

# STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve students' families in this unit, teachers can choose from the following:

- Students share work samples with their families.
- Invite parents to see presentations or displays developed by the students.
- Present the students' investigations in a school worship or assembly.
- Students produce their own class newsletter to share with their families, which includes samples of students' reflections, psalms, prayers, art, research etc.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following provide examples related specifically to the model units:

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

It's great to have a sporting team to follow. You watch them as often as you can, read about their triumphs and tell everyone how great your team is and how much you love to follow them.

In our current Christian Studies unit, *Following in Jesus' footsteps*, our class will be investigating what it was like for Jesus' disciples to follow Jesus. They will be hearing the Bible stories of how Jesus chose twelve very ordinary people to be his followers. The students will discover what the disciples learnt from Jesus and the changes he brought to their lives. These disciples went on to follow in Jesus' footsteps by telling others about Jesus and how great it is to follow him. The students will also be identifying what it means to 'follow in the footsteps' of Jesus today and people who are doing this.

You can support your child by asking them to share with you the stories they have heard about Jesus' disciples.

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

What are the most important things in your life at the moment? Is it your job, your new car, your children, saving for that extension or holiday?

Why some things are important to us, and what influences our choices are some of the questions we will be grappling with in our Christian Studies unit, *What's important?* The students will be exploring what the Bible says is important to God. They will investigate the Ten Commandments and Jesus' 'new' commandment and what this means for followers of Jesus. They will be investigating what the Bible says about the way Jesus taught people what is important to God. They will also explore the Christian belief about what Jesus did to make it possible for God's people to be forgiven for the times they fail to live the way God wants them to live.

You can support your child by encouraging them to consider carefully the choices they make and the consequences of their choices.

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Why do we and our children find it so hard to own up or say 'I'm sorry' when we've hurt someone? Are we afraid of punishment, losing a friend or losing face? An even more difficult task can be forgiving someone who has hurt us or who has wronged us in some way.

In our current Christian Studies unit, *Forgiven and forgiving*, the students will be investigating forgiveness as an important part of the life of Jesus' followers. We will be looking at Bible stories about David and the place of confession and forgiveness in his life. We will explore Bible stories of Jesus showing forgiveness and acceptance, and explore his teachings about forgiveness, including how God forgives people no matter how awful the wrongdoing. The students will be exploring the Bible's message about the forgiveness Jesus achieved for all people through his death and resurrection. The students will be encouraged to think about situations in their own lives where wrongdoing has occurred and to identify the benefits confession and forgiveness brings.

You can support your child by demonstrating forgiveness to them and assisting them in situations where they find it difficult to forgive.