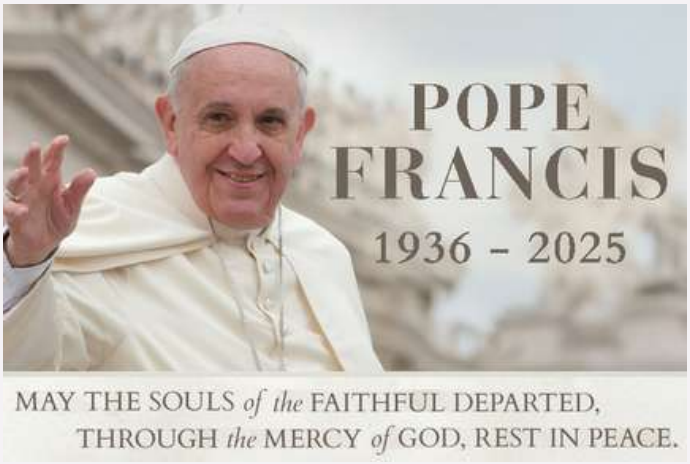
Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



April Dates

Date	Event
Summer 1st Half	Year 3/4 St Peter swimming
May 2025	Month of May
Thursday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day
Week beginning 5th May	Assess, Plan, Do Review meetings
Wednesday 7th May	Phase 1/2 Mass in church – 9:15am
Week beginning 12th May	KS2 Sats
Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May	Year 6 trip to Longridge
Tuesday 20th May	Phase EYFS Sports Day 9:00 – 10:30am Phase 1/2 Sports Day 10:45 - 12:00pm
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Half Term

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy and fun-filled April! Throughout the month, we held our Lent Services, enjoyed a successful Lent Fundraising Day, admired the creativity at our Easter Bonnet Parade, celebrated St George's Day, gathered for our Beginning of Term Mass, and honoured St Bernadette's Feast Day with a special celebration by St Bernadette's class. You can read more about all these wonderful events in this edition of the newsletter.

On Easter Monday, we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Pope Francis. Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis was a beacon of compassion, humility, and hope, inspiring millions around the world with his message of mercy, care for the poor, and stewardship of creation. In school, the children have been praying for the repose of his soul and reflecting on his many contributions to the Church and to the world. They have been learning about his life, his teachings, and his unwavering commitment to love, peace, and justice. We give thanks for his leadership and example, and we continue to keep him in our prayers.

Best wishes,

Mrs Smith

Junior Lent Service

On Wednesday 2nd April, Phase 5/6 led our Junior Lent Service. Year 5 students delivered the readings beautifully and with great confidence, while Year 6 created powerful and moving freeze frames to represent each Station of the Cross. Phase 3/4 supported the service with their beautiful singing, adding to the prayerful atmosphere.

It was a reverent and reflective service that reminded us all of the true meaning of Easter — a time of sacrifice, hope, and renewal. Well done to all the children and staff involved for making it such a special occasion.

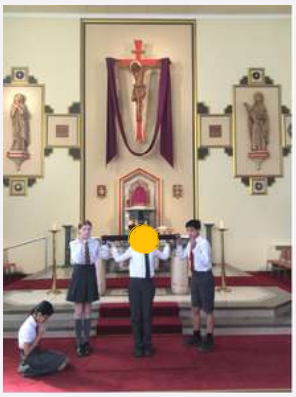


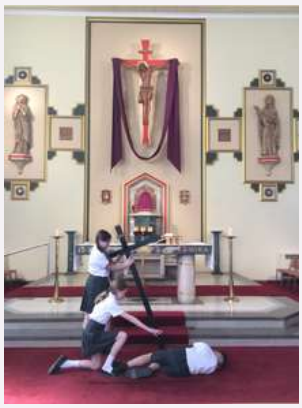
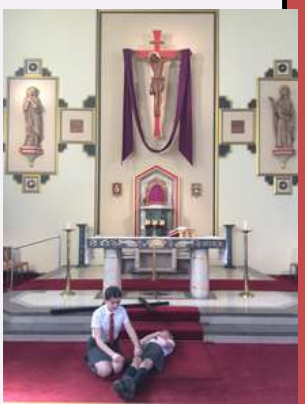










Lent Fundraising Day

On Thursday 3rd April, each class held a special fundraising event in support of their chosen class charity. Activities included fun runs, mufti days, danceathons, cake sales, the creation and sale of recipe books, and even a car wash!

The children had a wonderful time taking part in these events and, most importantly, raised an impressive amount of money for their charities. Through their efforts, they also learned about the importance of fundraising, compassion, and supporting those in need.

This year, the children have chosen to support the following charities: Watford Hospital, Save the Children, The Toy Project, Water Aid, Electric Umbrella, Place2Be, Royal Lifeboat Association, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Children in Need, and the RSPCA.

Thank you for your generosity and support — it has made a real difference.












Easter Bonnet Parade

On the last day of term, we held our annual Easter Bonnet Parade, and what a fantastic event it was! The children arrived proudly wearing their fabulous creations, many of which beautifully reflected the Easter story or their own special interests. Each bonnet was a true work of art, and it was wonderful to see the creativity and effort that had gone into them.

The parade was a joyful occasion, with the children excitedly admiring each other's designs and celebrating together. It was clear to see how much they enjoyed both making and sharing their bonnets.

A huge thank you to all our families for your support in helping the children create such amazing pieces. Events like this are made even more special thanks to your enthusiasm and encouragement.







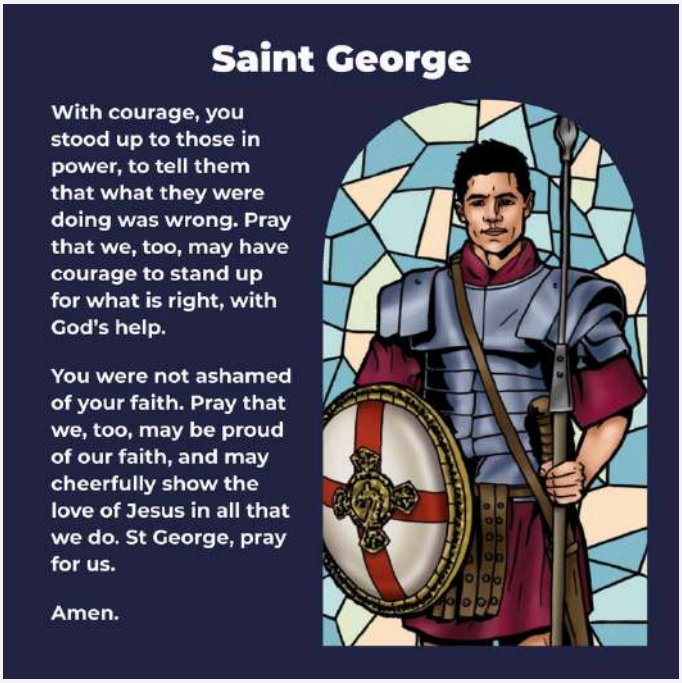


St George's Day

Last week, we celebrated St George's Day with great enthusiasm. The children came to school proudly dressed in red, white, and blue clothes, creating a wonderful sea of colour across the school.

Throughout the day, the children learned about the story of St George and the significance of his bravery and determination. They reflected on the values St George teaches us — the importance of courage, standing up for what is right, and showing perseverance in the face of challenges.

It was a fantastic day filled with learning, pride, and celebration. Thank you to everyone for helping to make the day so special.

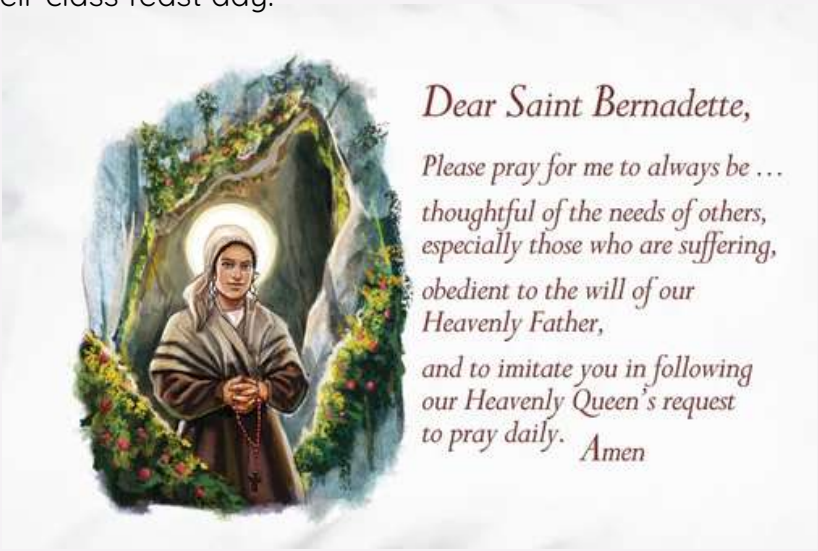


St Bernadette's Feast Day

On Tuesday, Year 3 celebrated their Class Feast Day with a joyful and reflective day of activities. The children arrived dressed in their own clothes and spent time learning about the life and faith of St Bernadette.

As part of the celebrations, Year 3 held a special collective worship where they reflected on the example that St Bernadette sets for us. St Bernadette teaches us the importance of faith, humility, and trust in God, even when faced with difficulties.

It was a truly special day for Year 3, and we are proud of the thoughtful and respectful way the children marked their class feast day.



Aims and Values

Our mission statement is 'Learning and loving 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.

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, our focus is on the Catholic Social Teaching theme of Dignity of Workers. As part of this topic the children learn that work is more than just a way to make a living — it is a way of participating in God's creation. Everyone's work deserves to be respected, whether it's the work of teachers, office staff, cleaners, kitchen staff, or anyone else who helps our school community thrive.
Through lessons, discussions, and daily practice, we encourage the children to value fairness, respect, and appreciation for all kinds of work. They will learn that every person has the right to work in safe, respectful conditions and to be treated with dignity, just as Jesus valued the work of all people in His ministry.
By understanding and living out the Dignity of the Worker, our children grow in gratitude, fairness, and a deep respect for the efforts of others — preparing them to be compassionate members of society.

Spotlight on Learning & RE

Learner Acronym

L – Love
E – Engage
A – Articulate & Aspire
R - Respect
N – Nurture
E – Effort
R - Resilience



This half term we are focusing on E for 'Effort'. We work hard to create a learning environment that inspires children to take pride in their work and to always try their hardest.

We help pupils put maximum effort into their learning by:

- Setting high expectations and encouraging children to challenge themselves.
- Celebrating effort as well as achievement during celebration assemblies, giving house points, stickers and praise.
- Providing clear learning goals so children know what they are working towards. The children are given these at the beginning of each topic on their cover sheets and then a specific learning objective each lesson.
- Teaching a growth mindset, helping pupils to see mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.
- Creating a supportive classroom environment where all children feel safe to take risks and push themselves.

By building confidence, celebrating hard work, and nurturing a love of learning, we are helping every child to develop the skills and attitudes they need to succeed — both now and in the future.



RE

Below are the topics being taught in RE over this term.

Phase	Summer 1st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half term
EYFS	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about the Dignity of Workers. During this topic they will learn about different jobs and think about jobs they would like to do.	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about Human Dignity. The children will learn that God loves everyone and wants everyone to be treated fairly and with love.
	Key Skills: The children will learn to recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence and recall	
	The children will learn that Jesus went back to His Father. He sent a special friend, the Holy Spirit to look after us. The children will learn the Story of Pentecost and the Good News of Jesus lived out by the early Christian community. The children will celebrate that the parish church is a special place where we meet friends by visiting the church and singing and praying in the church.	The children will learn about ST Peter and St Paul, friends of Jesus. They will have a visitor from the local parish to talk to them about their faith and why it matters to them to be a friend of Jesus. They will have a visitor from a different faith to talk to them about their faith.

Phase	Summer 1st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half term
1/2	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about the Dignity of Workers. During this topic they will learn about different jobs and how people at work should be treated fairly and with love.	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about Human Dignity. The children will learn that God loves everyone and wants everyone to be treated fairly and with love. They will learn that everyone is our neighbour.
	Key Vocab: Holy Spirit, Ascension, Pentecost, Saul, prayer, Fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control	Key Vocab: Samaritan, Sabbath, Shabbat, synagogue, neighbor, respect
	The children will learn about how Jesus appeared to the apostles, Ascension, Pentecost, the Conversion of Saul and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The children will learn that God's love is poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit. The children will learn that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and self-control.	The children will learn the parable of the Good Samaritan. The children will learn about their local Christian community and ways that Christians' come together to support the local community. The children will learn some Jewish religious laws, beliefs, worship and life such as keeping the Sabbath day holy and how this is celebrated in the synagogue and in Jewish homes. The children will listen to the religious experiences of others from different communities in the class and the local area.

Phase	Summer 1st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half term
3/4	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about the Dignity of Workers. During this topic the children will learn about Fair Trade.	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about Human Dignity. During this topic they will learn about how to treat others with dignity.
	Key Vocab: Church, Pope, apostles, apostolic, Creed, people of God, communion of saints, Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven	Key Vocab: Damascus, Liturgy, rite, Christian, Islam, Five Pillars if Islam, Shahada, Salah, Sawm, Zakat, Hajj, Common Good
	The children will study the following scripture texts: The empty tomb, The appearance on the shore of Tiberius and The Apostles Creed. The children will learn that the Pope is the successor to Peter, the Church is the People of God, the work of the Church is to continue the ministry of Jesus and build the Kingdom of God. The children will learn that May is the special month of May and some Marian prayers and Hymns e.g. Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria	The children will study the following scripture texts: The road to Damascus and The first letter to the Corinthians. The children will learn that there are different traditions in the Liturgy of the Church. The children will learn some simple facts about a different liturgical tradition in the Church, for example some prayers or artistic traditions, reflecting a community in their local area where possible. The children will learn some ways in which Christians work together for the common good. The children will learn about other faiths.

Phase	Summer 1st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half term
5/6	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about the Dignity of Workers. During this topic they will learn about the London Dock Workers' and the role Cardinal Manning took to help them to get better working conditions.	Catholic Social Teaching: The children will learn about Human Dignity. During this topic they will learn about the importance of treating others with love, kindness and respect.
	Key Vocab: Adam, Mary Magdala, Resurrection, martyr, witness, saint, charity	Key Vocab: dialogue, worldview, Catholic Social Teaching
	The children will study the following scripture texts: The empty tomb and the appearance to Mary Magdala, Appearances to the disciples, Christians believe in the Resurrection, Jesus as the last Adam and The story of Stephen. The children will learn that Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead because they saw him, spoke with him and experienced him in a different way as being alive. The children will learn that the Resurrection is the work of the Holy Trinity. The children will learn that all Christians are called to witness the Resurrection by the example of their new life in baptism, strengthened by the Holy Spirit in confirmation. The children will learn that some Christians die for their faith. This is called martyrdom. The children will learn how Christians today meet Christ in the Eucharist, in the scriptures, in prayer and in love for all people.	The children will learn that Catholics should work to promote unity and love (Nostra Aetate 1) among all people. The children will learn that the Church is called to enter dialogue with the world in which it lives. It has something to say, a message to give. The children will learn that Christians are responsible for responsible for promoting the common good. The children will learn some practical ways in which people can work together towards common goals. The children will learn the term 'worldview' and its meaning. The children will learn about other faiths.

British Values

Each half term we focus on a different British value 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 Term we are focusing on 'Tolerance of those of different faiths, races and cultures.'
We promote tolerance through a variety of activities, including:

- **Celebrating diverse cultural events:** Throughout the year, we mark important festivals and celebrations from different faiths and cultures, such as Diwali, Eid, Chinese New Year and Hanukkah. This helps children to learn about the traditions and customs of others and promotes understanding and respect. After half term we will be celebrating One World Week and International Day. During this week the children visit different places of worship and on International Day they learn about different cultures that their peers and teachers come from.
- **Inclusive curriculum:** Our lessons reflect a diverse range of perspectives, and we explore the stories and contributions of people from different backgrounds. This helps children see the richness of the world around them and appreciate the importance of diversity.
- **Classroom rules and values:** Our classroom ethos promotes kindness, respect, and understanding, where every child feels safe and valued regardless of their background. We regularly discuss how important it is to be kind to everyone, no matter their faith, race, or culture.
- **Guest speakers and workshops:** We invite members of different communities to visit the school and share their experiences, which gives children a broader understanding of the world beyond their own immediate experience.

By teaching our children about the value of tolerance, we are not only helping them become respectful individuals but also preparing them to thrive in a diverse society.

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 1:1 maths/literacy support and towards school trips.
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 Infants and Infants 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.

Attendance and Punctuality Update 📊🕒

Regular attendance and punctuality are key to your child's success in school. When pupils arrive on time and attend school consistently, they build good habits, stay on track with learning, and feel more connected to their classmates and teachers. As a parent, you play a crucial role in making this happen! Here's how you can help:

1. Set a Routine: Establish a consistent bedtime and morning schedule to ensure your child gets enough rest and starts the day smoothly.
2. Prepare the Night Before: Pack school bags, lay out clothes, and ensure homework is completed to avoid last-minute stress.
3. Encourage a Positive Attitude: Talk about school in an encouraging way and highlight the importance of being present and on time.
4. Plan for Unexpected Situations: Have a backup plan for transportation issues and set an earlier alarm to allow extra time in the morning.
5. Schedule Appointments Wisely: Whenever possible, arrange medical or other appointments outside of school hours.
6. Communicate with the School: If your child is struggling with attendance, reach out to their teacher for support.

Every school day counts! Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's education and future success.

RE Parent Information



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

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

Mark 10 Mission
The Primary School produces weekly videos on the Sunday Gospel. These help children to experience the Word of God, pray and sing together. You can access these on the link below:
https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/

Sacred Heart Church Services
The weekend Mass times at the church are as follows:
Saturday - 6:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm
There is a children's liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.



Parish Newsletter
You can access the parish newsletter using the link below:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bushey/weekly-newsletters/

Pope Francis

CAFOD have produced an article celebrating 12 moments in the 12 years of Pope Francis being Pope. You can read this on the link below:
https://cafod.org.uk/news/international-news/pope-francis-12-moments-from-12-years-as-pope

There is an online tribute site for Pope Francis. Using the link below you can write a message of prayer:
https://popefrancistributes.com/

Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Lord
We pray for teachers and the work of Catholic schools.
That they always see you as their guide and inspiration.
You are our ultimate teacher - care and compassion personified.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer Written by a parent



Diary Dates - Summer Term 2025

Date	Event
May 2025	**Month of Mary**
Thursday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day
Week beginning 5th May	Assess, Plan, Do Review meetings
Monday 5th May	May Bank Holiday - school is closed
Wednesday 7th May	Phase 1/2 Mass in church – 9:15am
Week beginning 12th May	KS2 Sats
Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May	Year 6 trip to Longridge
Tuesday 20th May	Phase EYFS Sports Day 9:00 – 10:30am Phase 1/2 Sports Day 10:45 - 12:00pm
Wednesday 21st May	Year 3 trip to SRMD London Spiritual Centre, Bushey
Thursday 22nd May	Year 4 trip to SRMD London Spiritual Centre, Bushey
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Half Term
June 2025	**Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**
Summer 2nd Half Term Friday 6th June	Year 3 St Bernadette Swimming
Monday 2nd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 3rd June – 6th June	Year 4 Multiplication check week
Wednesday 4th June	9:30 – 10:30 SENCO Drop Ins
Week beginning 9th June	Multiplication Check & Phonics Screening week
Wednesday 11th June	Phase 3/4 trip to Knebworth House
Friday 13th June	St Anthony (Yr 1) wear their own clothes to celebrate their feast day

Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear God Our Father,
Guide us through our lives and keep teaching us about your Holy Son Jesus.
Keep teaching us your ways in life.
Help us to carry on Jesus' lifestyle and keep us safe for eternity.
Amen Written by Ashling



Diary Dates for Summer Term 2025 continued

Date	Event
Monday 16th June	All classes from Nursery up to Year 6 - Father's Day class assemblies – these will be live streamed
Wednesday 18th June	Phase 3/4 Sports Day – 9:00 – 10:30am Phase 5/6 Sports Day – 10:45 – 12:15pm
Week beginning 23rd June	One World Week
Monday 23rd June	Year 1 trip to Bushey Baptist Church
Monday 23rd June	Year 5 trip to Watford Mosque
Tuesday 24th June	International Day – pupils may wear clothes/colours that represent their heritage
Wednesday 25th June	Year 6 trip to Watford Mosque
Thursday 26th June	Year 2 trip to Bushey Baptist Church
Friday 27th June	Sacred Heart Feast Day Mass for Years 1 – 6 in Church at 9:15am. Phase 1/2 to lead. Whole school picnic at 12:00pm to 1:00pm on the school field
Monday 30th June	St Peter's Class (Year 3/4) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day which was on 29thJune
July 2025	**Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus**
Tuesday 1st July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm
Wednesday 2nd July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm
Wednesday 2nd July	Phase 3/4 Mass in church at 9:15am
Monday 7th July	Phase 1/2 trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Wednesday 9th July	Reception trip to Willows Activity Farm
Thursday 10th July	Transition Day
Wednesday 16th July	St Anne's class (Nursery) wear their own clothes to celebrate the feast day of St Anne which is on 26th July
Thursday 17th July	9:15am – Year 6 Leavers Mass in church End of Term - Nursery afternoon children, Reception & Phase 1/2 finish at 12:20pm - Years 3,4 & 5 finish at 12:30pm - Year 6 finish 1:30pm