Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

19TH DECEMBER 2023

Dear God,
Thank you for sending your Son Jesus down to open the gates of heaven. Thank you for giving us a time to wait and prepare for Jesus. Please help us to prepare for Jesus during this special time and to spend more time with you.
Amen
Written by Cecily



Upcoming Key Dates

Wednesday 20th December	Chrstimas Diinner Day. The children can wear their own clothes, a Chrsitmas jumper and Christmas hat to school. End of the day 1pm - EYFS 1:05pm - Phase 1/2 1:10pm - Phase 3/4 1:15pm - Phase 5.6
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



🌟 Season's Greetings: A Message from the Head 🎄✨"

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, the students of Phase 5/6 embarked on an educational journey to the Linconsfield Centre, enhancing their learning in a fun and interactive way. Meanwhile, Reception wowed us with their excellent nativity performance on Wednesday, followed by an equally delightful performance by Nursery on Thursday. Also, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 went to Church for Reconciliation.
Yesterday, our spirited students participated in a Festive Fun Run for Mary's Meals, guided by our dedicated Caritas Ambassadors. It was heartwarming to see the children come together for a good cause.
Tomorrow is Christmas Dinner Day. We invite the children to come to school dressed in their own clothes, adorned with a Christmas Jumper and a festive Christmas Hat.
Wishing you all a joyful and festive Christmas.

Warm regards,
Mrs. Smith



Exploring Lincolnsfield: Experience the Excitement of Phase 5/6 Trip

On November 29th, Phase 5/6 embarked on a captivating journey to the Lincolnsfield centre. The WW2 school visit transported the children to 1939 England, offering an immersive and enjoyable experience that allowed pupils to step into the shoes of evacuees. Through hands-on activities, they delved into the intricacies of ration cards, predecimal coinage, and weights. The excursion included a visit to a 'bombed out' London street, a tour of a uniquely reconstructed 1940s house, interaction with authentic wartime artifacts and clothing, participation in drill sessions, responding to air raid alerts, and much more.













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Magical Moments Unveiled: Reception Nativity Extravaganza 🌟🎭"

In a delightful event last week, our Reception students took center stage for their Nativity performance. Their acting prowess and beautiful singing created a memorable experience for all.
A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated staff for their hard work in directing the play and coordinating costumes.
We extend our gratitude to parents for your invaluable support in providing costumes and taking the time to listen to your children rehearse the songs at home. Your presence at the play added to the joyous occasion, and we appreciate your ongoing involvement in making these moments special.

















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✨ Nursery Nativity Extravaganza Illuminates the Magic of Christmas! 🎉

Last week, our Nursery students performed their Nativity. They stole the show with their endearing performance. Dressed in the sweetest outfits, they sang with pure innocence, filling the room with the magic of Christmas. Their bright smiles and enthusiastic voices truly warmed our hearts.

A big thank you goes out to our dedicated staff for their hard work in directing and teaching the children the beautiful songs that made the Nativity truly special. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents for organising the adorable costumes that made our little performers look fantastic on stage. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend the play, your presence added an extra layer of joy to the occasion.





Enchanting Moments: EYFS Advent Retreat Day Delights ✨

Last Friday, Phase EYFS had their Advent Retreat Day, immersing themselves in lessons about the preparations for the birth of Jesus.











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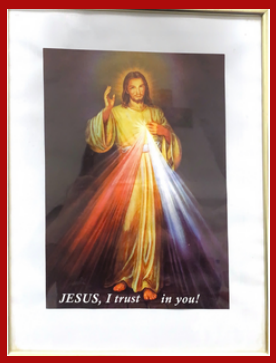




The children enjoyed a wonderful day learning about the preparations for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Sacred Heart Picture: A Grateful Acknowledgment for a Meaningful Chapel Donation 🙏

We express our heartfelt gratitude to a generous parishioner who donated a Sacred Heart of Jesus picture to our Chapel. Father Jim blessed this meaningful addition, and it now holds a pride of place, enhancing the sacred atmosphere of our chapel. Thank you for this cherished contribution.



Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations, Amelie, for being the winner of the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Card Competition. We are delighted to announce that Amelie's outstanding design has been selected to feature on the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas card this year. A heartfelt congratulations to Amelie for her creativity and artistic achievement! 🎉👏

Dear God,
Thank you for being the Saviour of the World. Please help me to be kind and loving to everyone in my family. Thank you for my family and firends.
Amen
Written by Beatrice

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Festive Fun Run for Mary's Meals

We are thrilled to share the enchanting highlights of our recent Junior Advent Service! 🎄✨ Our enthusiastic junior students came together to celebrate the spirit of the season, spreading warmth and joy throughout our school community. 🌟👏

From heartwarming performances to heartfelt reflections, the Junior Advent Service was a beautiful showcase of our students' talents and the true meaning of this festive time. 🎶🕊️ Each year group contributed to the magical atmosphere, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come. 🌈💖

Thank you parents and carers for joining us for this. We look forward to many more joyful moments as we continue to celebrate the season together! 🌈🎁
















🌟 Sacred Heart School Scoreboard Spectacle! 🌟

Monday, December 4th: Girls' Football Match Highlights
Our talented girls took the field in a thrilling football match against St John's School and emerged victorious with a superb 2-0 win. Their outstanding teamwork and skills showcased the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Monday, December 11th: Boys' Double Header Against Hartsbourne
The boys had an action-packed day, playing two games against Hartsbourne. Demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork, they secured a fantastic 4-2 victory in one game and a 3-1 win in the other. Our young athletes proved to be outstanding ambassadors for our school, displaying dedication and skill on the field.

A resounding applause to our talented young athletes for their remarkable performances, teamwork, and for representing Sacred Heart with pride. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to more sporting successes in the future!

👏 Well Done👏



Exploring the True Meaning of Christmas: Phase 5/6 Workshops by the Watford Trust 🌟

Last week, our students in Phase 5/6 participated in engaging workshops conducted by the Watford Trust. These enlightening sessions centered around the true meaning of Christmas, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the holiday season. 🎄✨



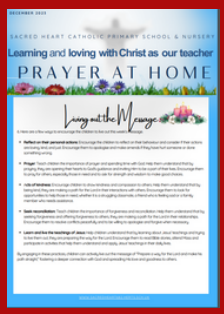
Poster created by Chika

Prayer at Home

Please remember to use your Prayer at Home newsletters with your children at home.







RE Newsletter

Please click on the link below to read the December RE Newsletter.
www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

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Catholic Social Teaching - Option for the Poor



This half term, our focus centers on the theme of "Option for the Poor," drawing inspiration from compassion, kindness, and the principles embedded in our faith.

So, what does this "preferential option" entail? It involves offering the best to others, not merely the leftovers or scraps. In alignment with our faith, God encourages us to extend this preferential option in our daily lives.

Our mission this term revolves around extending a helping hand, offering a kind word, or being a friend to those in need. It's a commitment to sharing and caring, ensuring everyone experiences a sense of being special and loved. Much like how we desire the best for ourselves, let's strive to give our best to others.

Throughout the term, we have delved into stories, engaged in activities, and fostered discussions that enlighten us on how we can become superheroes of kindness, supporting those around us in both significant and subtle ways.

Caritas Ambassadors' Festive Initiatives

Exciting news from our compassionate Caritas Ambassadors as they take the lead in spreading joy and goodwill this festive season!

1. Sponsored Run for Mary's Meals:
In an exciting initiative, our Caritas Ambassadors took the lead in organizing the Fun Run, as previously mentioned in this newsletter. The event aimed to support Mary's Meals, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility among our students.

2. Christmas Hamper Collection by St Luke's House: In the spirit of giving, our Caritas Ambassadors in St Luke's House are spearheading a heartwarming Christmas Hamper collection. Each class is collecting items to fill these hampers, which will be donated to the Bushey Red Trust Food Bank. Thank you for those who have already brought an item in. The children can still bring in items for this next week.

3. Christmas Card Campaign by St John's House: Meanwhile, the Caritas Ambassadors in St John's House are initiating a heart-touching Christmas Card campaign. Our creative youngsters are crafting beautiful Christmas cards to spread festive cheer to members of our parish and local community. This thoughtful gesture aims to bring smiles and warmth to those around us during the holiday season. If your child would like to make a Christmas card for this campaign, they can give this into their teacher next week. Inside the card they can write a Christmas message and write that the card is from the pupil at Sacred Heart School.

The Caritas Ambassadors are not the sole leaders in charitable endeavours; Araliya has demonstrated her compassion by donating her hair to the Princess Trust, showcasing the spirit of kindness and generosity among our students. Well done Araliya.

Thank you for joining us in supporting these initiatives and fostering a spirit of generosity, love, and community within Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. Together, let's make this festive season truly magical for everyone!







Learner Acronym Focus

Over the next two weeks, we are focusing on E for Effort.
Here are some ways that children can increase the effort they put into their work.

1. **Set Fun Goals:** Think about what you want to learn or do better in school. Create small goals that you can celebrate when you achieve them.
2. **Join In Class Activities:** Raise your hand, ask questions, and talk about what you're learning. Being part of the class makes learning more exciting.
3. **Take Good Notes:** Jot down important things your teacher says. It's like making a treasure map for your brain!
4. **Ask for Help:** If something is tricky, don't be shy! Ask your teacher or a friend for help. Everyone learns in different ways.
5. **Break Big Tasks into Small Bits:** If you have a big project, break it into small parts. It's like putting together a puzzle one piece at a time.
6. **Think Positive:** Believe in yourself! If something is hard, remember you can get better with practice. Every mistake is a chance to learn.
7. **Celebrate Your Wins:** When you do well on a test or finish a project, give yourself a little cheer! Celebrate your hard work and success.
8. **Take Care of Yourself:** Eat healthy, get enough sleep, and play outside. A happy, healthy you is ready to learn and have fun.
9. **Practice Learning:** Go over your notes and read your books again. It's like practicing a game to get really good at it.

Your support in encouraging these positive learning habits at home will greatly contribute to your child's success in school – whether it's celebrating their achievements or simply talking about their day, your involvement makes a world of difference!

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.

Next half term, we are focusing on Individual Liberty. Some of the ways in which we promote Individual Liberty are:
1) Pupils create art work using pictures and words that represent who they are.
2) In lessons we encourage pupils to share their ideas and thoughts and to ask questions. This helps them to form their own opinions.
3) In lessons pupils play games together that develops their teamwork and collaboration and emphasises the importance of contributing to the group.
4) We use 'Zones of Regulation' to encourage pupils to express how they feel and they learn how to regulate their emotions.

You can nurture individual liberty at home by fostering open communication, respecting their child's choices, and encouraging decision-making through age-appropriate responsibilities and positive reinforcement.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current attendance rate stands at 95.7%, and while this is commendable, we aim to achieve a target of 97%. Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic progress, fostering a positive and structured learning environment for the entire class.

Since September, we've recorded 365 instances of lateness. Punctuality is not only vital for your child's academic success but also plays a key role in maintaining a positive and structured learning atmosphere for the entire class.

Why It Matters:

Regular attendance and punctuality establish the foundation for a successful learning experience. Consistent routines contribute to your child's academic growth, and arriving on time ensures they don't miss essential instructional time.

How You Can Help:

1. **Timely Arrival:** Please ensure your child arrives at school on time, ready to embrace a day of learning.
2. **Communication:** If your child is unwell, please inform the school as soon as possible to facilitate appropriate support.
3. **Holiday Planning:** Schedule family holidays during school breaks to avoid disruptions to your child's education.

Your Ongoing Support:

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support in emphasizing the importance of attendance and punctuality. By working together, we can create an optimal learning environment for every child at Sacred Heart Primary School.



Managing Anxiety and Stress This Christmas: Tips from Action for Children

As we approach the festive season, Action for Children offers valuable insights on coping with anxiety and stress. Explore helpful tips and advice by visiting the link below:

Action for Children Blog: Coping with Anxiety and Stress During Christmas

School Crossing Patrol

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



Dear God,

Thank you for being our Saviuour of the World. Thank you for sending Jesus down to us and for sacrificing His life for the world. Please help the less fortnate people to have an amazing Christmas.

Amen

Written by Orlando



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.



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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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	Parent Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 3/4 (St Peter)
Tuesday 12th March	Parent Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 13th March	Parent Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), Year 4 (St Alphonsa), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Thursday 14th March	Parent 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