NEWSLETTER

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

9th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely couple of weeks.

Last week was a very exciting and busy day. Phase 3/4 went on their orienteering trip to Hudnall Park, Year 6 went to St Michaels for a football and netball tournament and Year 5 had a special visit from the Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden. There is more information about these below.

Please see some key dates for the next two weeks. At the end of the newsletter are the dates for the whole year.

Wednesday 11th October	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday 12th October	11am Harvest Festival in Church for Years 1 – 6. Year 5 are leading
Monday 16th October – Wednesday 18th October	Travelling Book Fair in school
Monday 16th October	Year 3 and Year 5 pupils are taking part in a Cross Country competition at Queens School.
Tuesday 17th October	Year 6 pupils are performing at the One World Festival at St Michaels
Wednesday 18th October	5pm Miss McCarthy is leading a virtual Multiplication Check for Year 4 parents. You can access this via your child's Google Classroom account.
Wednesday 18th October	6pm – FOSH AGM in the school hall. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us.
Monday 16th October to Thursday 19th October	STEAM Week where the children complete Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths activities.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Smith

New Website

I am delighted to let you know that our school website has been updated. Please do have a look.

https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/

I would like to thank Mr Pittendreigh for setting this up for us. We will be continuing to add more pictures and information to this.



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Watford Trust RE Workshops

On Wednesday, Watford Trust delivered workshops on Harvest to Phase 1/2. As part of the workshop, the children thanked God for our food.



Eco Ambassadors, Digital Leaders & Year 5&6 Choir

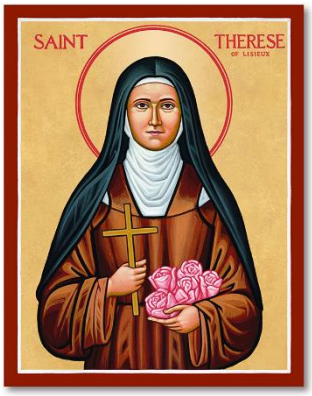
The ECO Ambassadors, Digital leaders and Year 5/6 Choir members have received their badges last week. The choir have started to learn new songs, the Digital Leaders have planned their first meeting and the ECO Ambassadors have started litter picking during their break and lunchtimes.

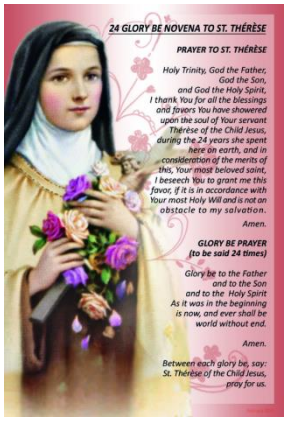
Last year's ECO Ambassadors have launched their project where ticket holders at Watford Football Club receive seeds to sow. Here are some of the staff at the club who were very excited to receive theirs.





Saint Therese Feast Day





Saint Therese's class celebrated her feast day on Friday 29th September. They wore their own clothes, took part in a special collective worship and created some liturgical art.

Saint Therese wrote the Story of a Soul. The story above imagines what kinds of sacrifices Thérèse might have made for her spiritual bouquet. We know from the writing of her mother (as well as her own words) that, as a young child, Thérèse could be "incredibly stubborn," and sometimes fought with her sisters. We also know that she imagined herself as a little ball for Jesus to play with, and that she was afraid of the dark. And in Story of a Soul, she describes numerous little sacrifices and acts of love that she made for the sake of Jesus.

In the little sacrifices she made for others, Thérèse imitated Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. All of us are called to follow Jesus in this way. If Thérèse could do it, so can you! Saint Therese, Pray for us

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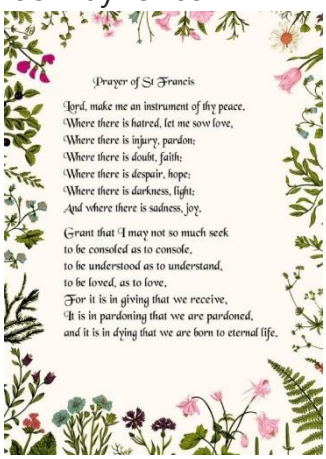
Saint Francis Feast Day



On 4th October Saint Francis' class celebrated their class feast day. They wore their own clothes, took part in a special collective worship and created some liturgical art.

Saint Francis chose to give up his wealth and serve God. There are stories about St. Francis being able to talk to the animals. One day there was a large flock of birds that Saint Francis preached to, telling them they should be thankful. The birds stood still and listened as he walked among them. They only flew off when Saint Francis told them to fly away.

Saint Francis Pray for us



Year 6 St Michaels Tournament

Last Friday, our Year pupils participated in a football and netball tournament at St Michaels. They all played very well and represented the school fantastically. One of the boys' teams reached the semi-final and one of the girls' teams won their tournament. Well done to all of Year 6.





Phase 3/4 Hudnall Park Visits

Last week Phase 3/4 went to Hudnall Park. They completed orienteering and map skills that linked to their Geography curriculum. One of the activities they completed was to create a decorative journey card to record a route.



The children had a brilliant time and their behaviour was exemplary. Well done Phase 3/4.

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RE Newsletter

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

FOSH

FOSH are holding their annual AGM on Wednesday 18th October at 6pm in the school hall. The money that FOSH raises for the school makes such a difference to the children's education and experience at Sacred Heart School. The money raised last year has funded our new prayer garden, Bibles for the Year 3 pupils and hoodies for the Year 6 pupils. Please do join us at the AGM as your help and support is greatly appreciated. Our new Prayer Garden is now open. We will be holding a special blessing ceremony in a couple of weeks. More information will be sent about this nearer the time.







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.

Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God.



This half term we are focusing on Care of Creation. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of creation. That means we are meant to look after the world that God created for us. We must all work to leave our world in a better condition for the people who come after us. To support your children at home with this you could research together World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1st September) or COP27 (begins 7th November).

'Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all.'
Pope Francis Laudato Si.

Care of Creation

Loving God
We come together to thank you for our world. You created the Earth for us to live and prosper in. You taught us how to care for the world you created but we have not followed those laws. Let us give thanks for the joy our world brings us and pray that we become good stewards of creation.
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

For the next two weeks, we are focusing on A for Articulate and Aspire. This will help children to express their thoughts and feelings easily and clearly. Being able to articulate knowledge, reasoning, or problem-solving processes helps students to focus their observations and to develop their own reasoning and problem-solving strategies. We use a range of strategies in class to support the pupils to articulate their learning. This includes pupils explaining their ideas to their talk partner, all pupils showing the answer using whiteboards or resources and having clear routines and structures in lessons so that the pupils know how to complete their learning. Please discuss with your children how they feel they have been with articulating their learning this week.

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 Democracy. We do this by:

Our House Captains and Class Apostles are our school council.
Pupils vote for Class Apostles.
The children take part in debates.
All pupils are listened to by adults.
We invite MPs and other speakers to the school.
We hold mock elections.
We participate in the UK Youth Parliament.

On Friday we had a visit from the Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden. He joined in with the Year 5's Joy of Movement PE lessons that are being delivered by Watford Football Club. The children spoke with confidence to Oliver Dowden and were excellent ambassadors for the school. We will be sharing pictures with you in due course.

Today Mr Taylor, the elected Mayor of Watford visited our Year 6 pupils. He spoke about his role, what it involves, how he becames involved in politics, what he has done for Watford and his greatest achievements. He then had a Q and A session with the pupils.



Caretaker

We are currently recruiting for a new Caretaker. The hours are 32 ½ hours a week. The pay is H3.

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 96.9%. This is a slight drop from two weeks ago. 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. The children start Maths or English learning as soon as they enter school. Effective learning is often repetitive, regular learning of key skills to help pupils to develop their long-term memory. If they are late by even a few minutes every day then they are missing valuable learning time. Please do not take children out of school early. Every minute in school counts.

Wellbeing

Click on the link below to find wellbeing tips to support your child emotionally and help them cope with problems they may face.
https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/health-and-wellbeing/wellbeing-tips

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.

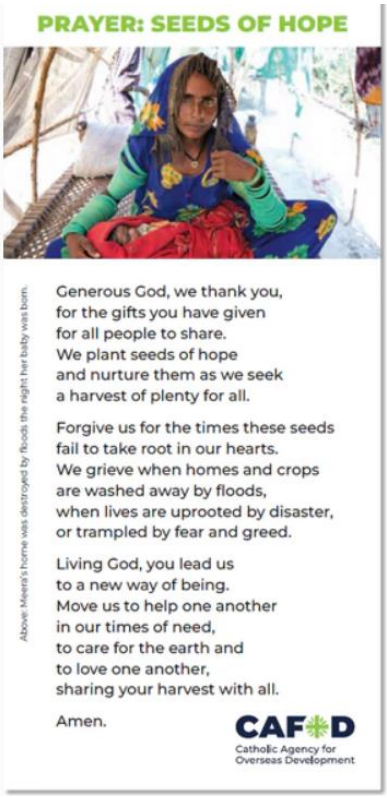
Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or during the school's Open Evenings.
Please note that all Catholic secondary schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, which can be obtained from your parish priest.

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.



Dates for Autumn Term 2023

Any changes or additions are highlighted in yellow.

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 6 Swimming every Friday Autumn Term
Wednesday 11th October	Portrait Photos
Thursday 12th October	Harvest Liturgy in Church – Year 5 to lead – 11am
Monday 16th October – Thursday 19th October	Science & Creative Week – STEAM Week & Travelling Book Fair
Monday 16th October – Wednesday 18th October	Travelling Book Fair in school
Monday 16th October	Yr 3 and Yr 5 Cross Country Competition at Queens School
Tuesday 17th October	Yr 6 – One World Festival at St Michaels
Wednesday 18th 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 18th October	Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check Parent Presentation 5pm Virtual

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Friday 20th October	Inset Day – Deanery Day
Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October	Half Term
Monday 30th October	Children return to school
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
Tuesday 14th November	3:30pm – Parents and Children can visit Classrooms to look at books
Monday 20th November – Thursday 23rd November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 20th November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 4 (St Alphonsa)
Tuesday 21st November	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Wednesday 22nd November	Parents Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 3/4 (St Peter), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita)
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.
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.

Spring Term 2024

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
Monday 26th February – Friday 1st March	Assessment Week
Wednesday 28th February – Friday 1st March	Yr 5 Retreat - SPEC
Tuesday 27th February	5pm Maths Parent Presentation in school
Thursday 29th February	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 1st March	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St David's Day the children may wear red, white and green clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 5th March	3:30pm – Parents and children can go and see their work
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day – the children may come to school dressed up as a character from a book or linked to an object from a book.
Friday 8th March	All classes from Nursery up to Year 6 - Mothers' Day class assemblies – these will be live streamed.
Monday 11th March	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 4 (St Alphonsa)
Tuesday 12th March	Parents Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Wednesday 13th March	Parents Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 3/4 (St Peter), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita)
Thursday 14th March	Parents Consultations – Year 2 (St Therese), Year 5/6 (St Padre Pio)
Friday 15th March	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St Patrick's Day the children may wear green, white and orange clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.

Monday 18th March – Wednesday 20th March	Maths Drop Ins – EYFS, Phase 1/2, Phase 5/6
Monday 18th March	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 19th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Tuesday 19th March	Writing Parent Presentation in school – 5pm
Wednesday 20th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Thursday 21st March	Junior Lent Service – 10:30am in Church
Thursday 28th March	End of term and Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade, school finishes at 1:15pm.

Summer Term 2024

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
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 Alfonsa'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