Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

23RD NOVEMBER 2023



Upcoming Key Dates

Friday 24th November	Occasional Day
Monday 27th November	The children wear their own clothes and bring in an item for the Christmas Bazaar.
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 siblings.
Thursday 7th December	Junior Advent Service - 10:45pm in Church
Friday 8th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conbception - Years 1 - 6 go to Church
Wednesday 13th December	Reception Christmas Play - 9:30am
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.
Friday 24th November	Occasional Day - School is closed

A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have had parent consultations. Thank you for attending these. We really appreciate how you support your children with their learning.

Next Thursday, we have a non-uniform day for St Andrew's Day where the children may wear blue, white or tartan clothes. The following week we have the Phase 1/2 Christmas Play on Wednesday 6th December and Thursday 7th December in school. Also, the Junior Advent Service is on Thursday 7th December in Church. We look forward to seeing you at these.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Smith



Infant Drama Workshops

On Friday 10th November Reception and Phase 1/2 enjoyed their drama workshops. They pretended to go into a rocket ship and travelled to far away places looking for an emerald. We have a lot of fantastic actors and actresses.















Anti-Bullying Week

Last week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week. On Monday the children came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate difference. Over the week the children completed a range of activities in class.

On Friday, they had an assembly called 'Turning Disability into Possibility.' Bart Gee told the children about his life story. He was born with Arthrogryposis (weak muscles and stiff joints), doctors said he would never walk, he may never sit up independently and he was given a very bleak outlook to life.

He started walking aged 3 and growing up he was able to take part in many sports and activities including playing the piano and drums. He is now 41 years old and in the last 6 years he has completed a 5km swim and 5 triathlons. He drives an adapted car and leads an independent life.

He emphasised that when something is difficult, hard or challenging, it is still possible!



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Football Matches

Over November we have had lots of football matches. The children have all played together in their teams brilliantly and they have been excellent ambassadors for the school.

7th November- Year 4 mixed team won 4-0 Vs Parkside
13th November- Year 6 Boys A team won 7-2 Vs Bushey Manor A team
Year 6 Boys B team won 7-3 Vs Bushey Manor B team
17th November- Year 6 Girls A team lost 4-0 Vs St Joseph's A team
Year 6 Girls B team won 3-1 Vs St Joseph's B team
20th November- Year 4 mixed team won 7-6 Vs Saffron Green
21st November- Year 6 Girls A team drew 3-3 Vs The Grove Academy



A huge well done to all of the children who have competed in matches over Novermber. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support.

St Cecilia's Feast Day

On Wednesday St Cecilia's class celebrated their feast day. They came into school dressed in their own clothes and they had a special collective worship and celebration.



St. Cecilia is considered the patron saint of music. It is thought that she sang in her heart during her wedding, asking Jesus to be able to keep her special gift for him. As part of their celebration St Cecilia enjoyed playing the glockenspiel.

Activity for home:

St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music. Create a family "theme song." Pick a song that you know the tune to. Change the words so that the song is about your family.



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ECO Ambassadors

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

On Wednesday 29th November, those children who have brought in a Christmas jumper will be able to swap it for a 'new to you' Christmas jumper.

Prayer At Home



As part of our dedication to supporting the ongoing spiritual growth of our pupils, we have introduced a new initiative called "Prayer at Home." This initiative aims to assist parents and caregivers in fostering prayer within the home environment. Through "Prayer at Home," we provide a prayer resource to all families with children in our school. This resource is designed to be easily followed and allows families to create a moment of prayer together amidst their busy lives. By offering this support, we hope to encourage and enable families to continue the practice of prayer beyond the school setting, nurturing a sense of spirituality within the home.

Christmas Bazaar

On Saturday 2nd December we have our Christmas Bazaar on the school grounds from 11am to 2pm.

To help support this, on Monday 27th November, the children can come into school dressed in their own clothes. We ask that they bring in the following:

Nursery to Year 2

A new toy, sweet selection box or jolly jar (a jar that is filled with goodies like; sweets, chocolate, small toys, stickers, erasers, small pencils/pens/crayons – things you might find in a party bag) for the Teacher's Tombola.

Year 3 to Year 6

A bottle (such as wine, spirits, soft drinks and squash) for the Bottle Tombola.

All Years - Rainbow Hampers

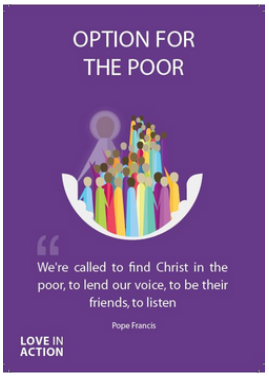
We are also asking children to bring in a coloured donation, such as bottles, toiletries, confectionery, etc. as well as the toy, or bottle listed above, for their class Rainbow Christmas Hamper. Please see the flyer for their class colours. We respectfully ask that no homemade food gifts be donated.



Thank you for your support with this.

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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 Mark's House helped with the Samaritan Christmas Boxes. We collected the record amount of boxes that they have received from one place - 115. Well done everyone. 115 children will receive a wonderful present at Christmas.





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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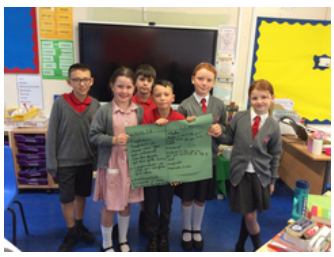
Learner Acronym Focus

Over the next two weeks, we are focusing on R for Resilience.

Resilient children are often good at solving problems and learning new skills. This is because they're more willing to try again even if things don't go the way they want the first time. When things don't go well and children feel anxious, sad, disappointed or frustrated, resilience helps them understand that these uncomfortable emotions don't last forever. They can experience these emotions and know they'll be okay before too long.

Children learn resilience through experience. Each time your child overcomes a problem, it builds their confidence in their ability to handle the next challenge. In class the children will be given opportunites to try new things and solve problems. Please discuss with your child what they are learning at school and encourage your child to have another go when things don't work out the first time they try something.











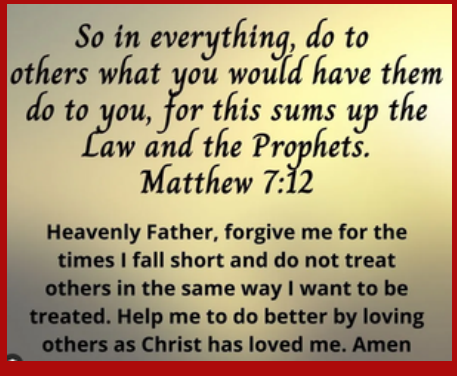


British Values

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.

Each class in school creates their Class Promises at the beginning of the year, where the children agree on a set of principles that they should all follow. They understand how their actions and the actions of others have consequences and they learn to distinguish between right and wrong. They understand why rules apply to everyone and how rules are essential for the wellbeing and safety of all. Our school mission statement and code of conduct ensure that we shape our children to become valuable, caring, respectful and considerate members of our school, the local community and wider British society.



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

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 96.2%. We also have many children arriving late to school. Since September we have had 272 occurances of lateness.

Days off school add up to lost learning

There are 175 NON SCHOOL DAYS IN A YEAR,175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

190 days for your child's education each year	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence (a term missed)	38 days absence	47 days absence
	180 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education	143 days of education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success Makes it harder to progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child	

Impact of lateness-being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school

5 minutes late = 3 days learning lost	10 minutes late = 6.5 days learning lost	15 minutes late = 10 days learning lost	20 minutes late = 13 days learning lost	30 minutes late = 19 days learning lost

Wellbeing

Anna Freud has support and advice for parents on how to enusre that they look after themselves. See the link below:

https://www.annafreud.org/resources/family-wellbeing/self-care-for-parents-and-carers/#:~:text=Maintain%20energy%20levels,re%20feeling%20low%20or%20anxious.



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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Autumn Term Dates

Any changes are highlighted in yellow.	
Date	**Event**
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.

Lord of Life and Love

Lord of life and love,
as we give thanks for times past,
grant us courage to embrace the present
and grace to share the future.
In memory of loved ones dear,
kindle their flame to shine in the dark
and light the path ahead.
Show the way that leads to life
as we cherish days gone by
and inspire us with the touch of love
that faith and hope live on.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas



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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