has settled in beautifully to their new classroom environment and are stepping up to the expectations of leadership. I am encouraged by their positive attitudes and approach to all they have undertaken so far this year. I can only expect this will continue as the year progresses. We have camp coming up, so we have so much to look forward to together!*

In NSW all schools are mandated to teach subjects according to the NSW Education and Standards Authority (NESA) learning areas (subjects). There are six learning areas. [This link gives information to parents about the 6 learning areas](#). Each learning area is weighted differently according to time spent on the subject. In Primary school English is allocated the most time followed by maths. In English all skills are taught daily around texts and writing genres. In other subjects there is often a title to a unit of work to be covered for several weeks or the whole term. As a Catholic school we also teach Religious Education (RE), following the curriculum of the Broken Bay diocese.

***How we learn and how we learn to be a lifelong learner is just as important as what we learn.***

*We encourage a growth mindset and the power of 'yet'. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement. We want them thinking to themselves, "I can't do it yet, I don't understand it yet - but I will. "*

*We are lucky enough to have a flexible learning space to work in. In these spaces, students are more engaged in their work. Those who have difficulty focusing are able to employ strategies to help them focus (e.g. stand up working spaces). The students are able to make choices about their own learning – what space will be best for the task at hand. The flexible layout promotes collaboration and communication. Students love working in our flexible spaces. They enjoy being able to choose their working space according to the task they are completing. This helps promote the 21st Century Skills we want to see in our students.*

Our **Religious Education** unit this term is **Called to Live Like Jesus** - In this unit students will deepen their understanding of sacramentality and the seven sacraments of the Church. They will examine the Church as a sacrament and study various vocations as a response to our baptismal call. Students will explore the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony.

In **English** this term we are teaching units from the new NSW English syllabus. Our first novel focus is Storm Boy. The organisation of outcomes and content of the new English syllabus highlights the role and connection that Understanding Texts and Creating Texts have across all areas of English. The organisation of outcomes and content reflects the essential knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to learn, including the study of a wide range of literature. The focus areas for each stage support students' growing knowledge and understanding in the areas of:

- Oral language and communication
- Vocabulary
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Creating written texts
- Spelling
- Handwriting and digital transcription
- Understanding and responding to literature

Our main writing focus will be narrative writing. We look at hooking the reader in and what is important to keep your audience engaged and interested. Strategies like word choice, sentence structure and the punctuation those sentences need, are a specific focus. Also, very importantly in narrative writing, we work on their ideas and how they are developed as the writing progresses.

In **Maths** we are teaching units from the new NSW Maths syllabus. By studying mathematics, students develop essential numeracy skills and fluency, while nurturing the ability to think logically, critically and creatively. They learn about patterns and reason about relationships, creating opportunities to generalise their solutions and to solve non-routine problems.

When students enjoy learning mathematics, they develop a positive self-concept and become self-motivated learners through active participation in appropriately challenging tasks. This can enhance their resilience in solving mathematical problems relevant to further education and their everyday lives.

We will often do a pretest at the beginning of a learning cycle, to see where the students need explicit instruction, and a post test at the end of the cycle so they can see their growth and achievement. We utilise a range of settings including whole class, small group, partnered and independent learning across all areas of Mathematics. Explicit teaching of skills and content is always the initial focus, and then open-ended tasks challenge students' thinking at various points of need.

**Science:** Our unit is titled ***Animal Survival*** - This unit uses the anchoring idea of the adaptations of different species of crocodiles to their habitats. The crocodile is a good animal for this purpose, given the features are quite pronounced and the crocodile itself is often an interesting animal for students to study.

**Geography:** Our unit is titled ***A Diverse and Connected World*** - Students explore countries of the Asia region and the connections Australia has with other countries across the world. Students learn about the diversity of the world's people, including the indigenous peoples of other countries. Students will explore and reflect upon similarities, differences and the importance of intercultural understanding.

**Creative Arts:** Our subject matter is People/ Places and Spaces, our forms are drawing and painting and our artist study is on the iconic Pablo Picasso.

**PDHPE:** Managing my Relationships is a unit in which students will identify and describe the actions they need to take to establish and maintain positive relationships in a variety of contexts. They will practise strategies required to manage any negative situations which may arise for themselves or others, including conflict resolution and bullying. Students will have the opportunity to participate in games that promote teamwork and a sense of belonging.

### **Home Learning**

Current research on Home Learning is that it can be beneficial for students in Stage 3 to establish simple Home Learning routines to help build positive study habits ahead of secondary school. It is also helpful for students to revise what they are learning in class to facilitate the transfer of skills and content to their long term memory. In Year 6, students receive Home Learning on a Monday (on Google Classroom) and it is returned by Friday. Most of the set work is digital. ***Please let me know via an email, if you wish for your child to be made exempt from Home Learning.***

Each week, students will need to be prepared for the following routine activities:

**Monday** - Home learning is set on Google Classroom

**Tuesday** – Library, Class Sport (this term Basketball Clinics)

**Wednesday** - PDH will be taught by Mrs Sam Carolan

**Friday** - PE with Mrs Frost, Music with Mr Warby and home learning is collected on a Friday (or Monday at the latest)

### **Uniform**

So far, our students in Year 6 have set a very high standard for wearing their uniform. It is vital for our senior students to continue to model this high standard - thank you in anticipation of your support.

### **Communication**

My door is always open and I ***love*** to talk with you about your children.

**To communicate with me or set up a meeting:**

Phone - 7256 2134

Email: [lisette.calleja@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lisette.calleja@dbb.catholic.edu.au) (\*I will respond within 48 hours)

**I will communicate with you in the following ways:**

- All school based communication through Compass
- Email through our class parents or specific class notifications on Compass

**Thank you for your support. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout 2024!**

Kind regards

Lisette Calleja