Welcome back Sunshine Primary School for 2016. The 5/6 students have hit the ground running and should be commended on their enthusiastic start to the year. The way in which they are living our school values inside and outside the classroom has set a fine example for the younger students in the school. Let’s keep this going for the rest of the year!

During this term’s Inquiry, ‘Our Restless Earth’, students will learn about the Earth as part of a relatively simple planet-moon system operating within a larger solar system.

Our focused understandings for this Inquiry unit are:

- The Earth is a planet orbiting our Sun as part of our solar system which is a tiny part of our universe.
- The Earth and its atmosphere are part of a delicately balanced and complex system which is made up of layers of interacting components.
- Everything we use comes from the ground and is made from elements and these resources need to be protected.
- Humans are affected by the natural changes in the Earth.
- Conditions on Earth such as our seasons and 24 hour cycle are affected by our solar system interactions.

The students will reach these understandings through a variety of learning activities incorporating Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. They will also be part of many ‘hands on’ learning experiences, in which they will be able to learn about science in its various forms in a variety of ways.

**Literacy**

In Literacy this term, students will begin setting up what ‘good’ reading looks like in their classroom and understand the purpose of thinking as a reader. Students will spend time familiarising themselves with the process of reading. This will involve moving from the ‘pre-reading’ stage, to the ‘during’ reading stage and ‘after’ reading stage. Within each stage, students will explore the different comprehension strategies such as predicting and questioning that they will need in order to be smart readers.

Within Writing, students will also investigate the Writing process. Together we will explore how good writers begin with an idea or brainstorm and expand that into a text. Students will develop an understanding of what it means to compose, revise, edit and conference. Working alongside our Inquiry for this term, students will compose an explanation and procedural text. In addition, students will regularly use their writer’s notebook to ‘plant the seeds’ of their independent writing.

All students should be continuing to read at home on a regular basis. This will be a large part of Term One homework and students also need to be practicing their reading goals (once set). Remember, we love to see students going deeper and getting ‘lost’ in their texts. Please note that students are able to read texts from their own home or a local library if they find something of interest.
**Numeracy**

In Numeracy during Term One we are learning about place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions, whole number and decimals. Some preparation into NAPLAN will begin with regards to thinking about worded problems and answering complex questions. Additionally, a weekly mental math’s program to support students with their automatic recall of number facts and strategies has begun. This program so far has been highly engaging and successful with the students. We can’t encourage students enough to regularly practise this automatic recall of number facts, including all times tables and division facts. Achieving this makes Numeracy learning a lot easier for students, building their confidence in their ability to participate and challenge themselves.

**ICT**

Information Communications Technologies, (I.C.T.) is a general term that describes any technology that helps to produce, manipulate, store, communicate, and/or disseminate information. It is an interdisciplinary domain which focuses on providing students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich their learning environments. During Term One students will be supported to set up all digital learning folders in order to manage the saving and retrieval of all digital work. Discussions around how to manage their settings and safe use of our equipment will also occur. Students will use technology to support their learning in all curriculum areas and will begin creating a digital portfolio of their learning. ICT will be incorporated across all curriculum areas, in particular Numeracy, through students accessing Mathletics.

**Parent Helpers**

We value the role of parents and carers in the education of each student and welcome you into our classrooms. Parent helpers can be involved in many ways. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to help every now and then, or on a regular basis.

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**Year 5/6 Teaching Team**
Donna O’Brien & Andrew Kearns

**Specialist Timetable**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>9:00am - Art 10:00am - PE 12:30pm - Library/ICT</td>
<td>9:00am - PE 10:00am - Art</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>AUSLAN - 10:00am 12:30pm - Music</td>
<td>AUSLAN - 10:30am 11:30am - Music 12:30pm - Library/ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00am 5/6 Sport</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00am 5/6 Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td>Friday Assembly at 3:15pm – All Welcome</td>
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PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) - RAY MCCREDDEN

During term one, children in years five and six will be involved in a physical education program that has an emphasis on providing a range of activities enabling them to refine basic and complex motor skills and apply these skills to increasingly complex games and activities. They will be given the opportunity to negotiate individual fitness and skill development goals aligned to their preparation for the house cross country. Their lessons will have three distinct parts: Fitness, skill development and game participation. Children will also have the opportunity to compete against other schools in Interschool Sport.

VISUAL ARTS - JULIE VELLA

This term the Years Five and Six students will be studying the works of famous artists. The students will discuss the art work, share their thoughts/feelings and create art inspired by the artists. Art can be very messy! Please ensure that your child has a labelled art smock at school to use during art lessons.

We are always looking for donations in the art room. Items needed include wool, fabric, newspaper, magazines, ribbons, beads, egg cartons. If there is a remote possibility we can do something with it, then send it in…we are VERY creative!

MUSIC - JOYCE AZZOPARDI

During Term One in Music, students in Years Five and Six will be introduced to the concept of feel. Feel is a musician’s term for how the song or piece of music ‘feels’ in the body. Students will investigate reggae music and compare its rhythmic feel to rock ‘n’ roll. They will learn a new rhythm pattern and understand the purpose of a musical accent. Students will create a reggae composition incorporating accents to perform to the class. They will use a metronome to vary the tempo and keep their group playing together.

Year Five and Six students will also be introduced to the recorder this year. They will have their own recorder instrument distributed to them early this term and all students are expected to bring it to every Music lesson. In Term One, the major focus will be on correct finger posture and breath control as well as learning to play the notes B and A.

AUSLAN - KATRINA MYNARD

This year we will be learning AUSLAN. Katrina will teach students once a week where they will learn the alphabet, common phrases used in everyday life and phrases related to our inquiry unit each term.