Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

13TH NOVEMBER 2023



Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13th November	Odd Socks Day - The children can wear odd scoks to school. They wear their uniform.
Monday 13th November	David and Goliath assembly for the pupils.
Tuesday 14th November	Parents and Pupils can go to their classrooms to look at their books from 3:30pm.
Friday 17th November	Turning Disability in Possibility assembly for the pupils.
Monday 20th November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 3/4 (St Peter)
Tuesday 21st November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 22nd November	St Cecilia's Feast Day - The children in this class can wear their own clothes to school.
Wednesday 22nd November	Parents Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), Year 4 (St Alphonsa), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Thursday 23rd November	Parents Consultations – Year 2 (St Therese), Year 5/6 (St Padre Pio)
Friday 24th November	Occasional Day - School is closed

A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely couple of weeks at school since half term. In this newsletter you can read about all the exciting things that have taken place.

This week is Anti-Bullying week. The children have two special assemblies; David and Goliath and Turning Disability into Possibility. They will be completing activities in class and have worn odd socks to school today.

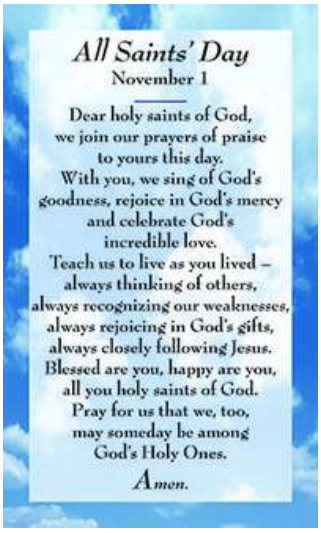
Tomorrow, Tuesday 14th November, you can visit your child's class to look at their books and next week we have Parent Consultations.

Have a lovely week.
Mrs Smith



All Saints Mass

On Wednesday 1st November, we attended the All Saints Mass at Church. This Mass celebrated all saints who are in heaven. These include all known and unknown saints.



Year 4 Mass

On Thursday 2nd November, the Year 4's had their year group Mass. They read and sang beautifully. Their focus was All Souls where they remember those who have died.



Key Stage 2 Sats Presentation

On Thursday 2nd November, Mrs Haywood delievered a presentation on the Year 6 Key Stage 2 Sats. This included details of how the tests are adminstered, types of questions and how you can support your child at home for these. Thank you to all of you who attended this.

A copy of the presentation will be sent home.

KS2 Year 6 SATs Dates - May 2024

Date	Test
Monday 13th May 2024	Grammar & Punctuation test - 45 minutes Spelling Test - 20 minutes
Tuesday 14th May 2024	English Reading Test - 60 minutes
Wednesday 15th May 2024	Mathematics Arithmetics (Paper 1) - 30 minutes Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2) - 40 minutes
Thursday 16th May 2024	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3) - 40 minutes

Year 4 Football Match

Last Tuesday, some of our Year 4 pupils played a football match against Parkside. They won 4-0. The children worked together as a team fantasically and they were excellent ambassadors for the school. Well done.



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Fireworks

On Saturday 4th November, we had our Firework's Display. Thank you to FOSH for organising this, to all of the parents and staff who helped and to everyone who attended. It was a fantastic event and the fireworks were some of the best I have seen. It was wonderful to see so many of our current and past pupils attend.


















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Rememberance

Last week, the pupils learnt about Remembrance Day and how we remember those who have died in wars. The Caritas Ambassadors in St Matthew's House have been selling poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion and in class the children have been completing work on Remembrance Day.



























ECO Ambassadors

To help cut our carbon usage, the ECO Ambassadors are leading our first ever Christmas Jumper SWAP Day.



We are holding our first ever Christmas Jumper Swap Day!

1. Bring in an old Christmas jumper that no longer fits you or you no longer wear.
2. Your teacher will write your name down.
3. You can choose a new jumper for no money at all!

All jumpers need to be in school by Friday 17th November.

They led an assembly on this last Friday. They explained about carbon usage and how the jumper swap is going to work.



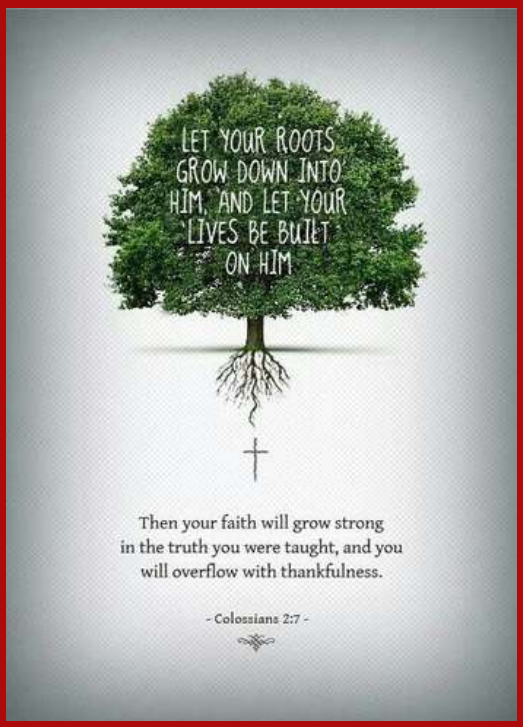
They also set the children the challenge of seeing how they could cut their carbon usage at home. The children have taken a guide home to use at home. They have been asked to bring this back in at the end of November. The ECO Ambassadors will then count how many pupils have completed each action and celebrate their efforts.

Phase 5/6 Mass

On Thursday 9th November, Phase 5/6 had their phase Mass. They read brilliantly and sang beautifully. They welcomed parents into Mass by handing out song booklets, two of the pupils played the violin and accordian and two pupils were altar servers. The theme of the Mass was 'Growing in Faith'.

This was a perfect theme for Phase 5/6 as they are not only growing in faith themselves but they are also helping children across the school to do so. The Year 6's are excellent role models for their buddies; the House Captains lead Gospel assemblies on a Monday; the Class Apostles lead Friday's celebration assembly and class workship; the Prayer Leaders give up their lunchtimes to lead prayer groups for younger pupils and the Caritas Ambassadors are leading the school in fundraising for charities and acts of kindness.

Well done Phase 5/6.



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Catholic Social Teaching



Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

This half term we are focusing on Option for the Poor. The 'preferential option' means allowing someone to have the first choice. It means giving someone the best that is available; not just the scraps or leftovers. God calls us to look for those in need and work hard to support them as best we can.

The Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors have planned our Christmas fundraising.

The Caritas Ambassadors in St Matthew's House have been selling poppies this week.





The Caritas Ambassadors in St Mark's House are helping with the Samaritan Christmas Boxes.

The Caritas Ambassadors in St Luke's House are leading a Christmas Hamper collection where each class will collect items for the Bushey Red Trust Food Bank - more information will follow on this.

The Caritas Ambassadors in St John's House are leading a Christmas Card campaign where the children will make Christmas cards for people in our parish and local community.

All of the Caritas Ambassadors are continuing to support Mary's Meals. £19 provides a child with lunches for a whole year and enables them to go to school. So far we have rasied £103. This will pay for five children to have lunch all year. In December, we are having a sponspored Elf Run to raise more money for this charity. Sponsor forms will be sent home with the children next week.

You can learn more about Mary's Meals on the link below:
www.marysmeals.org.uk/

Mission Statement, Aims & Values

Our mission statement is 'Loving and learning with Christ as our teacher.' We live this out in everything we do at school and it is underpinned by our core aims which are for the pupils to be:

Disciples of Christ
Ready to learn
Secondary Ready

To help these three core aims we focus on Catholic Social Teaching, our LEARNER acronym and British Values.

Learner Acronym

L – Love
E – Engage
A – Articulate & Aspire
R - Remember
N – Nurture
E – Effort
R – Resilience

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Learner Acronym Focus

Over the next two weeks, we are focusing on E for Effort. The more engaged pupils are in lessons the deeper their learning will be. We use a range of strategies in class to support the pupils to be fully engaged in their learning. This includes pupils explaining their ideas to their talk partner, all pupils showing the answer using whiteboards or resources and having clear routines and structures in lessons so that the pupils know how to complete their learning. Please discuss with your children how engaged they feel when they are in lessons.





British Values

Alongside this we also actively promote British values to ensure our pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong' all people living in England are subject to its law. The key values are:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths, races and cultures.

This half term we are focusing on Rule of Law. We do this by:
Ensuring that our school rules and expectations are clear and fair.
In RE, PSHE and across the curriculum we help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
We help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made.
We help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals.
We include visits from the police in the curriculum.
We teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.
We develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts.
We train our Year 5 and 6 pupils as peer mediators and they support each other in resolving conflicts.
To help your children with this, please remind and encourage them to follow these school rules:
We use kind words and kind hands.
We wear our uniform with pride. During the winter, the children must all wear a shirt and tie.
The playground equipment is only used during school hours.
When entering and leaving school pupils and parents always use the pesdestrian gate.
Scooters and bikes are left in the bike shelter when pupils go onto the playground.
We thank you for supporting us with this.
There are many ways we celebrate the pupils achievements and exemplary behaviour. We give verbal praise, written praise, stickers, headteacher stickers, smile awards and house points.
Last half term the house with the most points was St Luke's House.
Well done to St Luke's House.



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Governor Vacancies

We are currently looking for Foundation and Parent Governors. Governors play an important role in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of our school and represent the Bishop on the governing body.

The main role of the governing body is to operate at a strategic level, ensuring that the Catholic vision and character of the school is upheld. Governors hold the Headteacher and leadership team to account, overseeing the setting of the school budget, managing the school's admissions criteria and are involved in the recruitment of senior leadership.

An advert with more information about these roles has been sent out with this newsletter. If you would be interested in either of these roles, please contact the school office.

School Crossing Patrol

Hertfordshire County Council are recruiting for a School Crossing Patrol for our school. Please see the flyer below:



Attendance

Our attendance is continuing to drop slightly each week. It is currently 96.4%. We also have many children arriving late to school. Since September we have had 214 occurances of lateness.

Research shows that the higher a child's attendance the better they do at school academically and the better social skills they have to develop friendships. Each day they miss or time they are late has a detrimental effect on their attainment and friendships. It is imperative that you do not take you child out of school for day trips or holidays. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Wellbeing

Hertfordshire have partnered with BFB Labs to offer Young People across Hertfordshire free, instant access to Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage, a digital therapy delivered through a fun and engaging mobile game to help 7-12 years olds learn how to manage and reduce symptoms of anxiety whilst building resilience and skills to support them longer term, gain confidence and thrive. You can find out more information about this and access this on the link below.

https://www.withyouth.org/how-we-can-help/lumi-nova/



Pupil Premium Funding

In certain circumstances, schools are able to claim approximately £1,600 of extra funding per child for pupils whose parents are in receipt of various benefits. This funding is available to all eligible children in school, from Nursery to Year 6. The criteria are the same as they would be for applying for 'free school meals' in KS2. The money can be used to support anything that improves a child's enjoyment, wellbeing, achievement or attainment at school. The funding could be used to pay for individual music tuition, 1:1 maths/literacy support, Breakfast Club and After School Club places, etc.

If you think that you or your partner may be eligible to claim this extra money for your child please apply directly using the following website:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Once successfully applied for, this funding will remain in place each year that your child is with us. However, you will need to reapply for the funding when your child moves from Nursery to Infant and Infant to Juniors (when they leave Nursery to move to Reception and when they leave Year 2 to move into Year 3).

If you have any queries, please speak to the School Office in confidence.

Head's Forum

Last week, I held a Head's Forum where we discussed the new website and newsletter. Thank you to the parents who attended. You feedback is really valued and helps us to continue to develop as a school.

Reception Admissions

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 and you would like to apply for a place in Reception at Sacred Heart School for September 2024, please apply to your Local Authority and complete our school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Please submit the school's SIF directly to our school office, along with any supporting documents.

If you would like to visit our school please contact the school office, 01923 901179, who will arrange an individual tour with Mrs Smith, Head of School. On our website, you will find a copy of our school brochure, which will give you an insight to our school, our Supplementary Information Form (SIF), and our Admissions Policy for 2024-2025.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice is signed by priests for all practising Catholics defined by Canon Law; this form is available from your parish Priest.

Fr Jim will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice after Mass on Sundays.

1st November 2023

Online system opens to apply for a place in Reception for September 2024

15th January 2024

Deadline to apply for a school place

16th April 2024

National Allocation Day

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Autumn Term Dates



Any changes are highlighted in yellow.	
Date	**Event**
Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13th November	Odd Sock Day - The children can wear odd socks to school. They should still be in uniform.
Monday 13th November	David and Goliath Assembly - just for pupils
Tuesday 14th November	3:30pm – Parents and Children can visit Classrooms to look at books
Friday 17th November	Turning Disabilty into Possibility Assesmbly
Monday 20th November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 3/4 (St Peter)
Tuesday 21st November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 22nd November	Parents Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), Year 4 (St Alphonsa), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Wednesday 22nd November	St Cecilia's Class (Yr 1/2) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day
Thursday 23rd November	Parents Consultations – Year 2 (St Therese), Year 5/6 (St Padre Pio)
Friday 24th November	Occasional Day – School is closed
Thursday 30th November	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St Andrew's Day the children may wear blue, white or tartan clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Wednesday 6th December	Phase 1/2 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Play – 9:15am in the hall – younger siblings who are not school age are welcome.
Thursday 7th December	Phase 1/2 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Play – 9:15am in the hall – no younger siblings.
Thursday 7th December	Junior Advent Service – 10:45am in the Church
Friday 8th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Years 1 up to Year 6 go to Church.
Tuesday 12th December	Phase 5/6 Trip to Lincolnsfield Centre
Wednesday 13th December	Reception Christmas Play – 9:30am – 10am
Thursday 14th December	Nursery Christmas Play – 11am
Wednesday 20th December	End of term and Christmas Dinner Day. School finishes at 1:15pm. The children may wear their own clothes, a Christmas jumper and a Christmas hat.



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Spring Term Dates

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 5 swimming every Friday except Friday 1st March over the Spring Term
Thursday 4th January	Start of Term - Children return to school
Friday 5th January	Epiphany – Mass in Church – Year 4 to lead
Monday 15th January – Wednesday 17th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Wednesday 17th January	5pm in school - Religious Education Parent Presentation
Thursday 18th January	Lancaster Model Session with Year 6
Monday 22nd January – Wednesday 24th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Wednesday 31st January	St John Bosco (Yr 6) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Thursday 1st February	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 2nd February	1:30pm – Candlemas Liturgy in the hall
Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February	Feeling Good Week & Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6th February	Internet Safety Day – Want to talk about it? Make space for conversations about life online.
Thursday 8th February	St Josephine Bakhita Class (Year 5) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Thursday 8th February	9:15am - Year 6 Year Group Mass in Church – Year 5 Maths with Teacher and TA
Monday 12th February	Electric Umbrella Co. Production at school
Tuesday 13th February	Computing including Internet Safety Parent Presentation
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday Service in Church
Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February	Half Term
Monday 26th February	Children return to school
Tuesday 27th February	Maths Parents Presentation in School
Wednesday 28th February – Friday 1st March	Yr 5 Retreat - SPEC



Spring Term Dates continued

Date	Event
Thursday 29th February	Head's Parent Forum in school
Friday 1st March	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St David's Day the children may wear red, white, green or yellow clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 5th March	Parents can go into school to see their children's work.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day - children come into school dressed as a character, object or something related to a book.
Friday 8th March	Mothers' Day Assemblies - live streamed - TBC
Monday 11th March	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 3/4 (St Peter)
Tuesday 12th March	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 13th March	Parents Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), Year 4 (St Alphonsa), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Thursday 14th March	Parents Consultations – Year 2 (St Therese), Year 5/6 (St Padre Pio)
Friday 15th March	Children come in wearing red, white and orange to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Non-Uniform day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Monday 18th March	Senco Drop Ins - 9:30 am- 11am. Please ring the office if you would like to book a slot.
Tuesday 19th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play in school - 9:15am
Wednesday 20th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play in school - 9:15am
Thursday 21st March	Junior Lent Service in Church - 10:30am
Thursday 21st March	Reconciliation for Years 3 - 6.
Thursday 28th March	End of Term and Easter Bonnet Parade. School finishes at 1:15pm.
Monday 26th February	Children return to school



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Summer Term Dates

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 4 swimming every Friday up to Friday 24th May
Monday 15th April	Children return to school
Tuesday 16th April	St Bernadette's Class (Yr 3) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day which is on 16th April.
Thursday 18th April	Beginning of Term Mass - Year 3 to lead
Tuesday 23rd April	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St George's Day the children may wear red and white clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds.
Tuesday 23rd April	5pm - Religious Education Parent Presentation in school
Thursday 25th April	Year 5 Year Group Mass in church
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day
Thursday 2nd May	Phase 1/2 Mass in Church
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7th May – Thurs 9th May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Wednesday 8th May	5pm – Spanish Parent Presentation in school
Thursday 9th May	Ascension Mass in Church
Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May	Year 6 Sats
Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May	Year 6 Residential Trip to Longridge
Tuesday 21st May	9 – 10:15 – EYFS Sports Day 10:45 – 12:00 – Phase 1/2 Sports Day 1:15 – 2:30 – Phase 3/4 Sports Day
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	Half Term
Swimming	Year 3 swimming every Friday up to Friday 12th July
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th June – 7th June	Multiplication Check
Wednesday 5th June	5pm - Music Parent Presentation in school
Friday 7th June	Sacred Heart Feast Day Mass for Years 1 – 6 in Church at 9:15am. Phase 1/2 to lead. Whole school picnic at 12pm to 1:pm on the school field.
Monday 10th June – Friday 14th June	Multiplication Check and Phonics Screening
Thursday 13th June	St Anthony (Yr 1) wear their own clothes to celebrate their feast day



Summer Term Dates continued

Monday 17th June – Friday 21st June	Sports Week
Monday 17th June	All classes from Nursery up to Year 6 - Fathers' Day class assemblies – these will be live streamed.
Tuesday 18th June	9:15 – Phase 5/6 Sports Day
Thursday 20th June	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Monday 24th June – Friday 28th June	One World Week
Tuesday 25th June	International Day
Tuesday 25th June	9:30am – 11am SENCO Drop Ins – If any parent would like to meet Mrs Travers please contact the office and they will give you a time slot.
Thursday 27th June	Phase 3/4 Mass in Church
Friday 28th June	St Peter and Paul Mass in Church
Monday 1st July	St Peter's Class (Yr3/4) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day which was on 30th June.
Tuesday 2nd July	St Bernadette's (Yr 3) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Wednesday 3rd July	St Peter's (Yr 3/4) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Wednesday 3rd July	6 – 7:30pm – Phase 5/6 Production
Thursday 4th July	St Alphonsa's (Yr 4) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Thursday 4th July	6 – 7:30pm – Phase 5/6 Production
Thursday 11th July	Transition Day
Friday 12th July	St Anne's class (Nursery) wear their own clothes to celebrate the feast day of St Anne which is on 26th July.
Thursday 18th July	End of Term school finishes at 12:30 pm for Years R up to Year 5 (pupils have lunch in school) School ends at 1:30pm for Year 6 pupils. 9:15 – Year 6 Leavers Mass in Church