

Stage 1 Parent Information Note Term 1 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you as we begin the 2020 school year. Our hope is that your child will have a happy year and will be challenged to always perform at his/her personal best. We are looking forward to being part of your child's journey of learning in Stage 1. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to us so that together we can help address any questions or issues. Please see the term calendars on SZapp, the website and in the newsletter for important dates for Stage 1 classes.

LEARNING ASSETS

In order to be prepared for lifelong learning and to conduct purposeful inquiry, students need to master a whole range of skills which are relevant to all subject areas as well as life outside school. Students need time to develop the following skills for learning:

Thinking Skills
Collaborative Skills (Social Skills)
Communication Skills
Self- Management Skills
Research Skills

These Learning Assets will be explicitly taught so students can talk not just about 'what we learn' but also 'how we learn'.

RELIGION

Our Religious Education unit this term is about prayer and what we as Catholics believe. Students will inquire into:

What Jesus believed, What we at Sacred Heart believe (in line with our 50th anniversary), The history of Sacred Heart Primary School and How prayers are important to our faith.

ENGLISH

Stage 1 classes will participate in a daily Literacy Block. Literacy Blocks will have a focus on sustained reading and writing each day. We will be using our classroom library to encourage daily reading and will be conferencing regularly with your child to monitor their reading strategies and promote fluency and understanding.

Our writing focus will be on Recounts, Retells and Information Reports. The students will look at the correct structure and tense for each text type and we will aim to publish a piece of writing towards the end of term.

We will be continuing the 'Sounds Write' spelling program.

Reading Eggs will continue for Year 1 students, which can be used at home and at school.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics we have an investigation focus, allowing for open-ended tasks in all areas of the Mathematics curriculum. We will build recall of numeration facts and encourage children to be learners who 'Make, Say, Draw and Write' about their thinking in Maths. Stay tuned for the Mathematics subscription for Year 2 students, which can be used at home and at school.

Year 1 topics to be covered this term are:

Number: forward and backward counting from a given number, skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s, addition and subtraction strategies, place value of two digit numbers, odd and even numbers, number recognition to 100. **Geometry:** names and properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects.

Measurement: length in informal units.

Probability: describe the chance in everyday events.

Year 2 topics to be covered this term are:

Number: skip counting 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, place value of three digit numbers, number patterns, and addition and subtraction strategies.

Measurement: measuring mass using formal and informal units.

Geometry: names and properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects.

Statistics: Collecting, displaying and interpreting a range of data.

Activities you can do at home to support our learning in maths is to play board and card games. To strengthen number skills: count and estimate with larger numbers; tell the time; and recognise shapes and their properties in the environment.

INQUIRY UNIT

Our first inquiry unit is called *We Are Sacred Heart*. We will be investigating ways that we can keep ourselves safe in a range of environments. This will include Protective Behaviours and will lead into social/emotional learning using the Highway Heroes program.

Our second inquiry unit will be *Our Natural Environment and Sustainability*. We will look at how our choices impact the sustainability of Earth's resources. We are hoping to visit the Cotter Dam. More information to come.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term we will be focusing on Gross Motor and athletics with the aim to increase our fitness and coordination. The Gross Motor Program will operate on Wednesdays. Adult helpers for our gross motor lessons are always needed, so please inquire as to our class timetable on Wednesdays. All Stage 1 classes are expected to wear sports uniform on Wednesdays and Fridays.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

1W, 1R and 2R will have lessons each Wednesday morning during Term 1.

2W will have lessons each Tuesday morning during Term 1.

CREATIVE ARTS - Creative Arts will be taught by Aaron Fox. The focus will be on Drama this term.

ITALIAN - Italian will be taught by Signora Maria Lustri.

LIBRARY- Library lessons will be with Mrs Josie Borgia. Please ensure your child brings in a library bag on their allocated library day. Red library bags can be purchased from the Clothing Pool.

HOME LEARNING

Reading – minimum 10 minutes every night:

- It is *essential* that Stage 1 students practise their reading every day to consolidate and build their reading skills. Please find ways to make reading a part of your child's daily routine. Children can choose to read from a range of texts, but they must be texts that they can read and comprehend during the minimum 10 minutes of Home Learning time. Please try to leave books that they can only 'browse through' and texts that are 'too hard to read' but are of interest to them, to share with you at other times.
- We will offer a number and range of Home Readers for children to bring home to read. However, if you have other books and texts that your child can and wants to read, please use these as well. Record what your child reads each day in their Home Reading Diary, which we hope to have ready by Week 3. Readers and the diary need to be carried in a book bag. Blue bags are available for purchase from the clothing pool.

- ***We will change readers and sign your child's Home Reading Diary on a Monday. Please send the diary to school each Monday morning.***

Word Work and News Inquiry Task – 30 minutes per fortnight:

- Your child will be rostered on once every fortnight to share News. This is an opportunity for them to practise their oral language skills in front of an audience. They can bring a small prop to show if they wish, but they should not prepare a written speech.

This term we have allocated topics to help prepare your child for presenting in front of the class. A weekly planner with the topics and your child's allocated days, will be sent home shortly. Sight words will be sent home over the next few weeks.

FRUIT BREAK AND WATER BOTTLE

Please send fresh fruit or vegetables for your child to eat each day during our morning fruit break. Slicing fruit into bite size pieces makes it easier for your child to eat their fruit. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them each day at school.

MEDICAL ALERT FORMS

Medical Alert Forms need to be filled in and returned to the school if your child has a medical issue.

We are a NUT FREE school. We request that nut products are not sent to school, as there are several children who have an anaphylactic response.

MEDICATION

All medications must be clearly labelled with your child's name and administration instructions. A form to 'Request to Dispense Medication' can be downloaded from our website. Medications must be given to the Front Office, where they will be stored and administered by the Front Office staff at the appropriate time.

ATTENDANCE

We ask that children be punctual for each morning assembly at 8.55 am, in order to start the day smoothly with their class.

It is a legal requirement that the school is notified, in writing, of any student absences. Please send a note upon your child's return to school. You have the option to hand write, use the link on SZapp or email the teacher directly.

If you know in advance that your child is going to be away, please advise us. If your child is absent for more than one day, please ring the front office to let us know.

SIGNING IN/SIGNING OUT

If your child arrives late or leaves early, you will need to sign the slip through the Front Office. This slip must be filled in and given to the classroom teacher as it is a legal requirement to keep these slips for the school roll.

INTERVIEWS WITH TEACHERS

Your children are important to us and continued contact between teachers/parents/carers is valuable. Please introduce yourself to the class teacher(s) early in term, and make time for a chat if you would like to. More formal interviews will occur at the end of Term 1, after interim reports are sent home. Parents

will be able to book a time using our online system.

For a quick notification parents and carers can catch us after morning assembly or most afternoons in the classroom (after the rush period). You are welcome to email us if you have any questions or queries or to book an appointment. We will respond to you as soon as possible, but we will not see emails while we are teaching. Any urgent matters please call the front office.

TOILET BREAKS

The children are strongly encouraged to go to the toilet at lunchtime, recess and before school. If your child has a toileting concern, please discuss it with your child's teacher.

SHOELACES

Children are encouraged to do up their own shoelaces. Please ensure you practise this skill with your child at home.

PARENT HELP

- Please clearly label your child's clothing and accessories with their name.
- If you are able to volunteer some time to help in the classroom, please speak to your child's teacher.
- We will be asking all classroom helpers to sign a 'Classroom Assistance Agreement' form. You will need to carry your WWVP whenever you are in the school.

Parent Rep- We would love to have a Parent Rep for each class again this year. Please contact us if you have any questions or are interested in this supportive role.

ITEMS TO BRING IN

We are asking each child to bring in a:

- box of tissues (each semester)
- a packet of wipes (each semester)
- hand sanitiser (each semester)
- head phones in a bag, with name clearly labelled
- a painting shirt
- It is handy also to have spare underwear in their school bag, just in case of accidents.

COVERING BOOKS

Your child has been given a number of exercise books, to which they have glued a cover sheet.

- We would appreciate a cover of clear contact on their: Literacy, Writing, Religion and Inquiry books.
- Free choice contact on their Free Writing books.

Reusable, plastic book covers are available from many stores in Canberra (ie. Officeworks). These are encouraged as they are a good sustainable option.

CORRESPONDENCE

Please read the newsletter and check SZapp for school news, calendar and updates. We regularly celebrate great learning and events with posts on our school Facebook page @SHPS Pearce, which can also be accessed from our website. The private Facebook group for our parents and carers is another way to find and share information.

Instructions for installing SZapp can be found on our website www.sacredhps.act.edu.au. You may need to update your subscription settings to 'Stage 1' for 2020. You may need the new security code if updating the SZapp app on your device. Please ask a staff member for the security code.

Most communication is in electronic form. If a note needs a reply, a printed copy will also be sent home with your eldest child. Please check their school bag regularly.

Important Dates for Stage 1 this Term

Opening School Mass 9.30	Friday 14 February
Swimming Carnival	Friday 21 February
Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30	Wednesday 26 February
Canberra Day	Monday 9 March
Harmony Day	Friday 20 March
P/T interviews	30 March – 1 April
Athletics Carnival	Friday 3 April
Holy Thursday	9 April
Good Friday	10 April
Easter Sunday	13 April
First Day Back	Tuesday 28 April

We look forward to working with you so that your child will have a happy and productive year in 2020.

Stage 1 Teachers

1 White*	Simonne Evenden Janica Morella Elysia Riley	simonne.evenden@cg.catholic.edu.au janica.morella@cg.catholic.edu.au (Term 1) elysia.riley@cg.catholic.edu.au (From Term 2)
1 Red	Claire Egan Richards	claire.eganrichards@cg.catholic.edu.au
2 Red	Dillon Beltrame	dillon.beltrame@cg.catholic.edu.au
2White	Helen Hamilton	helen.hamilton@cg.catholic.edu.au
Stage 1 Coordinator	Kerry Wode	kerry.wode@cg.catholic.edu.au
School Office		office.shps@cg.catholic.edu.au

* If your child has two teachers, please include both names in email communication