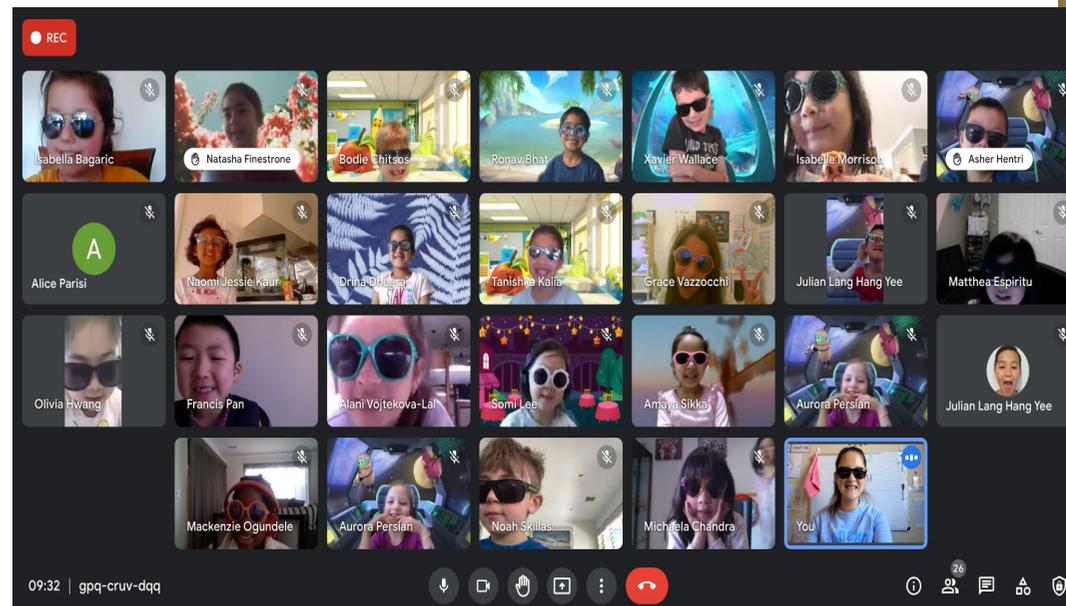
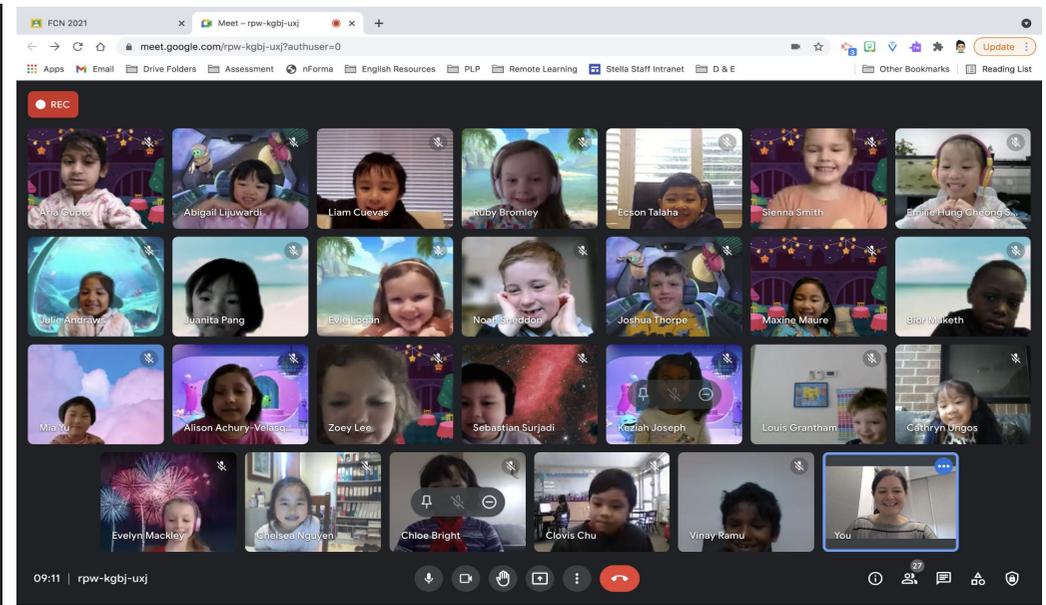


FOUNDATION: Learning Newsletter

Term Four 2021



Welcome to Term Four!

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to onsite learning for Term Four. Never did I predict another year of remote learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding as we navigated through remote learning for 2021. The Foundation teachers have been amazing in their commitment to deliver high quality teaching throughout this journey.

As a Foundation team we are very excited for all the students to return to onsite learning. Having said that I cannot go past the fact that we are so proud of each child and their ability to adapt to remote learning. We have witnessed growth in each child not only through their academic progress but also through their social and emotional learning. We do understand that it may not be as easy to transition back and I strongly encourage you to stay in touch with your child's teacher to assist in the transition.

Please read through the information that outlines your child's learning for Term Four.

Leah Morrow
Foundation Coach



Helpful Tips for transitioning back to school

Remember that transitions are hard for everyone

- Be kind to yourself and others.
- Talk to your child about the routine and plans for their return.
- Talk to your child about what they can expect from their teachers and friends, and what changes there may be.
- Remember that children will pick up on small changes/differences. Be prepared for their reactions and behaviours resulting from these changes.
- Check in with their teachers to let them know how your child managed over the isolation period so they can be prepared to think about how best to support your child.
- Be honest with your child in a child-friendly and age-appropriate way to help them understand what is going on.

Helpful Tips for transitioning back to school

Children will feel safer when connected to others

- Be calm and engaged with your child to help ease their anxiety and anticipation for their return to kinder.
- Start a discussion with your child about what they might be excited or anxious about.
- Be prepared that the morning routine (before school or kinder) might take a little longer than usual as your child may feel many different emotions. They may take time to express how they are feeling and need your reassurance.
- Remember that all behaviour is communication. Be open and curious to what your child brings you through their behaviours and help them feel safe and secure.
- Encourage your child to talk to and connect with their friends and educators.
- Help your child to find a familiar face on their return to school (for example, their educator, their friend or their sibling).
- Remind your child that the world is a safe place to be and you and their educator will help keep them safe.

Helpful Tips for transitioning back to school

Be present and available

- Practice staying emotionally and physically healthy. You are role modelling to your child how to take care of yourself.
- Children need structure and routine. Re-establish as much of your previous routine and structure as possible – remember it can take time for both children and adults to settle back in.
- Structure is important but so is being open to change when necessary to help adapt to your child's needs and feelings.
- Be clear about what you can and can't do at this time to stay safe and explain this to your child in a child-friendly way.
- Remind your child how they can help themselves and others stay safe at school by doing things such as washing their hands and listening to their educator.
- Anticipate questions your child may ask when they come home from kinder so you can be prepared. Not all children have been given the same level of information about COVID-19.
- Be ready for your plans to not go to plan and be accepting of this.
- Make time to have fun with your child.

Mathematics

We are heading into a big term of mathematics learning in the Foundation Community.

Throughout the term, students will continue to investigate number, focusing on counting, exploring ways of breaking up numbers, doubling small numbers and representing mathematical thinking in different ways. Students will be involved in workshop style sessions that will help to target their specific needs.

We have begun the term by exploring the place value of two digit numbers. Students will learn counting on and off the decuple. This involves counting the multiples of ten, 10, 20, 30, etc and counting by tens from a number other than a multiple of ten. Students will develop their ability to represent numbers using materials such as bundle sticks and MAB blocks.



We will revisit the concept of location. Students will look at different ways they can use directional language when describing movement.

We will spend time exploring the concept of mass. Students will use direct and indirect comparisons to decide if objects are heavier than others. They will develop their ability to explain their findings using everyday language.

Towards the end of term students will revisit the concept of pattern, which we explored earlier in the year. Students will use their knowledge of repeating patterns to make links to number patterns.

In the last unit for the term, we will explore the concept of sharing. Students will use the term 'group' to describe a collection of objects and 'sharing' to describe the distribution of a collection of objects.

We will finish the term with some revision on all our number concepts, getting the students ready for another big year of learning in the Junior Community!

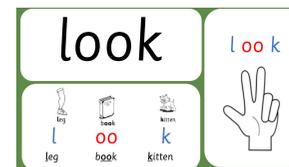
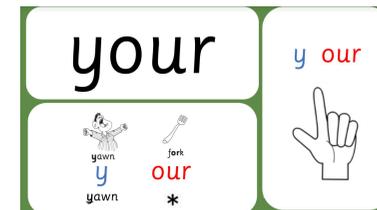
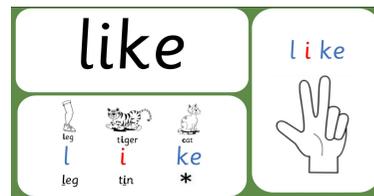


English

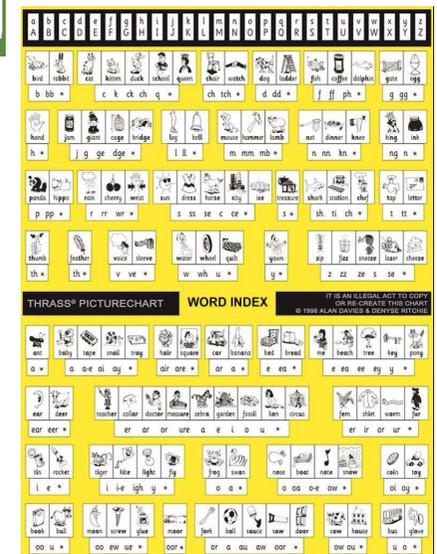
In Term Four we will be focusing on consolidating reading and writing skills through our Discovery and Encounter sessions. This will include recording sentences that include reflections. We will continue to focus on HOTWORDS known as high frequency words and we strongly encourage all students to continue learning how to read and write these words. There will also be a strong focus on developing independent readers and writers.

Oxford Wordlist 1-50

I	it	she	you	weekend
the	then	said	at	time
and	he	played	me	her
to	had	one	mum	go
a	in	is	for	came
was	they	were	dad	because
my	with	day	but	up
went	of	so	saw	his
we	there	when	house	once
on	got	home	that	after



We will continue to use the THRASSchart as a tool to assist your child when reading and writing and will focus on hearing the phonemes and recording the corresponding grapheme.





We will continue to provide small teacher focus groups for reading and writing. These groups will target the needs of your child.



Take home books will be available for your child on their assigned day. They are encouraged to return their books and independently change them on their assigned day.



We strongly encourage students to continue using WUSHKA as another source of reading.



Wellbeing

No doubt there have been many growth spurts and loose teeth during remote learning. I know there have also been many successful learning moments with teachers having made adjustments to suit individual students' needs for those learning both on and offsite. With this, our students have been able to achieve goals and make positive learning progress during Term 3. It was lovely to have the opportunity to meet with some families in our Term 3 Program Support Group (PSG) meetings to celebrate this growth and then set goals for the next phase of learning.



Throughout this term we will be focusing on a variety of areas including transitioning back to school, social connection with teachers and peers, and preparing for transition to the Junior Community.

Wellbeing... Transition to Juniors

We can't believe we will be shortly saying goodbye to our 2021 Foundation cohort as they move up the school to the Junior Community!

Becoming a Junior is an exciting thought for many of our students, who are already looking forward to what will happen after Christmas! Some will need support to make this change. As a Foundation team we have already begun making plans to support this process during Term 4, with a range of activities including:

- Visiting the Junior Community space in small groups and one on one sessions, to look for similarities and differences to the Foundation learning area
- Small visits to the Junior community to familiarise students with the area and observe learning
- Completing work in whole class and small groups in the Junior community
- Meeting some of the Junior staff to help develop relationships (LSOs, Wellbeing Coaches, teachers)
- Handover of information between staff

If you feel your child may need some further support in this area, please feel free to make contact with your class teacher, Leah or myself, Vivienne. We are always here to help !

Wellbeing... Staff Updates

Last term saw a few changes in our Foundation team with one Learning Support Officer (LSO) moving on from the team and two others joining us. We said goodbye to Doreen Pantalleresco who hasn't gone far but is now working in the Junior Community. Doreen has been a wonderful asset over the years in settling students into learning, particularly at the beginning of the year and contributing to students' successful achievement of academic, social and emotional learning goals. Doreen will be a familiar face for the children next year!

We welcome Cass Barbuto and Mamta Nerurkar to our Foundation team. Cass and Mamta have both made moves from other Stella learning Communities to join us. Cass (work days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) and Mamta (work days Monday, Tuesday, and Friday), will work alongside Jane Tinker (work days Monday to Friday) to form our fabulous LSO team.



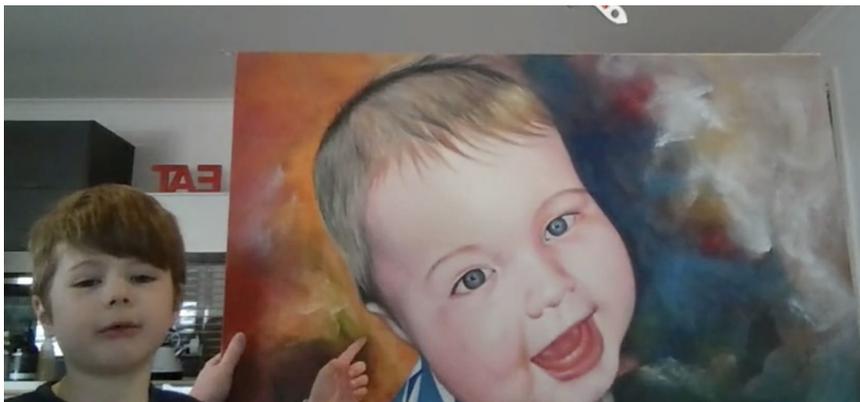
Our Foundation
LSOs: Cass, Mamta
& Jane.

I look forward to seeing and working with you and your children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: vtaylor@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Discovery

In Discovery this term the Foundation Students will be exploring how art can be used as a way to communicate. Throughout the year they have created and produced many individual and collaborative art pieces that showcase the learning that they have been involved in. We will explore different forms and mediums of art and discuss how art can be used as a form of communication and a way to share a message or story. From this, students will be sharing their art to encourage their communities to take action for positive change. These art pieces will be shared with the Stella Maris and Point Cook community by having it represented on a website and possibly at places around the school and community.



Encounter

In this unit, the Foundation students will continue to understand faith, discover who they are and the world around them. Students will continue to discover Jesus's mission and how our actions are inspired by his compassion, inclusiveness and stewardship. They will use this and connect this to their art to express messages, learning and promote action. They will develop an understanding that the art they created can connect people, our local community and provide hope, joy, peace and love. Some of our art pieces will be sold and students will be part of the decision making process to decide which organisations we will donate money raised to. Importantly, this we will highlight Jesus' mission and call for social action. Students will begin to develop and understand of Catholic Social Teachings of 'Community for the Common Good' and that a benefit mindset allows them to think of others and be change makers.

Advent

Term 4 will see the Foundation Students explore the season of Advent. Advent marks the four weeks before Christmas and is a special time for the students to think about their own actions as they develop their awareness of the true meaning of Christmas.

As a community, we will celebrate the season of Advent beginning Monday the 22nd of November.



Art Show Information by FCF

God Prints



This term FCF will be focusing on the God prints that were created earlier this year. The students have been developing an understanding of *Who is God?* and *What does God look like?* Biblical stories, prayer and personal reflections have contributed to the final art piece. However, all of the student's responses are unique, detailed and significant to the individual which highlights the multifaith community within Stella Maris.



Art Show Information by FCN

Stories of identity

The package that FCN will be curating will be based on the themes of *Who we are* and *How we express ourselves*. We will be revisiting and discussing what makes us who we are and how each of our stories are similar and unique. This will be represented through a collaborative art piece that each part of FCN's individual communities is connected to.



Art Show Information by FCS

Colour Monsters

During their Art lessons, the students have listened to the 'Colour Monsters' story by Anna Lenas and they have explored art by Misaki Kawai. Using this as their inspiration, the children have begun to create their own colour monsters using a range of materials. The students have made collages and soft toys. The aim is to sell some of these artworks and donate the proceeds to a children's charity.



Art Show Information by FCV

Nature

For our upcoming Art Show later this term, the students in FCV have created an art piece called 'Nature'. The students created the art piece as part of their Patterns unit explored earlier in the year during mathematics. This term, the students will be exploring the genre of persuasive writing. They will apply the skills learnt to communicate and share their message to encourage others to take action for positive change towards the environment around us. We can not wait to share our learning and our art piece with the Stella Maris and Point Cook community!



General Information

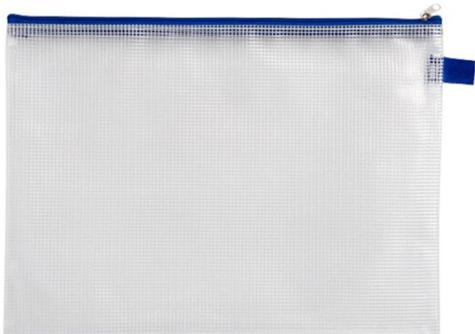


NO HAT NO PLAY

Just a reminder that term 4 requires all children to wear their hats during outside play. Please ensure that your child has their hat at school otherwise they will need to stay in the shade during recess and lunch time play.

BOOK BAGS

Just a reminder to send your child's book bag to school each day. This is so we can place any letters or notes that need to be sent home.



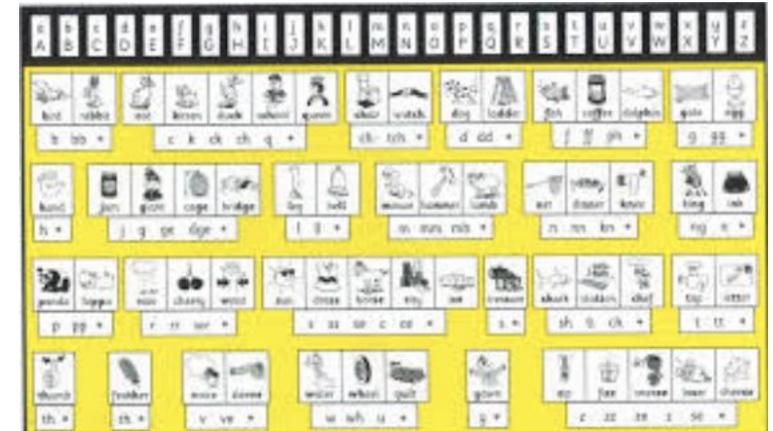
TAKE HOME BOOKS

On your child's assigned day they will change their take home books. They will receive 2 books with a letter on the back and 3 books from their teacher's personal library.

General Information

DRINK BOTTLES

We ask that children continue to bring water bottles to school with them. This ensures that if your child needs a drink during the day they do not have to leave the learning area.



REMINDER - THRASScharts
THRASScharts are for sale at the
office for \$7.00 each.

STAFF CONTACT EMAILS

Leah Morrow: lmorrow@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Claire Falzon: cfalzon@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Steff Hall: shall@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Simone Norman: snorman@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Lillian Valencia: lvalencia@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au

Vivienne Taylor : vtaylor@stellamaris.catholic.edu.au



Important Dates



1st November - School Closure

2nd November - Melbourne Cup Day Holiday - No School

19th November - School Closure Day - Staff Only

10th December - Whole School Transition - 2022 Classes

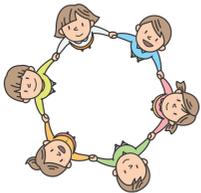
13th December - Reports Go Home

15th December - Last Day of Foundation 2021. Dismiss at 1p.m.

*****Please continue to read the information sent out from the office in case there are any changes*****

2021 Calendar for the months of October, November and December

On the following three slides we have created a visual representation to assist your child in transitioning back to school.



This represents when your child is at school learning.

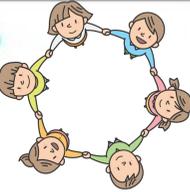
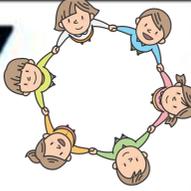


This represents when your child is remote learning at home.

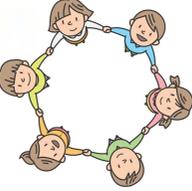
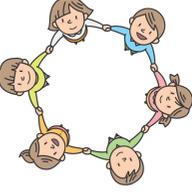
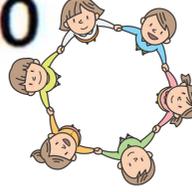
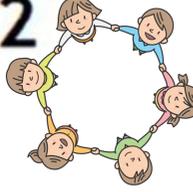
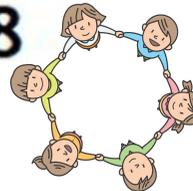
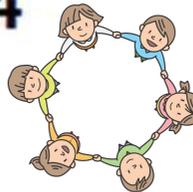
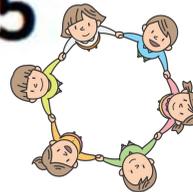
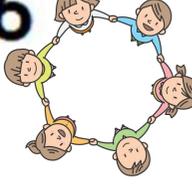
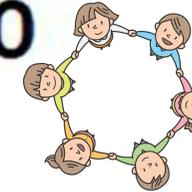


This represents when your child has a break from learning.

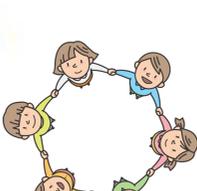
2021 OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Week 3 Blue Week	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23
24 Week 4 Green Week	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30
31						

2021 November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Week 5 Blue Week	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6	
Week 6 Green Week	7	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13
Week 7 Blue Week	14	15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20
Week 8 Green Week	21	22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27
Week 9 Blue Week	28	29 	30 				

2021 DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Week 10 Green Week	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11
12 Week 11 Blue Week	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18
19	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 
26	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 	



