Welcome back to another busy year for 2017. We are so excited to see all of the happy faces in our Year 4 classes. There are many important events on our calendar for this year and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure that the students in Year 4 have a positive experience and achieve their very best.

**Reading**

We will continue with our CAFE reading this year, allowing the students to continue to develop effective reading strategies in all 4 areas of reading, with a particular focus this term on Accuracy and Comprehension with more challenging and varied texts.

Phonics - the children will continue to build on their word attack skills using segmentation and spelling rules and patterns. We will be focusing on the correct use of silent letters, double consonants, and diphthong word families (such as ‘oi’, ‘igh’, ough).

**Writing / Spelling**

Our Faith Life topic this term ‘Rights and Responsibilities’ leads itself to exploring Persuasive writing. The children will experience informal debating to help formulate ideas and develop vocabulary. They will plan, write and publish on a variety of topics, such as “If I was the Prime Minister I would...”
The students will develop their writing using ‘7 steps to writing success’, particularly focusing on creating a detailed story graph, using a sizzling start and emotive language with a ‘show - don’t tell’ technique. They will also continue to edit their work and improve the detail in their writing within the VCOP framework developing ‘Ambitious Vocabulary’ and ‘Cool Connectives’.

**Numeracy**

Some of the topics we will be covering this term will be:

- Number and Algebra: Place value (up to 7 digits), counting and patterns (including multiplication and division facts)
- Measurement and Geometry: Time (calendars and timetables) and temperature.
- Mental maths - daily practice of number fluency (speed) with all 4 operations and, repetition of all mathematical strands.
- Problem solving strategies

**Faith Life**

*‘My rights and responsibilities’*

This term, the students will explore the purpose for creating rules at school, at home, and laws in our community and wider world. They will describe how they participate as active members of a group and citizens in their community and how this shapes identity and a sense of belonging. We will also explore our own and others’ personal and social rights and responsibilities through key historical figures who advocated and fought for justice in our world, such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

We will be attending mass each week in preparation for next term’s Eucharistic program. The students will deepen their understandings of the symbolism and meaning of key parts of the mass, responses in the mass, ‘The Apostle’s creed’ and will write prayers of intercession focusing on justice in our world.
Homework

Homework will continue to be distributed fortnightly and collected on a Friday unless otherwise stated. Students are to complete activities in their homework book or submitted through ‘Hapara’ their new workspace platform at school. In line with our new homework policy, parents are asked to correct and sign any work completed at home and sign their child’s reading diary daily. Each student is required to read for a minimum of 20 minutes a night.

As part of their homework, students will be asked to complete 1 double-sided ‘Maths Mate’ sheet per week. This is to be handed in with their completed and signed reading diary each Friday. The ‘Maths Mate’ sheet will be corrected in class with the teacher and parents are not expected to correct the ‘Maths Mate’ but asked to sign in the parent signature area. The responsibility of caring for each page is up to your child - the pages can fall out so may need some organisation with this at home.

Nude Food!

This year, the children will continue to support our Sustainability awareness of unnecessary rubbish and plastics in our environment by bringing in a ‘Nude Food’ lunchbox each week. This will be promoted and encouraged on a WEDNESDAY each week and the children will receive a raffle ticket to go into a regular draw for little ‘garden’ goodies and a certificate. We continue to thank you for all of your support in this important message to our students.

Leadership

Congratulations to the following students who have accepted the following leadership roles in Year 4 this semester:

**SRC**
Matthew Doyle, Marco Colosimo, Maisy Walker, Jessica Fellini

**Sustainability**
William Jones, Ruby Ryan, Scarlett Martiniello, Dimity Withers

**Social Justice**
Imogen Jackett-Simpson, Jasmine Farrugia, Ebony Devincenit, Ben Coutts
**Specialists Program**

4K
- **Monday** - Library
- **Tuesday** - Italian
- **Wednesday** - Visual Arts
- **Thursday** - P.E. and Music
- **Friday** - Sport

4J
- **Monday** - Library
- **Tuesday** - Visual Arts
- **Wednesday** - Italian
- **Thursday** - P.E. and Music
- **Friday** - Sport

**ICT**

Students will continue to develop their ICT skills through a range of Google applications including: Google classroom, Google docs, sheets, slides and forms. They are very excited to have been given their new Chromebooks which will be another amazing new workspace for learning in Years 4 - 6! We have been learning about the safe use of our Chromebooks and correct use of ICT and the internet at St Finbar’s. The students will continue to use ICT in many aspects of their learning to enhance and deepen their understandings, new apps and programs and coding this year!

**Dates for your diary**

**Week 2** - February 8th - Parent Information Evening 7-8pm
February 10th - Start of Year Mass

**Week 3** - Meet the Teacher (Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th)

**Week 5** - Dendy Swimming Carnival (Monday 27/2)
Shrove Tuesday (Tuesday 28/2)
Ash Wednesday (Whole School Mass)

**Week 7** - Labour Day Public Holiday (13/3)
School Closure (14/3)
St. Patrick’s Day (17/3)
Week 8 - Athletics Carnival (24/3)
Week 9 - End of Term Mass (Friday 31/3)
School pick up 1:50 (Friday 31/3)

Communication

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to email or make an appointment with us if there is any questions or concerns that you wish to discuss.
Looking forward to an amazing Term 1 this year!

Christine Kelly  ckelly@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au
Kate Johnston  kjohnston@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au

© Can Stock Photo