

Year 4 Term 1 2025 Curriculum Letter

SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SCHOOL KEW



Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new and exciting year in Year 4. The children are making a very successful transition into their new grade.

Congratulations to our class leaders for Semester 1, 2025:

4EO

Class Captains: James Katsambanis & Heidi Spencer

Environmental Monitors: Ari Lieu-Madhavi & Camille Delcoigne

4MD

Class Captains: Ella De Cruz and Ethan Lee

Environmental Monitors: Milly Clark and Evan Nerone

Religious Education

The RE topics for Term 1 are 'Meeting God Through Prayer' and 'Lent'. In the first unit, the students will explore how prayer is part of people's lives and will examine and experience a variety of ways to communicate with God through prayer. In the second unit, the children develop their understanding of the seasons of Lent and Easter.

Sacramental News: First Eucharist

Students in Year 4 are traditionally eligible to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist which is usually scheduled for Semester Two. This usually follows the reception of First Reconciliation in Year 3.

In the past it was indicated that all baptised students of Sacred Heart School should feel most welcome to participate in this important Sacrament. In addition, registration and preparation of students for the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be overseen by the school.

In the past it was indicated that any baptised students who may not have received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation are most welcome to apply for First Eucharist so that we can organise for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be conferred beforehand.

Later in the year, all students will undertake learning at school about Eucharist through the Religious Education Curriculum, which will support their understanding and preparation for this sacrament.

Please contact Gab Richardson if you need any further information.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM 2.0

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) recently published its revised Mathematics and English curriculums (English Version 2.0 and Mathematics Version 2.0). All Victorian schools will be using the Mathematics Version 2.0 and English Version 2.0 in 2025. At Sacred Heart we will be using the revised Mathematics 2.0 and English 2.0 for school reporting from Semester 1, 2025.

English 2.0

English Version 2.0 has been developed to be more flexible and invites skills to be transferred across language modes and contexts and is now organised into the following strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. Within these strands Reading and Viewing, Speaking and listening and writing will now be covered.

The English curriculum aims to ensure that students:

- learn to purposefully and proficiently listen to, speak about, read, view, write, create and reflect on a range of texts, through their historical, cultural and social contexts and across an increasing level of complexity
- understand how to use Standard Australian English appropriately, and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication, to create meaning
- develop interest and skills in examining and analysing texts, and develop an informed appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of literature
- appreciate, enjoy, analyse, evaluate, adapt and use the richness and power of the English language in all its variations to evoke feelings, form and convey ideas, and facilitate interaction with others

A deeper understanding of comprehension of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, will be a focus throughout the year.

Our Book Study for Term 1 is Storm Boy. Storm Boy is a novel written in 1964 by Colin Thiele. Set in the Coorong region of South Australia in the 1950's, Storm Boy is the story of a boy and his pelican. Storm Boy likes to wander alone along the fierce deserted coast among the dunes that face out into the Southern Ocean. After a pelican mother is shot, Storm Boy rescues the three baby pelicans and nurses them back to health. He names them Mr Proud, Mr Ponder and Mr Percival. After he releases them, his favourite, Mr Percival, returns. The story then concentrates on the conflict between his lifestyle, the externally imposed requirement for him to attend a school, the fate of the pelican, and the relationship of the boy, and later his father.

This book study will encompass all areas of English; Language, Literature and Literacy. This also includes a Fluency Read in which children will read the same passage of text to a partner 4 times a week to develop their reading fluency.

This year we will be moving away from the SMART Spelling program and implementing Spelling Mastery from Years 2- 6. Spelling Mastery is a fully scripted Direct Instruction program that has an extensive research base and is teacher directed. This closely aligns with the 2030 MACS Vision for Instruction. The program helps students understand the relationship between sounds, word parts, and spelling patterns.

Spelling

Spelling Mastery encourages students to learn strategies to spell correctly rather than rely on memory alone. There are three approaches within Spelling Mastery. Phonemic, whole-word, and morphemic.

- Through the **phonemic approach**, students learn sound-symbol relationship between letters and sounds that help students spell using predictable patterns.
For example, words like map, tap, fog, fan.
- The **whole word approach** teaches students high frequency words and irregularly spelled words that do not follow a predictable pattern.
Examples- 'answer' 'the' and 'people'.
- The **morphographic approach** teaches students that all words are made of one or more morphograph or word parts. They also learn rules that apply when combining morphographs to form words.
Examples- 'Re' as a morphograph has meaning. It means again. (repack, return, rerun) '-est' means the most. (lightest, happiest, friendliest).



Your child will learn to spell using all the above methods through lessons delivered in class. This means that homework may look a little different. Please do not be concerned if word lists aren't being sent home on a regular basis, as the focus of Spelling Mastery is for students to understand how to spell rather than spell 'by heart'.

We also recognise the need for practicing the skills learned in class, so when there are word lists sent home it would be mainly when added practice is called for.

Each child also will work through a workbook in class that was purchased via your booklist. All learning will be recorded in this book.

We look forward to starting this new journey of learning at Sacred Heart.

For homework, there might be some spelling words that students will be revising. Students will be revising words taught during the explicit teaching in class. List of words may differ between students.

Handwriting

Handwriting continues to be a focus in Year 4. We will be concentrating on posture, pencil grip, letter formation, joining of letters and legibility. We ask for your assistance in supporting your child to present all homework activities neatly and to a high standard.

Maths 2.0

The Mathematics Version 2.0 is organised into 6 strands: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability (commencing at Level 3).

Mathematics aims to ensure that students:

- develop useful mathematical and numeracy skills for everyday life and work, as active and critical citizens in a technological world
- become confident, proficient, effective and adaptive users of mathematics
- become effective communicators of mathematics who can investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives, think critically, and make choices as active, engaged, numerate citizens
- develop proficiency with mathematical concepts, skills, procedures and processes, and use them to demonstrate mastery in mathematics as they pose and solve problems, and reason with number, algebra, measurement, space, statistics and probability
- make connections between areas of mathematics and apply mathematics to model situations in various fields and disciplines
- develop a positive disposition towards mathematics, recognising it as an accessible and useful discipline to study
- appreciate mathematics as a discipline - its history, ideas, problems and applications, aesthetics and philosophy

Number

- Addition and Subtraction
 - Key ideas include combining, partitioning, part-part-whole, properties of addition, separation, comparison, properties of subtraction
- Fractions and Decimals
 - Key ideas include quantity, number triad, partitioning, equivalence, benchmarks
- Multiplication and Division
 - Key ideas include equal groups, composite units, properties of multiplication, division with a remainder, properties of division

Measurement

- Time
 - Key ideas include attribute, comparison, unit of measure, equivalence, conversion

Essential Assessment On-Line

Essential Assessment is a Victorian Curriculum Numeracy and Literacy assessment model that delivers a whole school approach to summative and formative assessment. Students will be assigned individual assessment tasks and activities throughout the year that aim to support their mathematical knowledge and key understandings of concepts taught. Literacy and Reading activities are also accessed for teachers and students to work through systematically. **This platform is for school use only and is not accessible for home use.**



EssentialAssessment™
Assessment and Curriculum made easy

Wellbeing

Year 4 students will be focussing on units from Respectful Relationships as part of our Inquiry unit - 'Healthy, Safe and Sound,' with a particular emphasis on emotional literacy. Activities will assist students to:

- Describe the influence that people, situations and events have on their emotions
- Investigate how emotional responses vary in depth and strength
- Understand how to interact positively with others in different situations
- Examine how success, challenge and failure strengthen personal identities.

Inquiry – Living in a material world

During Term 1, our science inquiry unit 'Living in a material world' will be investigating the range of physical and chemical properties of materials and their existing state of matter. We will also be exploring how these physical and chemical properties can be changed by either adding or removing heat through experiments.



Digital Technologies

iPads will be used across curriculum areas in Year 4 as part of the Digital Technologies Curriculum. During Term 1, we will set up our Year 4 Google Classroom, which is where students will access some daily class work and their homework online.

We will revise the iPad Responsible Use Agreement as part of a Cyber Safety focus. Students will also undertake the eSmart Digital Licence+ Program, introducing them to the knowledge and skills they will need to approach the challenges of the digital world. This program, which is accessed through the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, develops the students' digital intelligence, enabling them to use technology in a safe, balanced and healthy way through active self-regulation and self-awareness, and encourages them to communicate and collaborate online with respect, kindness and empathy.

Seesaw

We will continue using Seesaw this year. Please set notifications to 'on' so that you are alerted when your child uploads new learning they would like you to see, comment on and like.

Subject Teacher Timetable

The Timetable for Subject Teachers is as follows for Term 1:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homework Handed Out/Handed In Year 4 Sport	Meditation	Performing Arts Mandarin	Physical Education Visual Art	Meditation Assembly

Students are to wear their sports uniform on Mondays and Thursday.

Homework

It is very important that children read every night from a text they select, ideally with a page to be read **aloud and discussed with an adult**. These can be books from home or books from our class library.

For Term 1, weekly Homework will consist of Reading (10 minutes, four nights a week), Spelling (as required) and Numeracy. In addition, students may be asked to complete one other Maths/Religion/Inquiry/English task per week. Homework will be issued on a Monday (beginning Monday February 10) to be returned **signed by a parent** the following Monday.

We do not expect students to need to complete homework over the weekend.

Remember that Homework is not meant to be a challenge or a chore but a revision of work already covered in class with the main focus being the development of organisational skills. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any issues with Homework.

As mentioned above, when the Year 4 Google Classroom has been set up for the year, this is where students will access their homework.

Diaries

Diaries are used as a source of communication between parents and the classroom teacher and are also a record of what is scheduled for the week.

Please sign your child's diary on a Monday night to stay informed. Diaries are required to be at school **every day**.

Please remember: If your child is absent for any reason, make sure you inform the school before the school day commences by phoning the office and having the absence recorded or sending an email to admin@shkew.catholic.edu.au

Please also note that if your child arrives at school late to please have them signed in at the office and not taken straight to class.

If you have any need to contact us throughout the term we would love to hear from you via the usual methods, a note in the diary, a phone call to the office that we will return as soon as possible or an email to admin@shkew.catholic.edu.au that Caroline Reid will forward and again we will respond as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning and fun,

Liz, Mak and Matt.

Term 1 Important Dates:

Friday 21st February - Whole School Welcome 5:30pm

Tuesday 25th February - Open Day

Thursday 27th February - District Swimming (not all students)
Saturday 1st March - Prep and New Families Welcome 7pm
Tuesday 4th March - Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday
Thursday 6th March - Friday 7th March - School Closure Days
Monday 10th March - LABOUR DAY
Wednesday 19th March - Open Day #2
Wednesday 26th March - Parent/Teacher Chats 12:45pm finish
Wednesday April 2nd - School Photos
Thursday April 3rd - Sports Day
Friday April 4th - END OF TERM 12:45pm finish
Term 1 School Holidays
Mon 7th April - Tuesday 22nd April