

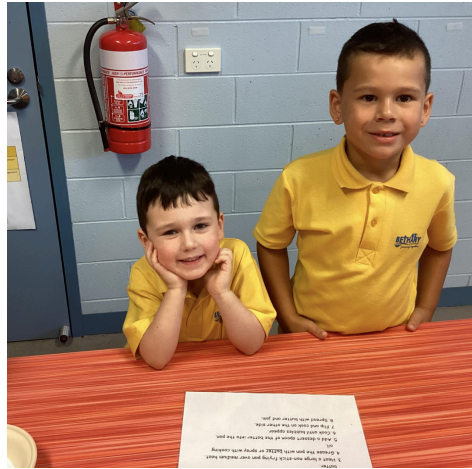
Bethany Catholic Primary School, Werribee



Exploration Centre News- Preps - Term 1, 2024

What a great start!

It has been a great few weeks in the Exploration Centre. The students have been full of smiles, even if a little tired. This is very normal, as we work with the students to help them get used to the new routines and new environment in a gentle and calm way.



Reminders:

- **School Start Time**

The school gates open at 8:30am and a reminder to families that no student is to arrive prior to this time. The welcome bell will ring at 8.45am. The learning day begins at 8:50am, therefore students entering the school after 8:50am will be required to get a late pass from the office. The school day ends at 3:00pm, and it is most important that students are collected at this time each day.

- **School Uniform**

Please ensure that your child has **two school hats**. One that will be used and left at school during the day and one that will stay in their bag and can be worn going to and from school, at after school care or as a spare hat when required. As part of our sunsmart policy at Bethany all students are required to wear a hat during break times - **NO HAT, NO PLAY!**

Please ensure that **all clothing items (e.g school jumpers, school zip up jackets, etc) are clearly labelled** with both the students first name and surname.

- **Brain Food Break**

Each day at 10:00am, the students will be having a short brain break. During this time the students will be eating a small, healthy snack of fruit or vegetables. This will be of a 5-10 min duration so please ensure that you only place a small amount of food into a **separate container or ziplock bag** that your child will be able to finish during this time (eg 3-4 strawberries, a few slices of apple or carrots).

- **Drink Bottles**

As we can experience some hot weather during the summer months of Term 1, it is essential that all students have a **clearly named drink bottle** with them each day. Please ensure that the drink bottle contains water.

- **Learning at Home (Homework)**

Our Learning at Home program began this week with all students bringing a black zip pouch with a Learning at Home workbook inside. Each week students will be given a variety of tasks to complete at home. These will include learning experiences centred around Literacy and Mathematics. Each Tuesday the students will bring home their homework in a large blue zip pouch and will have the week to complete their tasks, returning their homework the following Monday to their hub teacher. For students in the Exploration Centre, the time allocation is 10 minutes per night.

- **Resource Centre**

Bethany's Resource Centre (Library) is a learning space where the students are able to borrow books to read at home. Each hub will have an allocated day that they will attend the centre. Please send along the **Blue Bethany Showbag**, that was given to all students on their orientation day, to use as a library bag for the children to place their borrowed book inside.

All students **MUST have a library bag** with them on the day in order to borrow. This will ensure all books are protected, as well as making it easier to transport them to and from school. Please label this bag with your child's name and hub. Library books may be borrowed for a duration of 2 weeks.

- ★ **SKY HUB: Thursday**
- ★ **EARTH HUB: Thursday**
- ★ **STAR HUB: Friday**
- ★ **OCEAN HUB: Friday**

- **Please place a set of spare clothes in your child's bag, including a change of underwear and socks.**

Students can be quite busy learning and playing at school and their minds are often focused on all they need to remember and do. As they begin to adapt to the school timetable, routines and structures they will sometimes forget to ask to go to the toilet until right at the moment they need to,



which can often lead to small accidents.

Special Events:

- **Bethany Day**

On **Monday February 25**, we will join together to celebrate Bethany Day. Students will work in cross age groupings across the school to participate in fun sporting activities run by Kaboom Sports. Students are asked to wear their sports uniform on this day and a t-shirt the same colour as their athletic team. More information to follow.

- **Swimming**

Across week 6 of this term (**Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March**) all students in the Exploration Centre will attend a water safety program at Aquapulse Indoor Pool to encourage the development of swimming and water safety skills for your child. All students will travel to and from the pool by bus. Parents/Carers may come to the pool to watch lessons. More information regarding the swimming program will be available closer to the date.

Kiss and Go

Starting your child's first year at school can be filled with a lot of different emotions and for some families separating can be a difficult process. As both your child and you begin on the school journey together, remember that you are both embarking on something that requires a lot of bravery and trust. Please rest assured that the Exploration Team of teachers will provide a very safe, nurturing and fun environment for your children to learn and grow in.

Some Picture story books that you may like to watch and listen to with your child to help support their anxiety when beginning school are:

- [The Invisible String](#) by Patrice Karst
- [The Kissing Hand](#) by Audrey Penn



With separation anxiety, the longer the goodbye, the longer anxiety will fight for you to stay. They need us to lead them into brave, and ultimately, into calm.
But first, anxiety.

What to do ...

When you know they are in safe hands, let the goodbye be loving, quick, and confident.

When you leave, your child's brain and body will start to adapt. The brain will neutralise the surge of fight or flight neurochemicals that is making your child feel so awful. Then, their brain and body can rest and they can get on with their day.

KAREN YOUNG | WWW.HEYSIGMUND.COM

Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Line up and walk calmly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use kind words and actions ● Use whole body listening ● Follow directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Look after self, others and equipment ● Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself ● Use spaces and equipment correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use kind words and actions ● Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Look after self, others and equipment ● Wear correct uniform ● Walk promptly to line up

Throughout the Exploration Centre all teachers will have high expectations of students and the way they behave by **being Safe, Respectful and Responsible**. Teachers will continue to teach, reinforce and acknowledge the expected PBL behaviours.

Term 1 Learning and Teaching in the Exploration Centre...

In **Religious Education**, students will focus on learning about Jesus and who he is, along with building their knowledge of Holy Week as we approach Easter later in the term.

Students will be able to explain why the stories about Jesus' life, death and resurrection are important for us, and will make connections between their lived experiences of family and friends with these stories. Students will also participate in a variety of prayer rituals and interpret why we pray as people of faith.

English

Throughout the term, the students will be establishing many routines and expectations that will set them up for success when working during their English lessons.

They will be learning to:

- work in small groups (independent of teacher)
- unpack and repack resources and games
- take turns and use quiet voices when working.

Reading & Viewing

Students will:

- engage with a variety of rich literary texts during shared and independent reading
- be immersed in new vocabulary
- recognise and name upper and lowercase letters and the most common sound that each letter represents
- develop their reading skills through hearing, identifying and manipulating letter-sounds (phonemes) through rhyming, blending and segmenting words

- introduce the **Level 1 Sounds of Reading**

Phonemes:

- **Level 1:** s/ a/ t/ p/ i/ n/
- Begin to read short, decodable words.

Writing

Students will:

- understand that spoken words are written down by listening to the sounds heard in the word and then writing letters to represent those sounds
- identify rhyming words through oral language experiences
- begin to use their knowledge of concepts about print, sound-letter relationships and word knowledge along with simple punctuation to create short pieces of writing
- retell familiar literary texts through role play, drawings and images.

Speaking & Listening

Students will:

- understand that language can be used to explore ways of expressing needs, likes and dislikes
- identify rhyming words, alliteration patterns,

Mathematics

Throughout the term, the students will be establishing many routines and expectations that will set them up for success when working during their Maths lessons.

They will be learning to:

- work in small groups (independent of teacher)
- unpack and repack resources and games
- take turns and use quiet voices when working.

Students will engage with a range of learning experiences that will help develop their knowledge and understanding of:

Number

- oral Counting
- number Recognition
- counting collections
- recognising small collections of objects without counting.

Algebra:

- patterns involve a unit repeating over and over and over.

Measurement

- days of the week, months, seasons
- connecting familiar events and actions to different times of the day.

Space

- positional Words such as above, below, left, right, on top of, near, between, in front, behind, etc.



- syllables and some sounds (phonemes) in spoken words
- listen to and respond orally to texts and to the communication of others in informal and structured classroom situations using interaction skills, including listening, while others speak.

Inquiry:

Our key Inquiry Concept this term is “Community - Where Do I Belong?”

Over the course of the term students will:

- explore who is in their family and what community groups they belong to (School, Church, clubs, etc)
- learn the importance of rules within the school community and how to make good choices that keep them safe
- investigate the people in their wider community (Firemen, Policemen, etc).

PE

Veronica Spencer

This term for PE, there will be a focus on fair play and teamwork. This will be achieved by teaching students how to support each other in positive ways when playing games or sport. They will have the opportunity to develop their fundamental motor skills by using a variety of equipment and objects. Students will be learning the correct techniques of running, jumping and throwing.



Parlo Italiano (I speak Italian) with Claudia Pesolilla

Buongiorno!

The teaching of the Italian language at Bethany continues for the third consecutive year. Our native speaker Italian Learning Assistant, Claudia Pesolilla, will support and facilitate the teaching of Italian throughout the school. Each week students will learn and consolidate daily, a set of 5 Italian focus words accompanied by gestures. Over time, the students will build on known words to create Italian phrases. Students are encouraged to practise the language daily and to speak to each other in Italian as often as possible throughout the day. Italian videos, flashcards, games and songs will be used daily to reinforce the Italian language.

Arrivederci.



Specialist Subjects

At Bethany students rotate throughout all our Specialist Subjects across the year. Each cycle runs for 13 weeks and will often cross over Terms. All students will have the opportunity to experience the different Specialist areas as the year progresses.

Cycle 1 of Specialist opportunities:

PE	ROBOTICS	SCIENCE	MUSIC
STAR HUB EARTH HUB		OCEAN HUB SKY HUB	

PE

Veronica Spencer

Students from **Star** and **Earth** hubs will be learning about teamwork with a focus on how to be a team player, winning and losing, respecting their peers, fair play and following instructions and decisions. In these lessons, students will learn and participate in games and activities that they can play at recess and lunch with their peers.



Music

Trish Hollenbach

Students in **Sky** and **Ocean** hubs will be singing a range of simple songs with actions. They will also be listening to a wide range of music and musical story books, as these will lay the foundation for music literacy. Students are learning that music has loud and soft sounds (dynamics), high and low sounds (pitch) and fast and slow sounds (tempo). They will be using a range of percussion instruments including claves (rhythm sticks) to play along to the beat of the music as well as simple rhythms.



Robotics (Digital Technologies)

Ash Hudson

Students in **Earth** and **Star** hubs will begin their Digital Technology journey using the programmable Bee-Bot robots. They will be introduced to concepts such as directional language and computation thinking (thinking like a computer) through guided play activities. The weekly lessons will also provide an excellent opportunity for students to practise important interpersonal skills when working alongside their peers.



Science

Natasha D'Cunha

In Science, students from **Ocean** and **Sky** hubs will begin exploring and observing the different materials in our everyday world and how their properties can change. Students will record their observations of how the different materials differ and are similar in their appearance and how this impacts how they can be used.



Bethany Daily School Timetable

- 8.45am Welcome bell
- 8:50-11:00am Learning Block 1
- 10.00am Brain food (eaten while working)
- 11:00- 11.30am Lunch Play
- 11:30 -11:50am Students eat lunch
- 11.50 - 1.30pm Learning Block 2
- 1:30pm - 2:00 Recess
- 2:00pm -2:10 Eat snack
- 2:10-3:00pm Learning Block 3
- 3:00pm Dismissal bell

Exploration Centre Educators

Please do not hesitate to call or email for anything you need.

Educators:

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