Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

26TH APRIL 2024

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. For you are always with me and your love is eternal and your faith is eternal. As it was in the beginning, now and ever shall be.
Amen

Written by Aarav



Upcoming Key Dates

Summer Term	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	Religious Education Presentation followed by 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 Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7th May - Thursday 9th May	Assess, Plan, Do
Thursday 9th May	Acension Mass in Church

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a rejuvenating break. It's been a vibrant return to school life here at Sacred Heart School, with a whirlwind of activities and celebrations.
Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to all who joined us for our beginning of term Mass. It was a beautiful way to start the new term.
Yesterday, our Year 5 students had a special Mass dedicated to them, celebrating their journey and achievements so far. It's always a joy to see our students growing in faith and knowledge.
We also commemorated St. Bernadette's feast day and St. George's Day, embracing the spirit of these occasions with reverence and joy. Such celebrations enrich our school ethos and deepen our understanding of our Catholic faith and heritage.
.Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education journey.
Take care and have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Smith



Ollie and Nieve's Fundraiser

On Sunday 14th March, Ollie and Nieve held a cake and dog treat sale in St George's park. This was to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. They raised an amazing £158.61. They baked the cakes and dog treats themselves. Their cakes tasted delicious. Well done to Ollie and Nieve for this fantastic achievement and for living out our Catholic Social Teaching.







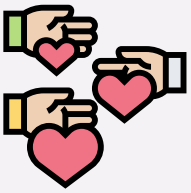


MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT









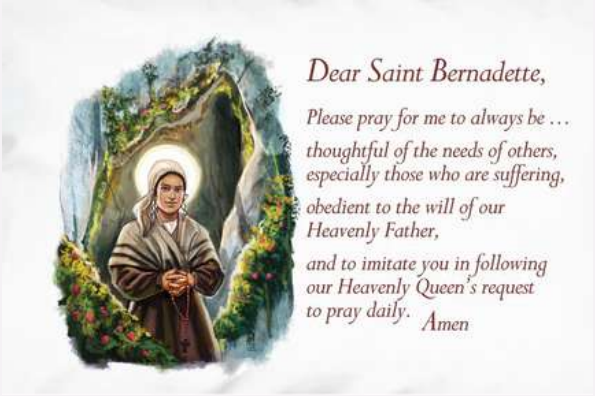
St Bernadette's Feast Day

On Tuesday 16th April, St Bernadette's class celebrated their feast day. They learnt about St Bernadette, held a special collective worship and wrote prayers.









Bernadette saw a lovely lady dressed in white who had a blue sash around her waist and a rose on each foot. She was beautiful.

Bernadette prayed the rosary with this lady before she disappeared. The lady asked her to come back again. The lady appeared to Bernadette a total of eighteen times. Bernadette was teased and laughed at; many believed that she was either imagining the appearances of Our Lady or making it up.

When a spring miraculously appeared after one of the visions, many who doubted her began to believe. Those who bathed in the spring were often cured of serious sickness or disability. Eventually, the lady identified herself: "I am the Immaculate Conception," she told Bernadette. It was then that people realised for sure that it was Mary, the mother of God, appearing to Bernadette.

Saint Bernadette, Pray for us

Liturgical Art Workshops

The three classes in Phase 1/2 have delved into the world of liturgical art through engaging workshops. It's been a time of creativity, inspiration, and discovery for our young artists. Here's a glimpse into what our students have been up to:

St Anthony's Class reflected on the four seasons — spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Each of these seasons have their own unique beauty to them. Spring has the beauty of the new flowers, summer has the beauty of the warm sun, autumn has the beauty of the changing leaves, and winter has the beauty of snow-covered homes. Each of these seasons are beautiful because God made them this way.








"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Genesis 8:22).

St Cecilia's class refelected on the Story of Noah's Ark. They thought about the dove, olive branch and rainbow symbols. These remind us to have faith in God. He will never forget us and we can trust Him.

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13






St Therese's class refelcted on how the dove in mid-flight is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, It also indicates the Acsension of Christ and entry into glory of various martyrs and saints.






"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:25-26

Beginning of Term Mass

On Thursday 18th April, we celebrated our beginning of term Mass. Our Year 3 pupils showcased their leadership skills as they led the Mass with confidence and reverence. Their eloquent readings and heartfelt participation truly touched the hearts of everyone present.
The atmosphere was uplifted by the melodious voices of all our pupils, who sang with joy and harmony. Their collective voices resonated throughout the church, filling it with a sense of unity and peace.
At Sacred Heart School, we are guided by the theme of love. During the Mass, we reflected on Jesus' greatest commandment - to love one another as He has loved us. It was a poignant reminder of the importance of kindness, compassion, and service to others in our daily lives.
As a community, we strive to embody the values of being a "heart that sees and a heart that acts." Through our actions, both big and small, we seek to emulate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.









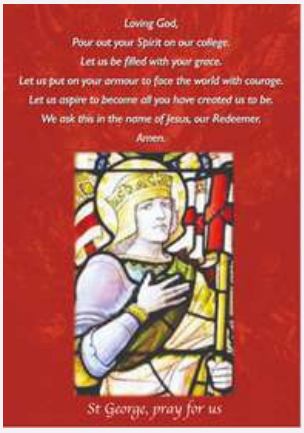
We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and carers who joined us for this special occasion. Your presence and support are deeply appreciated and contribute to the sense of community that makes Sacred Heart School so special.

St George's Day

On 23rd April, we celebrated St George's Day. The children came into school dressed in red, white and blue. They learnt about St George and had a special collective worship in class.
Saint George was an early Christian martyr. He was thought to have been the perfect example of bravery and selflessness. Saint George is the patron saint of England.
The best-known account of Saint George comes from a collection of stories from the 1200s. It tells of George's rescuing a Libyan king's daughter from a dragon. George killed the dragon and in return made the king and his subjects promise to be baptised.







Spotlight on RE Learning

EYFS visited the church to learn about the features of a church and how to pray. The Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors helped the children to walk to church.






Phase 1/2 acted out the events from the Resurrection to Pentecost. They also made Ascension cards.







The children in Phase 3/4 learnt that the 'Glory be to God' prayer is a doxology. This is a prayer of praise. They wrote their own versions.

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. For you give me courage, strength and love. Amen - Written by Cliona

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. For you give me happiness, love and life. You will always be in my heart. Amen - Written by Bernie

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As you are so great, we should listen to your words. Amen
Written by Orlando

Phase 5/6 used playdough to retell the main points of stories from the Bible and reflected on what they learnt from these.








Year 5 Year Group Mass

Yesterday, our Year 5 students gathered for their year group Mass, and what a beautiful and heartfelt event it was!

The students truly shone as they took on various roles during the Mass. Their reading skills were exemplary, with each word spoken resonating throughout the church. Their voices soared as they lifted their hearts in song, filling the sacred space with melodies of praise and devotion.

The theme of the Mass centered around kindness, a value deeply cherished here at Sacred Heart. As part of our school ethos, we strive to embody the message of being "a heart that sees and a heart that acts." This Mass served as a poignant reminder of the importance of kindness in our daily lives.

Throughout the service, the children engaged in prayer and reflection, contemplating how they can emulate the love of Jesus by showing kindness to others. It was a touching moment to witness as they earnestly considered the ways in which they can spread kindness and compassion in our community and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and carers who joined us for this special occasion. Your presence and support are invaluable as we nurture and guide our students in their spiritual journey.

Here are a couple of examples of how Year 5 live out the gospel values:



Helping at the parish Macmillian Coffee morning.



Giving up their playtimes to lead prayer club with the younger children.

Catholic Social Teaching - Dignity of the Worker

During this half term, we are focusing on Dignity of the Worker.

Pope Francis said that:

"Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work anoints us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts..."

Pope Francis

Feast of St Joseph the Worker, May 2013

Some of the ways we are focusing on this are:

- In assemblies and lessons, the pupils are learning about the principles of Dignity of the Worker.
- Across the curriculum, pupils are also learning about Dignity of the Worker. For example in Maths lessons pupils explore fair wages and economic justice.
- Pupils are going on field trips to local shops and business that promote Dignity of the Worker such as RefillAbell in Bushey who source their products from ethical, susitainable, organic and local (where possible) buisnesses.
- Pupils are engaging in letter-writing campaigns to raise awareness about unfair labor practices and promote fair trade. Phase 5/6 have written letters to Mrs Smith asking for fair trade tea and coffee to be purchased for the staff room and for fair trade products to be used for school lunches.
- Pupils are writing and delivering thank you letters to workers in the local community.
- Pupils are taking extra care to ensure that they tidy all of their things at the end of the day so that the cleaners have tidy classrooms to clean.

Eco Ambassadors' Initiatives

On World Earth Day (April 22nd), the ECO Ambassadors arranged for a member of Herts Catering team to deliver an assembly on sustainability. They talked to the children about ways that they could help look after God's creation.

After the assembly, they met with the ECO Ambassadors to plan with them what they could grow in their vegetable beds and how they could be used in cooking lessons.

Using the advice they were given the ECO Ambassadors have selected to grow strawberries which will be used at the end of the summer term to make smooties or ice lollies. They are also going to grow potatoes and broccoli which will be used in cookery lessons in the Autumn Term.

Finally, they are going to grow pumpkins which they will make pumpkin soup and pumpkin muffins from.

The ECO Ambassodors used the money they raised from their second hand book sale to purchase vegetable beds. These have been set up between the infant and junior playgrounds.

We look forward to seeing their produce grow and tasting the creations they make.





Caritas Ambassadors' Initiatives

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates from our Caritas Ambassadors' initiatives, fostering Catholic Social teaching and within our school and beyond.

1. EYFS Church Visit: Our Caritas Ambassadors have been busy guiding and supporting our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pupils on a special trip to the church for their RE lesson. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of faith but also cultivated a sense of community and togetherness among our youngest learners.

2. Sports Day Support: Looking ahead, our Ambassadors are gearing up to assist the younger phases during their upcoming sports day. Their enthusiasm and commitment to fostering inclusivity and teamwork are truly commendable, and we cannot wait to witness the positive impact they'll make on this special day.

3. Sponsorship of Chisindiko School, Zambia
In line with our commitment to the Dignity of the Worker and Option for the Poor, we are proud to announce that Sacred Heart School are now joint sponsors of Chisindiko School in Zambia, alongside St. Joseph's. This partnership embodies our dedication to supporting education and empowerment worldwide. By supporting pupils to attend school we are increasing their life chances and work opportunites for the future.

Fundraising for Chisindiko School: To ensure the success of our sponsorship, our Ambassadors are brainstorming innovative fundraising ideas. Did you know that every £19.15 we raise provides lunch for a pupil for an entire year? We look forward to the Caritas Ambassadors' next fundraising event for this cause.

RE Newsletter

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

Prayer at Home

You can access our latest Prayer at Home newsletter on the link below:
https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/2023-2024-prayer-at-home-newsletters/

Wednesday Word

The Primary School Wednesday Word is an online resource that allows you to reflect on the weekly Gospel. You can access this on the link below:
Wednesday Word

Sacred Heart Church Services

The weekend Mass times at the church are as follows:
Saturday - 6pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am, 6pm
You can access the parish newsletter on this link:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bushey/weekly-newsletters/

Learner Acronym Focus

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be focusing on N for Nurture. Teaching pupils how to nurture others is a valuable lesson in empathy, compassion and interpersonal skills. Here are some ways that we help them to develop these qualities:

- Staff model nurturing behaviour. They show kindness, patience and empathy in their words and actions and encourage pupils to follow their lead.
- In lessons pupils engage in storytelling, role-playing and discussions to explore different perspectives and emotions and to encourage them to consider how their actions impact on others.
- Through assemblies and lessons we encourage acts of kindness. In the library, we have a kindness tree where pupils share their experiences of others being kind to them.
- Pupils are taught conflict resolution skills where they develop skills for resolving conflicts peacefully and constructively.
- We celebrate diversity, discuss topics such as inclusion, fairness and standing up against discrimination and encourage pupils to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone. This is interwoven into all subjects areas and also focused on during Anti-Bullying Week, One World Week, Racial Justice Sunday and International Day.
- Pupils engage in service-learning projects such as helping pupils in younger classes, supporting local events, raising money for charities and leading environmental campaigns.

British Values

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 continuing to focus on Mutual Respect which links closely to our Catholic Social Teaching unity Dignity of the Worker. Some of the ways in which we will promote Mutual Respect are:

- Our curriculum explicitly teaches and emphasis the importance of values such as respect, empathy and kindness.
- In Catholic Social Teaching lessons, pupils will learn about the importance of everyone being treated with dngnity in the work place.
- In RSE lessons pupil discuss, debate and role-play scenarios that highlight respectful behaviour.
- We have a buddy system where our Year 6 pupils are paired with a Reception pupil. This promotes role modelling and encourages older pupils to support and guide their younger peers.
- In the pupils' prayer books the pupils express their thoughts and feelings about the importance of showing respect to everyone.

Consistency is key when promoting mutual respect in schools. By incorporating these activities into the curriculum and reinforcing positive behaviour, this helps to create a culture of respect that positively influences students' social and emotional development.

Mental Health

As parents and carers, there are ways you can support your children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.

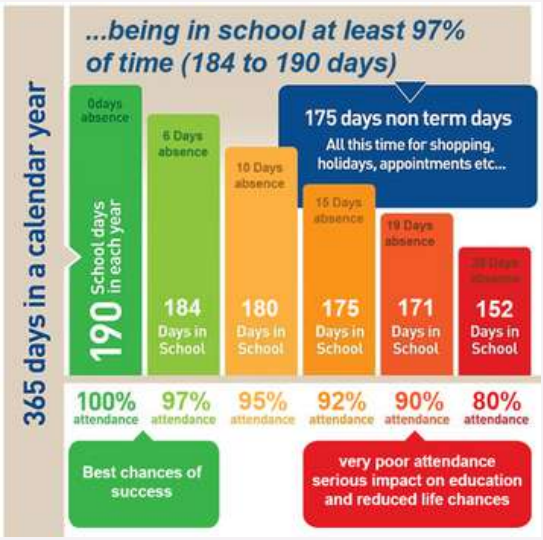
On the site below you can find out how you can help your child to have good mental health, including knowing how to talk to your child about their mental health, and when to spot signs they might be struggling.

There are also get self-care tips for you, to help you look after your mental health while caring for others, and find out how to get more support if you, your child or your family need it.

https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/

Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current attendance rate has increased to 96%. Thank you for your support with this as we are getting closer to our target of 97%. Regular attendance and punctuality is crucial for your child's academic progress and for fostering a positive and structured learning environment for the entire class.



We thank you for supporting this by ensuring your child is in school unless they are unwell and by dropping them off to school on time.

If in a school year, you are late every day by...	You would have lost approximately...	or you would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	18 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	35 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	50 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	73 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	110 Lessons

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.

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Summer Term Dates

Any changes highlighted in yellow

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 4 Swimming Summer Term
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	RE Presentation followed by 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
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
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th June – 7th June	Multiplication Check
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

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. For you always give us strength. For you are the most powerful leader that we could ever have. You give us strength to stand up for people.
Amen

Written by Ruby



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
Monday 24th June	All Year 1 visit to St James's Church
Monday 24th June	Year 5 and Year 5/6 visit to Bushey Synagogue
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.
Tuesday 25th June	Phase 3/4 visit to Bhaktivedenta Manor
Tuesday 25th June	All Year 2 visit to St James's Church
Wednesday 26th June	Year 1 (St Anthony) class trip to Ashridge
Wednesday 26th June	Year 6 visit to Bushey Synagogue
Thursday 27th June	Phase 3/4 Mass in Church - 9:15 - Parents are welcome to join us
Thursday 27th June	Year 1/2 (St Cecilia) class trip to Ashridge
Friday 28th June	St Peter and Paul Mass in Church - 9:15 - Parents are weclome to join us
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	Year 2 (St Therese) class trip to Ashridge
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



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Provisional Dates for 2024 - 2025

Monday 2nd September	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Wednesday 4th September	School starts for children
Friday 25th October	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Half Term
Monday 4th November	School starts for children
Friday 29th November	Occasional Day - children are not in school on this day
Friday 20th December	End of Term - school finishes at 1:15pm
Monday 6th January	School starts for children
Friday 14th February	End of Term
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February	Half Term
Monday 24th February	School starts for children
Friday 4th April	End of Term - school finishes at 1:15pm
Tuesday 22nd April	School starts for children
Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 23rd May	End of Term
Monday 2nd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 3rd June	School starts for children
Thursday 17th July	End of term - school ends at 12:30pm