**Curriculum Letter**

**Spring Term 2019**

**Year 1**

Well it’s been a whirlwind few weeks to start 2020 but we are all now firmly on course and all the children are adjusting very well to the staffing change in Year 1. I am very much looking forward to teaching all of your children for the rest of their time in the year.

As a school we want all children to reach their full potential and enjoy their time in school. We also want all grown-ups at home to be fully aware of what is happening in their children’s classrooms and what expectations we have of the children. To help with this, I have attached the annual overview so you can see the topics being taught throughout the year.

**Reading/Phonics Screening**

The children in school will be read to in lessons daily and we endeavour to try to listen to all children individually or in small groups on several occasions a week, even if this is not recorded in the children’s diaries. It is therefore important your children’s reading book comes to school every day. We also have a school library where children can borrow books of their choosing. The school library visits on a Wednesday.

As you may be aware, in June, all children in Year 1 will be required to take a Phonics Screening Test. Although we are working hard in school to ensure the children are prepared, the more reading that is happening outside of school, the easier it will be on the children. The pass mark for the previous several years has been 32-40 (80%), therefore it is vital all children are reading as often as possible and being immersed in books to help their understanding and vocabulary. There are plenty of practise materials online related to the test and after half-term I will also be sending homework related to it. If you have any queries regarding the Phonics Screening Test, please let me know.

**Homework**

Homework and spellings will continue to be sent home on a Friday to be returned the following week. Homework will always be related to what we have been learning in class and never anything new, unless it is research or craft-based.

**Online Resources**

A gentle reminder that to assist with Maths and Spelling skills, your children have access to MyMaths and Spelling Shed. The login details for which are inside the homework folders. I will be setting additional homework on MyMaths.

**PE**

PE is on a Monday and Wednesday. All PE kits should stay in school to help with the time consuming business of getting changed and having to find spare kit. If your child is at a club and has to take their kit home, please ensure it is returned in time for their next PE session. It would also be beneficial if all kit (and uniform) was name-labelled to avoid lost/missing items of clothing. All children will take part in PE unless there are medical reasons.

**Behaviour**

At Sacred Heart School our Behaviour Policy is firmly rooted in our Mission Statement. Our policy is based on positive reinforcement but does contain fair sanctions based on the actions of children witnessed by staff. The aim of any sanction is designed to encourage future good behaviour within a forgiving atmosphere where each day is a new day and a chance at a fresh start.

**Absences**

We ask all absences are registered with the school office as soon as you know your child will be off school for any reason.

**Toys**

Please could all children refrain from bringing toys into school. Several toys have made their way into school over the past few weeks and some have attempted to be ‘swapped’. We also do not want anything being accidentally broken in school.

In hope this information is useful and clears up any issues or queries you may have. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Mr Darlington