



Curriculum Note and Class News

Year 4 – Stage 2

Term 1 – 2020

Welcome to Year 4 – our learning year is well and truly underway! Below is an outline of our units this term:

Religious Education

What is Prayer?

In this module, students will focus on prayer as a means of developing a meaningful relationship with God. Students will examine both formal and informal prayer, learning about what prayer means in the lives of individuals and the Catholic Church community. Students will connect these themes during the liturgical season of Lent, identifying key elements of the core scripture and contemporary experiences of the Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

English

Literacy Groups

Children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is instructing a focus group. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily.

Some of the aspects we will be looking closely at this term are:

- reading a variety of texts
- developing strategies for reading unknown texts
- comprehension strategies with a focus on linking to what we already know (self, other texts, global)
- listening while teacher models reading using a big book or serial reading

Spelling

We integrate spelling into our writing lessons and reading group tasks as well as demonstrate engaging ways to explicitly teach five core spelling strategies. We want children to think about patterns in our language as well as gain an awareness of what strategies they use.



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

Proof reading and editing skills are an important part of the writing process and are a focus for Stage 2.

Handwriting

Students in Year 4 are continuing to refine the correct formation of all letters in joined foundation style handwriting. Children have focused handwriting lessons each week. Correct posture and pencil grip are encouraged at all times. We expect a high standard of bookwork from the children in class and for home learning tasks.

Writing

In class the children are involved in construction of shared and independent texts. There will be both whole class and small group focus to examine how we compose texts. Grammar conventions and punctuation will also be taught. The types of texts to be covered this term are *Informative texts* and *Imaginative texts*, with a specific focus on poetry.

Mathematics

Throughout Term 1, Year 4 will be covering the following mathematical strands in numeracy:

Number and Algebra (Whole Numbers)

Students will count, order, read and record numbers up to five digits.

Addition and Subtraction

Students will use mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction involving two, three, four- and five-digit numbers.

Multiplication and Division

- Recall and use multiplication facts up to 10 x 10 automatically
- Relate multiplication facts to their inverse division facts
- Determine multiples and factors of whole numbers

Chance

Students will describe and compare chance events in social and experimental contexts.

Data

Students will select appropriate methods to collect data and construct, compare, interpret and evaluate data displays including tables, picture graphs and column graphs.

Length

Students will measure, compare and record lengths, distances and perimeters in metres, centimetres and millimetres and measure, compare and record temperatures.

History

Our History focus for semester 1 is called "**First Contacts**". The students will be researching the following areas this term:

- What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
- Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?

In Term 2, we will continue with this topic:

- Why did Europeans settle in Australia?
- What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

Students will be guided through investigations as well as choosing specific areas of interest for them to research and present their findings to the rest of the class. We will be looking at a variety of thinking strategies as we work through this unit.

Science and Technology

During Term 1, the students learning in science will focus on a unit called: Night and Day. This unit provides students with a range of activities in which, through engaging with the processes of scientifically and working technologically, they gather evidence to better understand that the Earth rotates on its axis and moves around the sun.

Students explore the sizes, shapes, positions and movements of the Sun, Earth and Moon. They investigate how shadows change throughout the day and link these changes to the Sun's apparent movement across the sky.

Personal Development/Health and Physical Education

During Term 1, students will explore the range of challenges they may be presented with and will recognise how being persistent builds resilience. They will investigate a range of responses and strategies to deal with challenges and different situations in order to build capacity to respond appropriately in the future.

Key Inquiry Questions:

- How does persistence build resilience?

Supporting Questions:

- How does who I am influence others?
- What skills and strategies do we need to be healthy, safe and empowered?
- How can I take action to enhance my own and others health, safety, wellbeing and participation in physical activity?
- How can I contribute to promote healthy, safe and active communities?

Core Values

Our Core Value for Term 1 is Respect. Children will also look at modeled behaviours that assist classroom learning, playground behaviour and caring for others in our school community.

Creative Art and Visual Arts

This term our Creative Arts will correlate with our History unit on First Contacts, as well as other Key Learning Areas. There will be a focus on drawing techniques throughout the term. Students will be using a variety of mediums in visual arts and participating in a weekly music/drama lesson on **Friday**.

Homework

Homework will be given to the children each week. It is given out on a Friday and is to be returned on the Thursday of the following week. Homework will include nightly reading, Maths and other home learning activities. Home reading can be from books of the students' own choice and pages read should be noted nightly in their homework books.

Other learning experiences may include research, physical education activities and social skills. Throughout the year there will be a particular focus on mastering times tables (1-12). Parents are asked to check that the homework is complete and sign the homework sheet.

BYODD/iPad Program

We are excited to be able to design activities to engage children in rich learning experiences using the school iPads and the technology provided through the implementation of the BYODD Program. The technology will enable us to promote the higher order thinking skills of analysing, evaluating and creating which are all essential for 21st Century learning. We plan to spend the first part of this term establishing and reinforcing protocols and rules around the use and care of the iPads and the expectations around the transition between home and school.

We know that technology provides opportunities to build general competencies and encourage children's development as independent problem-solvers within today's world. We believe that by bringing the iPad home daily, parents will have access to their child's individual learning which will hopefully further connect the home and school learning environments. Please refer to the following table of responsibilities that was recently emailed to parents.

Students will:	The School will:
Ensure iPads are fully charged before coming to school each day	
Have all equipment well labelled	
Have required apps loaded, updated and ready to be used	Provide a list of apps required for use at school
Ensure that the iPad has memory space available to accommodate the required learning tasks	Help to create cloud based storage spaces for children to save and showcase digital work
Remember to build in time for rest from screen time	Ensure an appropriate balance between onscreen and off-screen time each day by making use of a range of materials and spaces in learning experiences
Use collaborative sites for positive communication or comment	Reserve the right to remove inappropriate comments or uploads
Report issues or concerns with technology to staff	Work with CSO ICLT Services Team to address issues and concerns

Take care of all technology resources whether owned by themselves, Sacred Heart or other students	Work in partnership with parents to help children recognise the privileged position they are in, & to help develop personal responsibility for care of expensive resources
Take care to place the iPad on stable surfaces, and carry it with care	
Not share passwords or private information with others	
Choose to use appropriate apps and sites for learning	
	Provide appropriate choices in apps that represent good value and maximise learning and creative opportunities
	Provide opportunities for staff and parents about uses of technology to inform and create learning

Reminders

- Sport is held on Friday with Mrs Stephanie Munro
- Sport (extra PE lesson with classroom teacher) is on Tuesday for both classes
- Library is held on Wednesday for both 4Green and 4Blue with Mrs Melonie Harrison
- Music/Drama is held on Friday with Ms Susan Rudd

Year 4 students are to wear their sports uniform on Tuesday and Friday.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss your child's learning. Our email addresses are below and we will endeavor to reply within twenty-four hours.

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We look forward to a wonderful time of learning and growth in the year ahead!

Tim Huskins, Chris McBryde and Edwina Ovens