

Parent Information Booklet



Year 4

Mrs Leeanne Taylor

Prayer and Teacher Philosophy

Gathering Prayer

Father,

*I pray O.L.D will be a safe, productive and exciting learning environment for my children.
May it be a strong foundation for their growth and development, preparing them for the
future.*

*I pray my children's teachers and friends will be a strong, positive influence in their lives.
Please watch over our schools and protect all students, teachers and staff.*

I am so thankful for the opportunities you have given my children.

Amen

Teacher Philosophy

Mrs Leeanne Taylor

- Every child can learn, make progress and achieve success
- I believe that students learn at their own pace and in their own way
- I believe in teaching students how to learn rather than what to learn
- I believe in curiosity in the classroom and that learning should foster each child's curiosity about the world
- I try to foster an environment that allows students to feel safe and engaged

The principle goal of education is to create men and woman who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done'.

Jean Piaget

Student and Classroom Behaviour Support

The Student Behaviour Support Plan at Our Lady of Dolours Primary School has as its platform “The Three R’s” (Right time, Right place, Right action). We use “The Three R’s” to embed the following expectations as part of our overall mission to live, love and learn in Christ:

- Act Responsibly
- Be Respectful
- Strive to Achieve

At Our Lady of Dolours School, we believe that preventing inappropriate behaviour through the promotion of appropriate behaviour is a more positive and successful method of managing student behaviour. By the time the students are in Year 4 they are starting to be able to talk about how they are feeling and what they can do to change that if necessary.

We will be using the Zones of Regulation and will discuss the tools to move between zones when they need to. This is important as it gives them strategies to help themselves rather than punishment.

Curriculum Coverage and Classroom Timetable

In Year 4 at Our Lady of Dolours we strive to make learning meaningful and enjoyable through an integrated curriculum that combines various subjects in authentic ways. Using inquiry and project-based learning.

Religion in Year 4 will involve a number of lessons per week teaching about the significance of community for Christians. This is study through the ministry of Jesus and the wisdom of St Paul through his writings and letters. Students will have opportunities to be involved in a range of class and whole school prayer times including writing prayers and practising mediation.

This year, teachers at OLD, with the assistance of our Primary Learning Leader, Mary-Anne Fogarty and Enrichment Teachers Caroline Loader and Christine McCabe, are involved in planning engaging English units following a context-text approach that embraces the connections between reading, writing, viewing, speaking and listening and encourages authentic learning activities and assessment. Through this, students will be exposed to a

wide range of text types to read and view and will have opportunities to communicate their understanding in a variety of ways including writing, role plays and discussions. Students will continue to be, explicitly taught handwriting skills. Students will also be involved in guided reading lessons and word study exploring the patterns found in words to assist them to spell accurately.

Mathematics in Year 4 involves whole class lessons with individual and pair activities to consolidate skills and knowledge through games, hands-on activities and computer tasks. Major topics for Year 4 are place value to tens of thousands, fraction and decimal notation, mapping and money.

History and Geography have merged into an overarching subject called Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). Students will have opportunities to learn the major concepts and skills of HASS in History and Geography subjects. Students will also be involved in Science investigations. Through these subjects, students will use a variety of inquiry skills including posing questions, participating in guided investigations to view, collect, sort, record and compare data and information, and present and communicate their information.

This year Mr Terry Madden will take the students in terms 2 and 4 for Technology and they will learn Visual Arts with Mrs Flynn-Clarke in term 1 and 3. They will have opportunities to learn Media during normal class time throughout the year. Physical Education is half an hour per week with swimming an extra hour a week in Term 1. Students learn Japanese for an hour a fortnight.

Language of Learning

This year OLD is continuing to work towards building a common language of learning among teachers, students and families. As teachers, we are taking care to inform students about what they are learning and giving them feedback so that they can begin to understand how they are going, how to improve and where to go for help. We hope that in time students will be able to answer the following questions:

- What are you learning?
- How are you going?
- How do you know how you're going?
- How can you improve?
- What do you do if you need help?

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers will be asked for throughout the year and will be communicated via email and the Blog. Parents are also required to attend excursions and letters will be sent home giving information and asking for volunteers when the time arises. All volunteers must complete the volunteer code of conduct online course which is a requirement of all BCE schools.

Homework Mechanics

Homework in Year 4 follows the Our Lady of Dolours Homework Position Statement. Homework will be handed out on Fridays to be returned the following Friday, thereby allowing students to have seven days to complete tasks. Homework should take approximately 30 minutes each night and includes reading and completion of a variety of the tasks outlined in the homework sheet uploaded onto the blog. Students wishing to extend themselves can complete more than the required tasks. It is important to remember that homework in Year 4 is partly about getting students ready for the routine of homework in High School.

Classroom Prayer

Year 4 has the opportunity to participate in whole school prayer at morning assembly and guided meditation after first break. There will also be times and opportunities for students to run and participate in classroom prayer as a class.

The Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Education Curriculum suggests mandated prayers for each grade. In Year 4 we will look at prayers of petition, intercession and litanies.

Parent Teacher Communication

At any time throughout the year please feel free to contact us and make an appointment if you have any questions, concerns or issues in regards to your child.

The best way to contact us is via email:

- pmit@bne.catholic.edu.au
- Leeanne.M.Taylor@bne.catholic.edu.au

Teachers access email whilst at school – before and after teaching hours, but if you send an email after hours please do not expect a response until the following day or if it is a weekend the following Monday. We endeavor to respond to all emails in a reasonable time within the working day.

We will also have the opportunity to meet with parents twice a year in the setting of a parent teacher interview or a student led conversation. These will be held in Term 1 and Term 3 and report cards will go home in Term 2 and Term 4.

The Year 4 Classroom Blog

A lot of our learning this year will be able to be seen on our blog. On there you will be able to find:

- Curriculum areas and what we are working on in class in these areas
- Homework
- Any communication that has been sent home to parents from the classroom teachers
- Photos

As we continue to work on the iPads and in an online environment, we will move towards using Teams from Microsoft Office, more information will be available in regard to this at a later date.

Supporting your child at home

In regard to supporting your child at home, we ask that you encourage them to read every single day. There has been much research done into reading development and the impact of the home on children's literacy and learning. Research has shown that parent involvement, beliefs and attitudes towards reading exert a profound impact on their children's literacy development.

Encourage your children to complete their homework and discuss with them what is happening in the classroom. What are they learning, what do they like to learn, how do they

like to learn? These types of conversations will help to consolidate learning and encourage children to become self-aware and take ownership over their learning choices.

We also encourage you to discuss the 5 questions that we ask the students at school: What are you learning? How are you going? How do you know? How can you improve? What do you do when you get stuck?

Miscellaneous Matters

Lunch boxes go in the fridge, however if your child has a cooler bag with an ice-pack, they can remain in their bags on the bench. Drink bottles go into the large baskets.

Students are to arrive at school before 8:30am. This enables them to unpack their own belongings. Encouraging students to unpack and put away their own things helps them develop independence, ownership and allows them to locate their belongings easily and quickly. Students are responsible for placing lunch boxes in the fridge, drink bottles on the bench and their bags on the bag rack. Students are to check for notes in their communication folder and hand them to the teacher before the 8:30 bell.