Religious Education: Mrs Di Willadsen - If you do not wish your child to participate in RI sessions, a written note will be required.

HOMEWORK:
**Home readers:** This must be read every night (or in the morning before school) as children will be required to re-read their story to another child or to a parent helper each morning. Children need to return books in order to get a new one. If a book is not sent home due to a mix up or time restrictions, then your child might be able to help you read another story from home - stories, cereal boxes, notes, cartoon strips - anything as long as it's reading! Please also help your child keep a record of the number of nights they are reading in their yellow Reading Log so they can receive reward stickers as they progress. (Home Readers are due daily)

**Spelling** Words are introduced on Monday. Children have been taught to Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check the words into one column (at school) and need to repeat this in the second column for homework as well as write the words in Rainbow Writing in the third column. Children also need to write a sentence using a spelling word (no more than 3 sentences!) If necessary at this early stage, you might need to help children with some spelling but please encourage them to have a go at listening for the sounds they hear in the words. Children will be tested on their words each Friday but our main focus will be on spelling these words correctly in their everyday writing. (Due back on Thursday for marking but please send in daily in case we do extra activities at school)

**Sight Words:** These are word lists that are introduced at school but need to be practised and reinforced at least 3 times a week at home. It also helps to revise previous lists as well. We realise these words can be quite easy for some children, however at this stage we are encouraging homework as a routine, not a challenge. (Due and tested on Friday.)

**Other information:**
**Absences:** If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the school or us via a note, email or a phone call. Rolls are marked twice daily and every unexplained absence must be followed up so your assistance with this is much appreciated. Attending school every day, including Fridays, birthdays and the last day before holidays, is greatly encouraged.

**Parent Help**
If you are able to give some time to help us out with changing home readers (starting ASAP) or (in a couple of weeks time) with in-class assistance with small groups it would be very much appreciated. Grandparents are also more than welcome to come and give us a hand! Please contact us as soon as possible with your available times/days!

**School Expectations:** Our school expectations for everyone at our school are:

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL
**Behaviour Management:**
Positive reinforcement of behaviours is encouraged with lots of praise along with both individual and whole class reward systems (stickers and little prizes). They may also move their name up to 'Great Job' and 'Super Student' on our behaviour chart.

Warnings are given for negative behaviours such as not listening, being disrespectful or unsafe. Inappropriate playground behaviours may result in children going to the ‘Rethink Room’ at lunchtime and losing the right to play whilst they work on making better choices.

Parents will be informed of any on-going behaviours but also of improvements and positive incidents. Each day is a fresh start with fresh choices to make. Sometimes a ‘tick’ book between home and school is required to target specific behaviours and we have found this to almost always lead to an improvement.

**School Dress Code:**
As endorsed by the Highfields State School P&C Association and School Council, this is a “school uniform” school. All students are encouraged to wear school uniforms.

Attire should be suitable for outside and inside activities:
- Footwear shall be flat-soled and enclosed (depending on the activity).
- Hats shall offer protection to all of the head including face, ears and back of the neck. (“Broad brimmed” and “legionnaire” hats with an 8cm wide brim are the preferred style - no “baseball” style hats).
- Clothing which protects the shoulders and neck from the sun should be worn when students are participating in outdoor activities. Clothing which promotes messages that may be deemed offensive (conflicts with school values) shall not be worn.
- Underwear shall not show outside or through clothing.
- Hair shall be clean, tidy with no extreme colours (appearance) and tied back for certain tasks and activities (safety/health).

The uniform is to be worn for sporting and cultural activities for which the students are representatives for the school, e.g. inter-school sport, choral performances. Uniform requirements will be outlined prior to the event.

**No hat, no play, no fun in the sun today:** If a child forgets their hat they will need to play under a covered building or go to the library. Spare hats will not be given out.

**Bookwork:** Our school has committed to improving students' bookwork across the board. In our class we will be praising student’s efforts for neat handwriting, tidiness and following instructions when setting out work. We will choose fine examples of work to show others and display in the classroom. It may not always be the neatest work but perhaps work from a student who is showing great improvement and effort.

Please help us with this by encouraging your child’s homework to be completed in a neat and tidy manner - **pencil only, please!**

**Tuckshop:** Ordering tuckshop is now completed on-line. Please let your child know when and what they are having for tuckshop so we know when to send tuckshop boxes down and also whether their order is correct.

**Food:** Please send a healthy snack that is easy and quick for children to eat for brain break. Cut-up fresh fruit (not in tubs of syrup), cheese and vegetable sticks are ideal. Please also consider the rest of your child’s lunch in terms of the amount of sugary and/or processed foods and nutritional value. We have talked to children about their ‘must eat’ items, such as sandwiches.

**Sickness:** We encourage students to come to school every day but, of course, not when they are sick. For serious illnesses, including vomiting, fevers, etc please keep your child at home to prevent the spread of germs. Please let us know via email, note or phone call if your child is away for any reason as we are accountable to follow up every absence.
**Special Events:** We have some other special events throughout the year:
- **Term 1:** Amaroo Environmental Centre (Tuesday 17th February) and the Fun Run
- **Term 2:** Arts Council performance
- **Term 3:** Under 8's Day and the school Spellathon.
- **Term 4:** Swimming

Please check emailed invoices for dates that money is due for excursions as the office cannot accept late payments.

**Tissues:** With the many changes in Toowoomba weather, children often have runny noses. To help prevent the spread of germs children need tissues to use throughout the year. **Donations of boxes of tissues are gratefully accepted.**

**Units of Work:** In Term One we are learning about the following topics:
- **English:** We are studying storybooks that show characters with different and changing emotions. Children need to know book language (ie author, illustrator, etc) and make a short speaking presentation about a character from a favourite book and the emotions that character feels.
- **Maths:** Time (calendars, days of the week, months of the year), counting to 20 and beyond (in ones and twos), the concept of addition and measurement.
- **Geography:** The content provides opportunities to develop the following concepts for geographical understandings: place, space, environment and scale. Students look at how places are used and how spaces can be arranged to suit different purposes.
- **Science:** 'Schoolyard Safari' looks at the environments around our school and the creatures we might see in them.
- **Technology:** This will involve the children designing and creating a task towards the end of the term.

**Media Permission:** Some children do not have media permissions for their photos to be shared on the internet. Sometimes in the class we will take photos to display and remember special activities. These photos are not put onto social media but are a memory for your child's year. Please let us know if you are happy for this happen or whether your child's photo should not be taken at all.