We would like to take this opportunity to say *Welcome to Sacred Heart*!

We are very eager to start an exciting new year and extend our welcome to all of our new and existing families at Sacred Heart. We have had the pleasure of meeting you all and look forward to developing a relationship with you throughout the year.

The following is an overview of what your child will be learning about in Kindy this term.

**Religion**

We start our year off with a unit called 'Belonging to God's Family'. It is a great way to introduce faith to the children within the school setting. This unit will allow the children to listen to stories about Jesus, feel like they are an important part of God's family and know that God loves us all. We then move onto the preparation of the seasons of 'Lent and Easter'. There will also be opportunities for the children to attend mass throughout the term. We will be encouraging reverence in the church and hope that you will assist in modelling this to your child.

**Literacy**

Literacy is a crucial element of your child's intellectual, social and emotional development and has an essential role in all Key Learning Areas to use language effectively in a range of contexts. The literacy block occurs daily and comprises of the elements of Reading and Viewing, Writing and Representing and Speaking & Listening. Explicit teaching and learning takes place in the areas of phonics, shared, modelled and guided reading, handwriting, spelling, modelled, guided and independent writing and speaking and listening.

**Reading**

Reading is an essential aspect of your child's education. In class we will focus on five sight words a week which the children will learn to recognise, read and use in their writing. Modelled reading will be demonstrated using a big book and children will complete comprehension based tasks relating to these books.
Kindergarten will start receiving readers to be read by the parent first then the child. Daily reading is vital, so your support will be crucial in helping to assist your child in their development. (Homework) You will need to complete the reading log and sign each night. Books will be returned on Fridays and a new set will be distributed to your child on Mondays. Please ensure all readers are returned so that we can give you new books each week.

**Phonics**

The children will receive a sight word book that they will need to learn each night. Children may read the sight words at their own pace. Once they are confident with the list and have been tested by the teacher they will be able to move onto the next list. (Homework) We will introduce three sounds a week using the ‘Jolly Phonics’ program. Children will learn to identify the letters as sounds.

**Writing**

In writing we are focussing on correct letter formation, sight words and punctuation. We are also reinforcing making meaning through ‘writing for a purpose’. There is a big focus on handwriting in Kindergarten. Correct pencil grip is encouraged at all times and we would ask that you follow this through at home. The text types we will focus on this term are Recounts and Descriptions. The children will be encouraged to write using the words around the room and sentence starters.

**Spelling**

The school wide spelling program at Sacred Heart explicitly teaches five core spelling strategies. In kindergarten this term we will be focussing on using the sound strategy. The five strategies we will gradually introduce throughout the year are:

- **Sound** – focusing on sound
- **Visual** – focusing on how words look
- **Meaning** – thinking about word meaning
- **Connecting** – making connections with other words
- **Checking** – using live, print or electronic resources
**Speaking and Listening**

Each week students will have the opportunity to share their news. Each week there will be a set topic around getting to know each other and around our unit topics. We will be focusing on building their confidence in public speaking. Your child’s News Day will be in next week’s Kindy News.

**Numeracy**

Mathematics incorporates the processes of questioning, reflecting, reasoning and proof. It is a powerful tool for solving familiar and unfamiliar problems both within and beyond Mathematics.

In Maths this term the focus is on:
- Number—counting, ordering, one to one correspondence, patterning, addition and subtraction of numbers to 30.
- Statistics and Probability – Data
- Measurement and Geometry – Position

We will endeavour to make Mathematics experiences hands on and fun. Children will have the opportunity to participate in open-ended and meaningful tasks.

As part of a whole school initiative, students will be focusing on Counting strategies throughout the term. Your child will have some activities to complete as part of their homework each week. Please use the back of their sight word book and mark these off as they are completed.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

The children are required to wear their sport uniform on Tuesday and Thursday. The PE program is run by Michelle Kerr once a week on Thursdays and Kindergarten will also participate in another sports session run by the class teachers on Tuesdays.

We will be learning our three school rules:
- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Respect for the Environment

The Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program will teach the children the expected behaviours at school and help to build positive relationships and resilience.

**Science**

Our science unit for this term is ‘Staying Alive’. Children will investigate the basic needs for survival of animals, including humans, and how their senses help them stay alive. Students’ understanding of basic needs and their importance in our lives will be developed through hands-on activities.
History

Our history unit for terms 1 and 2 is called “Personal and Family Histories”. This is a unit from the new Australian Curriculum. The students will communicate stories of their own family heritage and the heritage of others. They will identify similarities and differences between families and recognise how important family events are commemorated.

Creative Arts

Kindergarten will participate in specialised music/drama/dance lessons once a week with Susan Rudd on Thursdays.

The focus for Visual Arts this term is using various mediums to create portraits. We will be exploring this through the forms of drawing and painting. This will be integrated across the curriculum with both art and craft experiences.

ICLT

ICLT is integrated throughout the curriculum. The children will have many opportunities to use the interactive whiteboard, computers and class camera. We encourage the children at Sacred Heart to access the following site:


Other Important Information

Library – Tuesday

It is essential each child has a labeled library bag when borrowing library books. Please remember to pack your child’s library bag and books to be returned each week so that they may re-borrow.

Physical Education and Sport – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Please wear sports uniform on both days.

Music/Drama/Dance – Thursdays

Uniform

Children must wear their full summer uniform, including their hats each day. Girls must wear only green coloured ribbons in their hair and it must be tied back. The sport uniform is only to be worn on sports days. If your child does not have the correct uniform, please provide a note to the teacher explaining why.
Birthdays
If you would like to send in a treat to celebrate your child’s birthday you have two options:
- Individual cupcakes. Please make sure they are nut free.
- Ice blocks (only on canteen days – Monday, Thursday and Friday). You can bring in your own or the canteen is happy to provide these for you if you let them know in advance.

Please ensure there is enough for every child in the class. There are 30 students in both KD & KS.

Absences
Please ensure that you provide a note explaining your child’s absence. This forms part of our class roll and is a legal document. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly at 8.45am each day to minimise disruptions for the class. For your child’s benefit please be sure that your child knows how they are getting home every afternoon.

Parental Support

The teacher, parent/guardian, and child MUST work and cooperate together if learning success is to occur for your child.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

As the Kindergarten teachers we strive to promote successful learning for all students in our class. Our goals are to meet the needs of each learner, by employing a variety of teaching methods and activities. Your role as a supportive parent can be to:

- MONITOR the work your child is bringing home and participating in.
- PRAISE and ENCOURAGE your child each day, to promote their desire to be a successful learner.
- COMMUNICATE any issues or concerns with your class teacher.

We encourage Parent helpers to support our learning for reading, writing, class sport and excursions. Parent helpers must sign in at the office and receive a visitors badge each visit. If this is your first year as a Class Helper you will need to contact the office to attend the compulsory information and training session and fill in the necessary paperwork.

Parent helpers will start in Term 2 when the children are all settled into the routine.
Kindergarten is one of the most crucial and precious years in your child’s schooling career as it helps to establish the foundations for the rest of their learning journey! We are very excited to start this journey with your child, working with you to ensure that it is an amazing experience for everyone!

Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to see your class teacher.

Warm regards,

Alison Thornton, Suzy Driscoll and Jemma Satchell