

KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION NOTE – 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you to Sacred Heart Community. We have loved seeing how well your child has started to settle into the routines of Kindergarten. We hope that they have a fantastic year and continue to bring such a positive energy to our classrooms each day.

Please see below a rundown of what we are aiming to cover this term and also an explanation of some the routines we are hoping to establish in Kindergarten this year.

Religion

In Religion, students will inquire into how prayer is a form of communication with God. They will investigate different ways that we can pray and how it nurtures our relationship with God. Students will explore prayer through our daily prayer circles and investigations into different types of prayer.

English

In English, the children will begin to explore Literacy in a variety of ways. They will participate in:

- The Sounds Write phonemic awareness program
- Guided writing sessions
- Independent writing
- Literacy activities based around quality books
- Guided Reading sessions
- Independent reading
- The formation of letters and numerals
- Sight word activities
- Exploring speaking and listening skills

In Week 4, after the Kindergarten Assessment is complete, the children will begin the Sacred Heart Home Learning program and will bring home readers, news topics to be presented and sight words. Further information regarding these programs will be sent home in Week 4. We will have a Literacy information evening for our junior primary parents on Tuesday 10th March. The evening will provide you with further information how to best support your child with their reading and writing at home.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the children will begin to develop their understanding, skills and mathematical language. The following concepts will be addressed:

- An understanding of the language of counting by naming numbers to and from 20 and beyond
- Connect number names, numerals and quantities up to 10 and beyond
- Compare and order the duration of events using the language of time
- Sort and classify familiar objects
- Copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings
- Sort, describe and name familiar 2-dimensional shapes and 3-dimensional objects in the environment
- We encourage children to be mathematicians who can Make, Say, Draw and Write about their thinking in Mathematics.

Units of Inquiry

In Kindergarten this year, we will focus on a variety of inquiry topics. Two units will run over the duration of the year, while the remaining four units will be in six week blocks. The units are arranged according to the following domains:

- Identity, Health and Wellbeing
- Cultural Diversity and Creative Expression
- Our Natural Environment and Sustainability
- Place, Space and Time
- Social Organisations
- The Physical World and Scientific Laws

In our Identity, Health and Wellbeing (Unit of Inquiry), the children will practise personal and social skills to positively interact with others. They will learn about how to make friends, identifying feelings and how to be safe at school and in the community.

The other Unit of Inquiry that we have started relates to Our Natural Environment & Sustainability domain. Throughout this unit we will be looking at the different seasons, identifying what living things need to grow, how weather patterns affect living things and our responsibility to care for the world. As this unit will aim to observe and appreciate the different seasons and how things grow. It will continue throughout the year.

The students will learn how to become confident communicators, curious researchers, persistent thinkers, compassionate collaborators and responsible self-managers as a part of our school-wide inquiry approach and recognising the Learning Assets we have to talk about "how we learn".

If you have any special skills that you would like to share in regards to any of our Units of Inquiry, we absolutely love guest speakers and would welcome you to come in and share your knowledge. We will give more specific details as the year progresses.

Physical Education

Kindergarten children are required to wear their sports uniform on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**.

On Wednesdays and Fridays, the children will participate in a Gross Motor program. They will be involved in activities to develop their fundamental motor skills.

The Arts

In Visual Arts, the Kindergarten children will experiment with different materials and techniques, as well as develop their fine motor skills. They will create and display artworks to communicate ideas. This term the children will use paper in a variety of ways to create artworks.

The children will also participate in a specialist art lesson lead by Mr Fox with the focus of Term 1 being on Drama and some introductory Media Arts skills.

Italian

Every Tuesday Kindergarten will participate in an Italian lesson taught by Mrs Lustri. These lessons will introduce the children to basic greetings and basic numbers.

Library Days

Children are required to bring a Library bag to their weekly lessons. We encourage the children to return and borrow a new book each week. Library borrowing will commence in Week 3. Library lessons are taught by Mrs Borgia.

The Arts, Italian and Library lessons will all be held on a Tuesday.

Requirements

Each child is required to bring in the following items for use in the classroom:

- A painting smock, labelled with their name. An old, adult T-shirt is ideal.
- A box of tissues (each semester)
- A packet of baby wipes

To have packed in their school bag:

- Spare underwear (nothing for your child to be worried or embarrassed about but it is always helpful to have a spare just in case)

Absentee Notes

If your child is away from school, we require a note to explain their absence. Please include the date/s of absence, the reason and sign the note. An email with this information is acceptable or using the link provided on SZapp.

Home Learning

We ask that you read with your child each night, help them to practise their sight words and prepare their news. A news roster will be sent home with your child's reading folder in Week 4.

Our home learning aims to link home and school, to revise skills learnt in class and build a love of reading and speaking.

Bag Tags

Please fill in the bag tag indicating how your child will go home each day of the week and return it to school. We will attach it for you. If there is a change to the regular routine, please email your class teacher/s. If the change occurs last minute, please contact the Front Office to ensure the message is received.

Signing Out

When dropping your child off after morning assembly or when collecting your child early from school, you will need to sign your child in/out through the Front Office. Please ensure you record the time and a reason for the late arrival or early departure. This information is required for the legal roll. If you are later than 9am your child needs to be signed in.

Interviews

Your children are important to us. It is difficult for us to give you our undivided attention if you come to discuss your child with us when we are in class, on duty, or at morning assembly. Please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher if a need arises. Please email us if you have any questions or queries and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. Any emails sent on the weekend or before 8am and after 4pm will be addressed the following work day. Any urgent matters please phone the Front Office.

Parents Helpers

After Week 4 we will be asking for parent volunteers in the classroom for different jobs. We will need helpers with reading/literacy, Gross Motor, art/craft and desk/classroom cleaning. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help in any way. Sign on sheets will be displayed in the Kinder classrooms during the Parent Information Night. These sign on sheets will then be displayed in the Kinder courtyard.

We would love a class parent Representative. Please contact the front office or your child's classroom teacher if you are interested.

Birthdays

We understand that some students like to bring in something to share with their class on their birthday. For practicality, we ask that these are individual items such as cupcakes, brownies, cookies or lollipops rather than a whole cake that needs to be divided. In addition to this, it would be appreciated if you could include an ingredients list and notify your child's teacher if your child cannot eat certain foods.

Fruit Break

Please ensure that children have a small serve of fruit or vegetables each day for fruit break. It is helpful when it is cut into small, manageable pieces.

Water Bottle

Please ensure your child has a water bottle with them each day.

Lunch

Please consider the amount of food that you pack your child for lunch. It is important that your child spends their break time both eating and developing their friendship networks through play. It is also helpful if you get your child to practise opening and closing any containers to foster their independence at school.

Harmony Day

Our Harmony Day is on the 20th March. During that week we will be recognising and celebrating our family histories and cultures.

If you have some way you could enrich our week please contact your class teacher.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held on a Friday afternoon commencing at 2:20 pm in the hall. This is where school awards are given out. Family members are welcome to attend. A list of children receiving awards is published the day before in the newsletter. Kindergarten will take a turn to host an assembly. We also lead the Palm Sunday liturgy on Thursday 2nd April and Nativity in December.

Term 1 Important Dates

- 21st Feb – School Swimming Carnival
- 26th Feb- Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30
- 9th March – Canberra Day Public Holiday
- 20th March- Harmony Day
- 30th March-1st April- Parent Teacher Interviews
- 3rd April – School Athletics Carnival
- 2nd of April – Kindergarten Palm Sunday Liturgy
- 9th April – Last day of Term 1
- 27th April- ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- 28th April – First day of Term 2

Communication

The school's calendar with all school events can be found on Sacred Heart SZapp (SHP Pearce). If you don't have SZapp the Sacred Heart school websites communication section has SZapp embedded with any key dates. You will find these in the events section of SZapp and on the school website sacredheartps.act.edu.au.

As always, please ensure that you check your emails, download the Sacred Heart School App and read the weekly newsletter for information relating to school events.

We look forward to working with you so that your child will have a happy and productive year.

Kindergarten Class Teachers

Kinder White: Samantha Bartley

Kinder Red: Vanessa Miller

Term 1 Specialist Teachers: Josie Borgia (Library) Aaron Fox (Arts) and Maria Lustrì (Italian)

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