Dear Parents,

Welcome back to 2020 and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope you

had an enjoyable break spent with family and friends. We would like to thank you for your generosity with Christmas cards, gifts and wishes – they were all greatly appreciated - thank you.

The children are already settling in really well and looking forward to an interesting new term.

**Numeracy:**

We will focus on these topics from January to mid-term in February:

* Use of computer simulations to investigate and solve real-life problems
* Develop the idea of chance based on the number of possible outcomes
* Consolidate equivalence of fractions, decimals and %
* Make use of a calculator to find %
* Estimate angles to an accuracy of 10°
* Measure angles using a protractor
* Calculate angles in regular 2d shapes
* Understand the concepts of similarity and congruence
* Investigate the use of ProBot/LOGO to generate mathematical shapes and designs

**Literacy:**

This term we will base a lot of our Literacy work on the novel, ‘Under the Hawthorn Tree’ / ‘Street Child.’ These novels are set in the Victorian era and focus on the hardships of life at that time.

In Guided Reading Fiction Sessions we will focus on:

* Identifying features of a text that build suspense
* Understand the usefulness of book blurbs
* Become aware of the use of direct speech

Non-Fiction Sessions will focus on:

* Summarising different sides of an argument
* Recognising how arguments are constructed to be effective
* Signalling personal opinion clearly

In Writing we will concentrate on Procedure Writing and Personification Poetry.

We congratulate all your children who achieved so well in the Accelerated Reading Programme last term. The Programme has now started afresh for this term. We really encourage you to assist your child in using this Programme. The importance of daily personalised reading practice cannot be overstated. Recent studies indicate that when students spend 25 minutes a day reading suitably challenging books which they successfully understand (demonstrated by achieving 90% or more on the reading practice quiz), then they will achieve optimal reading age growth.

**Irish:**

Irish classes continue on a Thursday afternoon and once again we encourage you to discuss what new material your child has learned each Thursday.

**P.E:**

Mr Loane’s class will begin their swimming lessons on Tuesday 21st January. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child and we hope that you will ensure that your child comes fully prepared each week with the appropriate gear. There is no need to bring money to the swimming sessions as the children will not be in the shop.

Both classes will dance training with a specialised coach during January. Again, please make sure that your child comes fully prepared with their P.E. kit and trainers.

Rehearsals for our show “Peter Pan” will also be taking place on Mondays and Fridays with Aishling (Show Producer).

**Confirmation:**

As you know Confirmation will take place on Saturday 7th March in Christ the King Church. We will be focusing on completing a lot of preparation work for the Sacrament this term. We are aware that you are the primary educators of your children and therefore the responsibility for sacramental preparation firstly belongs to you. It is in your home that your child firstly experiences God’s love and learns about the life of Jesus. You can assist your child in their Confirmation preparation by:

* Making a connection with Baptism. You could light the baptismal candle at meal times
* Find your child’s baptismal certificate and share memories of this day
* Help your child choose a sponsor
* Pray together at meal times and at bed time
* Be part of our faith community by attending Mass each Sunday
* Give your child the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation
* Reflect together on what we discussed each day in class preparation

This is a beautiful Sacrament and we encourage you to fully engage in the preparation.

**Sacred Heart College Taster Day:**

The children will attend the Sacred Heart College on Tuesday 21st January to experience some of the subjects available there. Lunch will be provided for the children in the College.

Mrs Quinn and Mr. Loane

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