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: ‘Jesus shows me how to love’ and ‘Lent to Easter’.

**Jesus shows me how to love**

In this module, students will explore how Jesus is the model for Christian love. They will learn that love was very important to the people of Jesus’ time who followed the Law of Moses by loving God and other people (neighbour). Students will then explore how Jesus put a new emphasis on the understanding of love. Jesus’ new commandment “Love one another as I have loved you” emphasises the call to love for Jesus’ disciples and for us as well. Children will learn that Jesus’ way of loving calls us to put into action our love. Especially, we should always love those who are poor and marginalised.

**Lent to Easter**

The module focuses on the prayerful aspect of Lent and the opportunities the Lenten Season offers students to reflect upon prayer and places to pray. Students will be given a variety of experiences of both formal and informal prayer settings and will be encouraged to appreciate the value of silence in prayer, 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.

Students will explore the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way. Through participation and involvement in the module as well as in whole school Lent and Easter activities and celebrations, students will gain an awareness of the stories, actions and symbols of Lent and Easter.

**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 History program are Recounts (Informative), Descriptions (Imaginative). 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 2016. 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.

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

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 recounts will be a text type focus this term the children will practise reading their published work 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.

History
Our unit this term is entitled ‘The Past In the Present’ and it is a unit of work about what school life was like in the 1950’s compared to today
Students will learn about:
• The similarities and differences
• The history of our school in the 1950’s
• Sequencing their own schooling events on a timeline
• Things around the school that are from the past
• Old photos from the past and making observations of them
• Sorting old photos and matching them with present day photos of the school
• Old artefacts such as Maths equipment, writing tool and educational equipment
• Shared experiences for children across Australia in the 1950s and 1960s such as free milk
• Experiences of guest speakers who were in primary school at this time
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 Kerr each Friday. Extra Physical Activity with the Year 2 class teachers will take place each Wednesday afternoon.

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 History 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 with Mrs Harrison are held on Wednesday for 2S and Thursday for 2R. The children are required to have a library bag to borrow books.

**Homework**
This term we will be giving homework on a Monday and it will need to be returned on Friday morning. The Mathematics textbook is taken home for homework but please make sure it is returned each Friday. Homework will include Maths, daily reading, a spelling list, and sometimes an extra activity from another Key Learning Area. 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 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,

**Sarah Russell and Bernadette Sheehan.**