



LEARNING TOGETHER

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21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

### ***SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING SPACES AT HOLY CROSS***

At Holy Cross, our teachers continually maximise the learning opportunities for all our students each and every day - ***EVERY LEARNER - EVERY DAY***. The NSW Kindergarten to Year 6 syllabuses are continually revised enabling students to develop all the essential skills, knowledge and understandings.

In order to achieve this, we strategically plan our units of work, learning tasks and resources. We also look closely at our learning spaces “*where curious minds go to work*”, recognising how best to use the learning environment to support learning and teaching, developing important skills, knowledge and understandings.

One of the Key Learning Areas is the study of Science and Technology in K–6 which enables students to explore scientific and technological concepts and develop knowledge and understanding of the world; enabling them to inquire, plan, investigate and develop solutions to problems. Through the application of Working Scientifically, and Design and Production skills, students develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for understanding nature, phenomena and the built environment.

The skills taught in the K - 10 Science and Technology Syllabus focus on

- scientific inquiry through the process of working scientifically
- design and production processes in the development of solutions
- design and production of digital solutions

After consultation and feedback from educators, specialising in Science and Technology, and a group of Holy Cross parents and students, we have decided that our students would benefit from a designated learning space specifically designed for students to inquire and investigate, engage in higher-level thinking as well as communicate their learning through the production and presentation of their new learning.

## **Inquiry, Investigation & Discovery Spaces**

Therefore, we have decided to transform spaces in our current library building into an Inquiry Hub for our students to easily access.

This new transformed space, where curious minds go to work, will include:

- Inquiry space - a place for students to inquire, explore and investigate
- Makerspace - a place for students to locate the necessary resources
- Presentation area - a place for students to present their projects

We will also relocate our current Year 5 students into this space, which will continue to maximise the learning of all of our students.

Throughout the year we will also create a K - 2 Discovery Space in the K - 2 learning spaces for the students to access both indoors and outdoors. This will be a shared space for all students in K - 2. We are able to achieve this without relocating any classes and all students will remain in their current learning spaces. Therefore there will be NO interruptions to the students.

### **Q & A**

#### **When will the Year 5 students move?**

The new science inquiry hub will be transformed throughout this term, while the Year 5 students remain in their current learning space without any interruptions.

*During the last week of Term 1* - All year 5 resources will be moved into the new space which will be set up ready for them to use.

*Term 2 - Week 1* - Year 5 students in new learning space

#### **What will happen with our library collection?**

The library collection will be relocated to the current Year 5 learning space and transformed into a space where students can read and borrow books, research as well as showcase their creativity and projects in a gallery.

#### **What will happen to the library collection?**

Initially some of the Junior Fiction Books will be relocated into the K - 2 learning spaces so that the students can access these until the library is set up for borrowing. We are extremely fortunate that our students can access the e-library to borrow and read books.

#### **How can parents help?**

We will need to pack up all our current library book collection so that removalist can move it to the new space.

If you have any spare boxes at home that we can pack library books - we would love to use them. Please leave them in the library at any time.

If you are able to help pack books in boxes - we would love you to help. We will advise you of the details regarding this once confirmed.

If you have any questions or would like to look at the spaces - Marina Hardy will be available in the library on: *Thursday 22 February 2018 from 3 pm - 3.30 pm & Monday 26th February 2018 from 8.30 - 9.00 am.*

*Kind regards,*

*Marina Hardy*