Dear Parents/Carers,

Below is an outline of what we will be covering in all Key Learning Areas throughout the term.

**Religious Education**

The modules we will be studying this term are: Bible Stories of People in the Old Testament and our Lenten module entitled *A Time For Prayer*.

**Bible Stories of People in the Old Testament**

In this module, children will explore some of the stories of significant people of the Old Testament who revealed God to their people. This module will build on the concept of revelation that was introduced through the ES 1 modules in the First Creation story and the story of Noah. It will contribute to the childrens’ understanding of the Bible. Rather than using the complex and long scripture passages, the stories will be told using resources such as the “To Know, Worship and Love” big books, so that the children begin to see the picture of stories that covered a large span of time, as part of one story. This will hopefully build a basis for a later engagement with the words of scripture.

**Lent: A Time For Prayer**

This module focuses on providing the students with opportunities to look for, know and find God within themselves. The module highlights a key aspect of prayer during the Lenten period; expressing sorrow for any ways in which we have failed to be all that we can be in relationship with God and others.

**English**

The children will be given opportunities to speak, listen, read and write every day during our two hour literacy block.

**Reading and Viewing**

Reading groups take place daily and children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is instructing a focus group during instructional/ guided reading. Developing strategies for reading unknown texts and comprehension strategies will be a focus of our reading group sessions this term. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily. Each child is encouraged to have his/her own book/s (either brought in from home or borrowed from the library) to read independently each day as part of silent reading time.

**Writing and Representing**

The text types that will be taught explicitly this term as part of our writing and HSIE program are Descriptions and Poetry (Imaginative) and Recounts (Informative). The children will be involved in construction of shared and independent texts. Grammar conventions and punctuation are taught through writing.
Spelling
In response to our NAPLAN data and the students’ needs, Sacred Heart is continuing to implement a whole school, systematic approach to teaching spelling in 2015. The program acknowledges that sounds can be represented in more than one way in the written form and therefore teaches the 40+ sounds and the different letter representations of each sound.

The children are expected to use a number of strategies when needing to spell words; these include referring to word banks containing theme words, word walls displaying frequently used words and the ‘Have-a-Go’ strategy. The students have a weekly spelling list to focus on in class and as part of their homework.

Handwriting
The children will have the opportunity to practise their handwriting skills (NSW Foundation Style) during explicit handwriting lessons. Correct posture and pencil grip is encouraged at all times. We expect a high standard of bookwork from the children.

Speaking and Listening
Throughout the term the students will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of talking and listening activities. As poetry will be a text type focus this term the children will practise reading their poems out loud in small groups and to the class.

Mathematics
Students are grouped according to their assessed learning needs. Explicit teaching of specific concepts is taught. Students then work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is guiding a focus group. Learning tasks provide for a variety of learning styles, using concrete materials, technology and discussion.

Focus Topics to be covered this term include:

Addition and Subtraction
Students will use a range of strategies and informal recording methods for addition and subtraction involving one and two-digit numbers.

Whole Numbers
Students will apply place value, informally, to count, order, read and represent two and three-digit numbers.

Volume and Capacity
Students will measure, record, compare and estimate volumes and capacities using uniform informal units.

Position
Students will represent and describe the positions of objects in everyday situations and on maps.
Human Society and Its Environment

Our unit this term is entitled “Local Places” and it is a unit of work about the geography of natural and built environments and the importance of caring for the environment to sustain life.

Students will learn about:
• the globe as a representation of Earth
• everyday words for location, position and direction, eg left, right, mountain, city
• uses of places in their local area
• natural, built and heritage features in the immediate environment and in other areas
• adaptations to environments to fulfil needs
• changes to the immediate environment as a result of meeting needs and wants
• personal and shared values and responsibilities towards features, sites, places and environments
• care of resources, including waste disposal
• Aboriginal relationship to the land and ways of caring for the land.

Science and Technology

Our Science and Technology unit this term is called “Up, down and all around”. This unit provides opportunities for students to explore natural, made and managed features that undergo change. Through outdoor observations and photographic records, students investigate the daily, weekly and seasonal changes in their local environment.

Personal Development/Health and Physical Education

Personal Development & Health

Our Term 1 units are entitled “Making Friends” and “Getting Along with Others”- Kidzmix. These units focus on how to develop positive relationships with family, friends and others. Some of the key concepts included are cooperation, conflict and bullying. These units will reinforce our Positive Behaviour for Learning program and Bucket Fillers program which focuses on caring for ourselves and others. Class awards and reasons to smile stickers are given to students to encourage them to follow class and school rules.

Physical Education

The children will participate in a Physical Education lesson with Mrs Wiggins each Friday. Extra Physical Activity with the Year 2 class teachers will take place each Wednesday for 2M and 2D.

Creative Arts

This term the students will participate in a number of learning activities in Visual Arts. This will include Art Appreciation as well as exploring various media used in artwork and the opportunity to develop their skills. At times the work will correlate with our HSIE Unit. Students will be participating in a weekly Music/Drama lesson with Ms Rudd each Friday.

Please ensure that your child has an art shirt as soon as possible so that we may commence art lessons.
ICLT
ICLT will be integrated into the classroom program via the use of classroom computers. The children will have access to the classroom computers to carry out learning tasks that are integrated across the curriculum as well as other tasks related to particular subject areas. These lessons will focus on developing the students’ skills and knowledge in various computer software and applications as well as being able to utilise this software as a tool for learning.

Please ensure your permission slips for the internet and network services are returned as soon as possible.

Library
Library lessons for 2D are held each Tuesday and Thursday for 2B with Mrs Harrison. The children are required to have a library bag to borrow books.

Homework
Students will be assigned homework each Monday and will have a week to complete their homework. The children have been provided with a plastic folder for their home readers, homework books and notes. Each child has 2 homework books, one to work from on the even weeks and another for the odd weeks. This gives the teachers more time to mark the homework, whilst also allowing a full week for students to work on their homework. Homework will include daily reading, a Spelling list, and various other activities such as sessions on the Study Ladder website focusing upon both Numeracy and Literacy, and usually an activity from another Key Learning Area. The Mathematics text will also come home frequently. **It is essential that the Maths text book is returned to your child’s school bag each day**, as we will be referring to specific tasks within school time too. **Could you please check and sign your child’s homework before it is returned?** If children are not able to complete their homework please write a note on their homework sheet. This assists us greatly as we then know that you are aware that the homework hasn’t been completed.

Birthdays
We love sharing birthdays in Year 2, however please be aware of children that may have allergies if you choose to send in any food to celebrate. Please also consider the choice of food, i.e food that requires preparation or a cake that requires cutting is not suitable.

**Reminder:** Please ensure that all your child’s property including each item of clothing is labelled very clearly.

We hope that this information sheet outlining our class program and expectations for Term 1 has been helpful to you. We are happy to discuss any concerns with you throughout the year.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the education of your child,
Yours sincerely,

Suzy Driscoll, Steve Behan and Alison Thornton