Dear Parents and Carers,

This overview outlines the content that will be covered during this term with your child. It is a great reference to keep somewhere prominent so that you can refer back to it with your child and discuss specifics of their learning. Please don’t hesitate in contacting us if you have any queries or concerns about your child.

Religious Education
The Good Samaritan - This unit will explore in depth the parable of The Good Samaritan. The focus will be for students to articulate and express their understanding of the scripture. We will explore what the scripture is about, what the message is and how we can apply the message to our lives.

Growing Together – In this unit, students reflect upon how they are growing and changing. In studying the Gospels, in particular the Zacchaeus story, the students learn how Jesus encouraged others to grow and change through his words and actions. The students themselves are encouraged to participate in the Church’s celebration of Lent as a time of personal growth and change, in preparation for Easter.

The Last Supper – In this unit, students will relate the story of the Last Supper to their own family’s celebration of meals and the parish community’s celebration of the Eucharist.

Together - In this unit, students will examine the events, key symbols and rituals of the Easter celebration. Students will have the opportunity to share their experiences of Easter and participate in a variety of Easter prayer experiences that will enrich and consolidate their learning.

As this year is the year of Mercy, we will have a constant focus on Mercy throughout the year.

English
In Reading, our focus is on developing comprehension and reading strategies. This will occur through modelled, shared and guided reading. Students will read a variety of texts that are targeted to their interest and reading level. In Writing, our focus is on developing sentence structure and cohesion. The students will write sentences that make sense, ensuring that they begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark. We will be explicitly teaching verbs, nouns and adjectives.

Students will engage in daily reading and writing groups, which focus on developing their skills in various aspects of literacy. These include comprehension, sight words, spelling, handwriting, grammar and punctuation, and speaking and listening.

Home readers and sight words will be sent home each week. Please spend some time each night practising these.

Mathematics
Students will be involved in a daily number focused warm up activity. This is followed by rich exploration tasks for each unit, which provide opportunities for students to apply various strategies to solve problems. Reflection and explicit teaching occurs at the conclusion of each lesson and allows students an opportunity to reflect on their own and others’ ideas and learning and learn new skills or concepts.

Whole Number – The students will learn about 2-digit numbers including how to read, write, order and represent the numbers with materials. We will also be working on counting forwards and backwards from various starting points, as well as counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

Addition and Subtraction -The students will explore efficient strategies for adding and subtracting 1 digit numbers. This will include counting on or back from the largest number and using friends of 10.

Multiplication and Division - Students will learn how to share a quantity using equal groups and arrays. Patterns and Algebra – We will be learning about increasing and decreasing number patterns. This will be closely linked with skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

Length – Students will estimate, measure and compare lengths and distances. They will explore methods of recording lengths using both informal units as well as centimetres and metres.
Two-Dimensional Space - Students will learn to name and describe a range of 2D shapes. They will be investigating the number of sides and vertices of shapes including quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and octagons.

Data and Chance - The students will gather data on a range of topics and display the data in graphs using pictures, materials and tally marks.

Inquiry
This term the students will be taking part in an Inquiry unit named ‘Past and Present Life’. In this unit students will investigate the similarities and differences between the past and present and how the past has shaped their lives today. We will focus on 4 different aspects: Families, School Life, Community Helpers and Places, finishing with a final project. A note will be sent home in the coming weeks with more information about the final project. This Inquiry unit integrates History, Geography and Science and Technology.

Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (incl Sport)
This term students will participate in a Peer Support program called ‘Better Buddies’. They will meet regularly throughout the term in K-6 groups to interact with their buddy leaders and peers. The program focuses on the strand of Interpersonal Relationships and links to our whole school social skills program. The focus of Better Buddies is to create friendly and caring schools, fostering an environment where all students feel safe and happy. Younger students are supported by older students and learn about respect, responsibility, valuing difference, including others, care for others, friendship, negotiation and managing positive relationships with peers.

PDHPE will be taught by Mrs Melanie Keith. Year 1 will need to wear their sports uniform on Wednesdays. In PE, the focus will surround athletics and the fundamental movement skill of sprinting. Students main focus will be on sprint technique, as well as modified games that improve and assist skill development. They will also participate in novelty athletic events leading into our Athletics carnival.

In PDH, Students will focus on the “Active Lifestyles” unit, in which students will learn to recognise that physical activity is both enjoyable and important for our health. In peer support this term as well as in PDH, students will also cover content about relationships where they will identify ways in which they communicate, cooperate and care for others.

Visual Arts
Visual Arts will be linked with the Inquiry unit ‘Past and Present Life’. Throughout this unit we will be representing various aspects of the past and present using a variety of art forms. Students will be developing artistic skills such as drawing, painting and collage.

Music
Music will be taught by Mr Thanh Nguyen this term. In our music program this term, students are learning about Beat and Rhythm. As a part of our study, we will be learning to recognise different music symbols and how to read basic music notation. Students learn this concept of music through both theory and practical experiences combined. Students will all have an opportunity to perform and organise sounds through singing, body percussion and the use of instruments.

Library
The students will borrow during reading group time on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Students will need to bring their library bag on Tuesday as we will return all library books Tuesday morning.

Please refer to the Year 1 Blog for an insight into the learning that is happening in Year 1. http://stanthonyskindergarten2015.blogspot.com.au
A newsletter regarding our in-class learning and any home activities will be sent home on a fortnightly basis.

Please don’t hesitate in contacting us should you have any queries,

Penny Martin and Amanda Smith
Year 1 Team