

Year 5 Curriculum Information for Term 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! This year marks the start of a very special journey for your maturing young children as they begin their roles as Stage 3 students at St. Joseph's.

Curriculum

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 and each of these areas is weighted differently according to time spent on that particular subject. In Primary school, English is allocated the most time, followed by Mathematics. 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.

Learning Areas

Religious Education – The unit *See, Judge, Act*: We are reaffirming that respect for human dignity calls Christians to social justice as demonstrated in the Scriptures and teachings of the Catholic Church. Social justice is an integral element of God's mission in the world.

English – Our main text this term is *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo. This rich narrative will anchor our reading and writing program, supported by a range of supplementary texts. Our explicit writing focus will be on developing persuasive and narrative texts with attention to audience and purpose. In addition, content in English is structured and sequenced to highlight the connections across oral language & communication, vocabulary, reading fluency, reading comprehension, creating written texts, spelling, handwriting and digital transcription.

Mathematics – Our Maths syllabus recognises the critical importance of developing an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts, and fluency with mathematical processes, to help students interpret and solve problems. Through the study of mathematics, students develop essential concepts and skills and apply them to deepen their understanding of the world. Students will continue to work mathematically through choice of strategy, explaining, reasoning and persisting in all mathematical strands.

Science and Technology – The unit, *Animal Survival*, focuses on how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats. Students will analyse the advantages and disadvantages of particular adaptations. They will also investigate First Nations Australians' knowledge of the structural features of certain species.

Human Society and its Environment (History) – The unit is titled *Australia in the 1800's*. This unit explores the significant period of Australian colonisation in the 1800s, examining the causes of British settlement and its far-reaching impacts. Students investigate different perspectives of colonial life, including examination of First Nations experiences, while learning about key events and individuals who shaped colonial Australia. Through exploration of The Victorian Era, The Industrial Revolution, early settlement patterns and events like the Gold Rush, students develop an understanding of how colonial decisions have shaped contemporary Australia.

Creative Arts: Visual Arts – Students make artworks representing both real and imagined situations exploring a range of techniques and media. They discuss qualities of artworks such as subject matter and technique, recognising that artists create artworks for different audiences.

Creative Arts: Dance/Drama/Music – Term 1 is music, taught weekly by Mrs Paul.

PDHPE – This term Year 5 students will participate in a unit called *Friendology 101* which is a series of lessons designed to shine the light on wellbeing through the lens of friendship skills. The sessions are made up of reflection questions, scenarios, explicit friendship skills instruction, and opportunities to apply the friendship strategy to their real-life experiences. Sport will be taught on a Monday. This will be taught by Mrs McCamey or the coaches for the AFL clinics which start in week for 5 weeks this term.

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

Monday – Class Sport or AFL clinics

Thursday – Library with Mrs Fogwell and Creative Arts with Mrs Paul

Friday - PE with Mrs Frost

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 5, students will receive Home Learning on a Monday and it is returned the following Monday. We also include a termly project which can be shared at the end of term. This can be diorama, poster or PowerPoint.

As per our Home Learning Policy, this will be provided, but it is optional.

Uniform

Our students in Year 5 are expected to set a high standard for wearing their uniform, including their school hat. It is vital for our senior students to continue to model this high standard. This includes wearing sports uniform only on those designated days (Mondays & Fridays) - thank you in anticipation of your support.

High School Enrolments

Your enrolment at St Joseph's means you have a guaranteed placement at Mater Maria or St Paul's, should you wish to apply for it. However, in order to secure your child a place, you need to apply by the deadline.

If you wish to apply to either high school, please ensure your application is finalised before the cut-off date.

Communication

To communicate with us or set up a meeting:

Please email **both** teachers to keep us across all communications.

Email: anita.brooks@dbb.catholic.edu.au and kathryn.McCamey@dbb.catholic.edu.au . We will respond within 48 hours.

We will communicate with you in the following ways:

- All school-based communication through Compass
- Specific class notifications on Compass

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout 2026!

Warmest regards,

Anita Brooks and Kath McCamey