Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

20TH OCTOBER 2023



Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 30th October	Children return to school
Tuesday 31st October	SENCO Drop 'Ins' from 9:30
Wednesday 1st November	All Saints Mass in Church for Years 1 – 6.
Thursday 2nd November	Year 4 Year Group Mass in Chruch
Thrusday 2nd November	Year 6 End of KS2 Sats Presentation in school 5pm
Tuesday 7th November	Headteachers Parent Forum in school 9:15am
Thrusday 9th November	Phase 5/6 Mass in Church
Friday 10th November	Phase EYFS and 1/2 Drama Workshops in school

A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely couple of weeks.
Last week, the children had individual photographs, Phase 1/2 went on a local walk and we celebrated our Harvest Liturgy in Chruch. This week, Years 3 and 5 took part in a cross country competition at Queens, Year 6 performed at St Michaels One World Festival, Mrs Taylor lead a Science investigation with Year 5 and we had repitles and mammals visit our school.
Please scroll down for some more information about these below.

Have a lovely half term.
Mrs Smith





Deputy Prime Minister Visit

Oliver Dowden, visited our Year 5s. He came to see the 'Joy of Movement programme that is delivered by Watford FC Community Sports and Education Trust.

He played a game of Dodge Ball with the children and spent time in the classroom where the children told him about the importance of healthy eating and exercise.



Oliver Dowden said, "I was delighted to spend the afternoon with pupils at Sacred Heart Primary School in Bushey and to learn more about the excellent Joy of moving programme."

Phase 1/2 Local Walk

On Tuesday 10th October, Phase 1/2 went for a walk in Bushey as part of their Geography. They learnt about the physical and human features in Bushey.



Phase 1/2 Trip to the Church

This week, Phase 1/2 went to Church for their RE lesson. They learnt the names of the items on the altar.



Harvest Liturgy



Last Thursday, we celebrated our Harvest Liturgy in Church. The Year 5's led the readings and all of the children sang beautifully. Year 6 peformed a song and liturgical dance about love. It had a beautiful message.



Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Collection for the Red Trust Bushey Food Bank

Our Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors, led a collection for the Bushey Food Bank. They asked all of the classes to bring in a variety of items and display these in their classsrooms. On Thursday, they collected the items and took them up to Church. They created a stunning display on the altar.



After the service they put the items in the sacristy and they were collected by the Bushey Food Bank. Thank you for supporting this cause.



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Year 3 and Year 5 Cross County Competition

Year 3 and Year 5 went to Queens to take part in a Cross Country competition this week. They were excellent runners and 17 of them got through to the next stage. Well done Year 3 and Year 5.



Football & Netball Matches

Last Friday our football teams played St Joseph's School. They won both games 7 - 0 and 8 - 0. On Monday, our netball teams played St Joseph's school and won both of their games 9-1 and 6-4. On Thursday our netball team played Bushey Heath. They won one game and lost one game. Well done to all the pupils who played. They worked together in their teams brilliantly and represented the school fantastically.

New Reception Photos

Our new Reception pupils' photos were in the Watford Observer. The pupils have settled into school very well and are enjoying learning together.







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Year 6 One World Festival

On Tuesday 17th October, Year 6 performed a song and litugical dance at the One World Festival. It was a very moving song about the importance of sharing love. The Year 6 performed beautifully and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Black History Month

The month of October is Black History Month in the UK. During this month the children have had assemblies and undertaken activities to explore this area of the curriculum.

During Black History Month, we remember and celebrate the important people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today.

As well as celebrating Black History Month, We have also created our curriculum to ensure that it reflects the diversity in our school, nationally and globally throughout the school year. For example, in English children read books from different cultures, in History pupils learn about inspirational people such as Mary Secole and in Music pupils learn African drumming.



FOSH AGM

FOSH held their annual AGM on Wednesday 18th October at 6pm in the school hall. Thank you to everyone who attended. Last year, FOSH paid for our new library which the children are really enjoying using. This year, FOSh are paying for our new prayer Garden. The children have weekly collective worship here and during lunchtimes our prayer leaders lead prayer sessions. Thank you for supporting FOSH with their fundraising events and thank you to all the members of FOSH for their hard work and dedication. The money that is raised greatly enhances the pupils experieneces and learning in school.

Phase 3/4 Trip to the Church

Phase 3/4 attended morning Mass yesterday. When they came back to school, they completed an assessment task showing their understanding of the Eucharist and the parts of the Mass.



Animal Visit

On Wednesday and Thursday, we had reptiles and mammals visit the school. All the classes went to the hall to see them. They had the oppotunity to hold and stroke snakes, a kecko, a cat and a rabbit. They also learnt facts about them and how to look after them.













Mrs Taylor's Science Experiment

Mrs Taylor, a Stem Ambassador, came to visit Phase 5/6. She talked to the children about her job and the importance of Science. She set the children the task of building a tower that was a metre tall and could hold a tennis ball and a cricket ball. The children had great fun working together and problem solving to create their towers. Thank you Mrs Taylor.

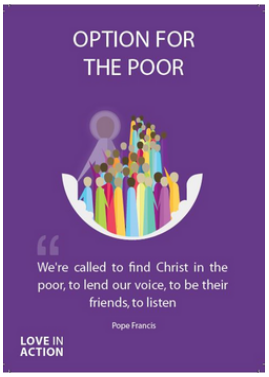






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Catholic Social Teaching



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.

Next 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.

Mr Higginson led an assembly on Tuesday for our Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors on Mary's Meals. This is a chairty that provides lunches for children in developing countries so that they can attend school. Afterwards, the Year 5's decided that this would be one of our charities for our Advent fundraising. They are currently planning our Advent fundraising events and will be sharing this with the school after half term.

The evening after the assembly, one of our Year 5 pupils baked cookies and sold them for Mary's Meals. She raised £30. She then baked cookies for the staffroom and has so far raised a further £30. This will provide 3 pupils with lunch for an entire year. Well done.





Preferential Option for the Poor

Loving God,
We come together to thank you for our world.
You created our world so that everyone may have enough but there are those who do not have enough.
Help us to follow the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and reach out our hands to those in need.
Amen

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
N – Nurture
E – Effort
R – Resilience

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Learner Acronym Focus

The first two weeks after half term, we are focusing on N for Nurture. We will focus on living out the Gospel values and showing kindness to each other.

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. After half term 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.
Skooters 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.
This half term the house with the most points was Luke. Well done to Luke's house. The children in this house will receive an extra playtime after half term.



Caretaker

We are currently recruiting for a new Caretaker. The hours are 37 1/2 hours a week. The pay is H3 - H5 depending on experience.
Some of the tasks this involves are:
Carrying out day-to-day maintenance and minor repairs.
Booking outside contractors for major repair work.
Making sure heating, lighting and alarm systems are working properly.
Checking doors and windows are locked when the building is not in use.
Opening up buildings in the morning and lock them at the end of the day.

If you would be interested in this role, 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 has dropped slightly over the last two weeks to 96.6%. To support your child's education, please ensure that they attend school every day unless they are unwell and that they arrive on time for class. 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. 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

The article below has tips and advice to help keep your children healthy over this school year.
https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/08/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/

Year 4 Maths Multiplication Check Presentation

Miss McCarthy led a Multiplication Check Presentation for Year 4 parents. She went through how the Multip;lication Check is delivered and startegies that parents can use to help their children learn their times tables. A copy of the presentation will be sent home. Thank you to everyone who attended.

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:

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

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 Infant to Juniors (when they leave Year 2 to move into Year 3).

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

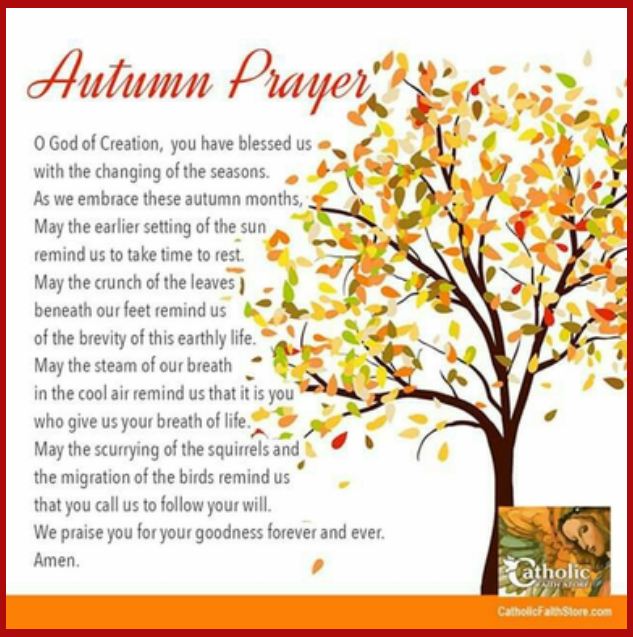


Secondary School Transfer Information

Secondary School admissions opened at the beginning of September and the closing date for all applications is 31st October 2023. We recommend that this is completed by Friday 20th October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with ahead of the deadline.

Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or during the school's Open Evenings.

Please note that all Catholic secondary schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, which can be obtained from your parish priest.





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Autumn Term Dates

Any changes are highlighted in yellow.	
Date	**Event**
Tuesday 31st October	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.
Wednesday 1st November	All Saints Day – Years 1 – 6 will attend Church at 9:15am.
Thursday 2nd November	Year 4 Year Group Mass in Church – 9:15am
Thursday 2nd November	Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Sats Parent Presentation 5pm in school
Tuesday 7th November	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 9th November	Phase 5/6 Mass in Church – 9:15am
Friday 10th November	Phase 1/2 and EYFS Drama Workshops in school.
Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 14th November	3:30pm – Parents and Children can visit Classrooms to look at books
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