Welcome to Term 1 2017.
We are looking forward to the year ahead.

Religious Education
Our Religious Education units for this term are:

‘Baptism’
Students are introduced to the sacrament of Baptism as a celebration of their initiation into God's family, the Church. They learn that, like them, Jesus was baptised with water and shows us how to live as children of God. They learn more about the meaning of Baptism through a study of the ritual actions and symbols used in their own Baptism.

‘How can we grow and change during Lent as we prepare for the season of Easter?’
This unit explores the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way. Through participation and involvement in the unit 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, view, spell and write every day during our two hour Literacy block.

Reading
Every child will engage in an explicit teaching session with the teacher each week during guided reading sessions. Reading will also be taught through a variety of Big Books which will relate to our theme. Home readers will go home on Mondays (fortnightly) and need to be returned on Thursday (fortnightly) so new readers can be allocated. A Guided Reading Book will be sent home daily and needs to be returned daily, for your child’s Literacy Group Sessions. Library lessons will be in the Library with Mrs Harrison. These lessons will support the English programme. Please remind your child to place their library bag in their school bag every Tuesday.

Writing
The text types that will be explicitly taught this term are Informative texts- Recount and Explanation and Imaginative texts- Description. Handwriting text books will be completed this year as well as other formal handwriting lessons. We expect a high standard of book work from the children. This means that we also expect to see this in their Homework books, in that they write in lead pencil and take care with their presentation of Homework tasks.

Spelling
Children will be following the ‘Soundwaves Program’ which is a phonemic awareness program that is designed to develop Reading, Spelling and Writing. 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. In Year 1 we are learning the song and actions to remember the sounds (phonemes) and the many ways we can represent the same sound (graphemes). The
Spelling program will also explicitly teach five core spelling strategies. We want the children to think about patterns in our language as well as gain an awareness of spelling strategies available to use. Such as:

- **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 fortnight children will have the opportunity to participate in Public Speaking presentations. Public speaking is an important and valuable life skill that fosters confidence and allows your child the opportunity to practise their communication skills. Such tasks also fulfil English Syllabus Outcomes in the strand of Speaking and Listening. Please note the weeks your child will be presenting their news. Children are encouraged to prepare their talk time related to the fortnightly topic and incorporate some or all of the ‘5 W’s’ (Who, What, Where, When and Why?) into their news.

We will also be incorporating developing Listening Skills around the areas of following directions and instructions.

**Handwriting**
There will be a focused Handwriting lesson each week where the focus will be on correct pencil grip and formation of letters using the NSW Foundation Handwriting script. The children have a specific Handwriting textbook. We ask that children work towards a high standard of bookwork presentation.

**Information Communication Technology**
Technology is integrated into all aspects of the curriculum. Throughout the day the children will have the opportunity to use the interactive whiteboard as well as laptops, desktop computers and Ipads. Cyber safety is focused on throughout Year 1.

In Year 1, we are lucky enough to have iPads in our classrooms. We will be using various applications and software for different teaching and learning experiences. Some of the programs we will be exploring this term are: Book Creator, Publisher, various websites such as Studyladder, BBC and ABCsplash as learning tools.
**Mathematics**

Our Mathematics program will follow the Mathematics Syllabus. We will keep mathematics experiences hands on, engaging and challenging for all individual children’s needs. The children have been assessed and tasks will be focused according to their point of need. Students will engage in various methods of problem solving using open ended questioning, and they will be required to use critical thinking skills to find answers to practical questions. The children will be using a variety of materials to explore and develop the concepts involved and they will record their investigations in their Mathematics books. During Term 1 the children will be focusing on:

**Whole Number - MA1-4NA**
- Count forwards and backwards by ones from a two-digit number
- Partition two-digit numbers using place value
- Read, write and order two-digit numbers
- Read and use ordinal names to at least ‘thirty-first’
- Recognise, describe and order Australian coins according to their value

**Addition and Subtraction: MA1-5NA**
- Model addition and subtraction using concrete materials
- Recognise and recall combinations of numbers that add to numbers up to 20
- Model and apply the commutative property for addition
- Record number sentences using drawings, words, numerals and the symbols +, – and =
- Use and record a range of mental strategies for addition and subtraction of one- and two-digit numbers
- Use the equals sign to record equivalent number sentences

**Time: Time-MA1-13MG**
- Describes, compares and orders duration of events and reads hour and half hour time on clocks.
- Name and order months and seasons
- Use a calendar to identify the date and determine the number of days in each month

**History**

Our unit of work for Term 1 is called, “When we were 6 and 7”. This unit provides a study of family history. Students explore, recognise and appreciate the history of their families by examining remains of the past and considering why they should be preserved.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

The children will have a Physical Education lesson with Mrs Kerr once a week on a Friday. We will have class sport on a Wednesday.

This Term in Personal Development Health, the children will study the unit, “Positive Relationships”. This unit looks at how students can develop positive relationships with family, friends and with others.

**Positive Behavior for Learning (P.B.L.)**
Sacred Heart’s school rules of Care for Self, Care for others, and Care for the Environment are reinforced weekly in lessons relating to the school rules. Our P.B.L. lessons will cover the rule, Being Respectful and focus on rewarding children positively with Reasons to Smile stickers and class incentives. Each child will continue to track their Reason to Smile stickers in their P.B.L. scrapbooks. Golden certificates will also be presented to acknowledge individual achievements.

**Respectful Relationships**
Tying in with the school vision and mission, we will be focusing on Respectful Relationships. This is a program that focuses on developing friendships and fostering resilience. Children will look at modeled behaviours that assist classroom learning, playground behaviours and caring for others in our school community and at home.

**Creative and Practical Arts**
Ms Rudd will be taking music and drama lessons this term on a Friday.

For visual art lessons the children are required to wear a paint shirt.
This term we will focus on a variety of forms including drawing, painting, collage and print making. These forms will be explored through a unit called, “Still Life”. In this unit, Students investigate the unique qualities and details of a vase of flowers as a still life arrangement in this unit as the initial investigations for their art making in drawing, printmaking and collage. By considering this arrangement students develop understandings of the importance of balance, harmony and contrast in shapes and colours and how these concepts can be used in the making of artworks. The unit also offers opportunities for students to look at, in some detail, artworks made by artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Margaret Preston who interpreted similar kinds of subject matter in their artworks.

**Homework**
Homework will be sent home on Mondays fortnightly and should be returned on Thursday morning (fortnightly). Children will be given a list of words and quick recall to learn and will be encouraged to move through the levels of words and Maths equations. Students have a list of Public Speaking topics. The children are to prepare a short oral presentation to be given on their set day fortnightly. The homework tasks will be discussed in the class prior to it going home. Please write a note or come and see us if there any difficulties with homework. We expect homework to be of the same standard as class work. **It is a whole school expectation that children read each morning or night.**

**Uniform**
The children have been arriving at school in the correct uniform. We do encourage the children to maintain their neat appearance throughout the day. School hats MUST be worn everyday even in overcast or wet weather.

**Birthdays**
We love sharing with the children; however we would prefer it if birthday treats were sent to school in individual portions such as cupcakes. This saves a lot of valuable class time. Please remember Sacred Heart’s nut free policy for those children with allergies.

**Canteen**
Canteen days are Monday, Thursday and Friday.
Overview of the week
Wednesday PE (sports uniform)
Tuesday Library
Thursday Music and PE (sports uniform)
Homework due (every fortnight)
Friday Homework Handed Out (every fortnight)

Dates for the Diary
10TH February Opening School Mass
17TH February Welcome BBQ
21ST February Parent information session
1ST March Ash Wednesday Mass
17TH March St Patrick’s Day Liturgy

7TH -11TH March Wellbeing Week
Catholic Schools Week
29TH March Year 1 Class Mass 9:15
7TH April Holy Week Liturgy and Easter Picnic
7TH April Last Day of Term 1

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with your child.
Please don’t hesitate to speak to us, either before or after school by appointment, regarding any matter. You can also email us:

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Jessica.carroll1@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Maryanne Kelly and Jessica Laxale