Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

MAY DATES

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Summer 1st Half Term	Year 3/4 (St Peter) Swimming
May	**Month of Mary**
Friday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Friday 1st May	Year 5 Year Group Mass - 9:15am in Church - Parents & Carers are welcome to join us.
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Phase 1/2 Mass – 9:15am in Church
Monday 11th May	SATs - Grammar & Spelling Tests
Tuesday 12th May	SATs – Reading Test
Wednesday 13th May	SATs – Arithmetic and Reasoning Test
Thursday 14th May	SATs – Reasoning Test
Thursday 14th May	Ascension Day Mass Yr 1 – Yr 6 - 1:30pm in Church
Monday 18th May – Thursday 21st May	Year 6 trip to Longridge
Tuesday 19th May	Phase EYFS Sports Day 9:00am – 10:30am Phase 1/2 Sports Day 10:45am - 12:00pm
Wednesday 20th May	Year 2 Indoor Athletics Competition at Queens' School

A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and enjoyable April here at school!
We marked St George's Day, came together for our Beginning of Term Mass, and celebrated St Bernadette's Feast Day with a special assembly led by St Bernadette's class. Year 4 also took part in an indoor athletics tournament, representing the school brilliantly.
In the lead-up to Easter, we were delighted to welcome our new Archbishop of Westminster. We wish him every success and blessing in his new role. We also keep in our prayers all those who are unwell at this time, especially Father Jim.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Smith



St Bernadette's Feast Day

On Thursday 16th April, Year 3 marked their Class Feast Day with a day full of joy and reflection. The children came to school in their own clothes and spent time exploring the life and faith of St Bernadette.

As part of the day, Year 3 led a special act of collective worship, thinking about the example St Bernadette gives us. Through her life, we are reminded of the importance of faith, humility, and trusting in God, even during challenging times.

It was a meaningful and memorable occasion, and we are very proud of the respectful and thoughtful way the children celebrated their feast day.



Year 4 Athletics Tournament

On Thursday 16th April, Year 4 went to Queens' School for an Athletics Tournament. It was really fun for everyone and everyone was happy with how we performed. Although we didn't win, it was a good experience for us because we competed against some Year 6's and we even beat some of them!

We were awarded a trophy for being really supportive to each other in every event that we took part in. All of us tried our best. We would like to thank Mr Reynolds for arranging it, Mr Thompson for organising who was in which team and for taking us to the tournament along with Ms Shi and Mrs O'Connor.

We were all so happy to take part in this tournament.

Written by Sadie & Thomas



FOSH

We are incredibly grateful for the continued dedication and support of FOSH, whose fundraising efforts make a real difference to our school. This year's Fireworks Display was a great success, raising an impressive £4,641.20, while our Christmas Fair brought in a fantastic £1,900. The St Patrick's Night at the Parish Centre raised £1000 and the Mothers' Day gifts raised £150. This money will go directly towards projects such as improving the Infant climbing frame, providing Bibles for the Year 3 children and hoodies for the Year 6 children. FOSH also gave each child in the school an Easter Egg for Easter. The children greatly appreciated this. Thank you.

Thanks to this generous support, we are moving ever closer to achieving our aim of enhancing our outdoor play equipment for the children. We warmly encourage parents and carers to keep supporting future events by volunteering and attending whenever possible—your involvement is invaluable. If anyone is able to offer match funding from the Christmas Fair, please do get in touch, as this would significantly increase the funds raised.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and ongoing commitment to our school community.

Upcoming Events:

- Selling Father's Day Gifts
- Summer Fair





Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) guides us in living out our faith, showing love for God and our neighbours, especially those in need.

This half term, we are focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Dignity of Workers. Through this theme, the children are learning that work is not only a way to earn a living, but also a way of contributing to God's creation and serving others.

Across the school, we are helping the children to recognise and appreciate the valuable work carried out by everyone in our community, including teachers, support staff, office teams, cleaners, and kitchen staff. Each role plays an important part in helping our school to flourish.

Through lessons, discussions, and everyday experiences, the children are exploring the importance of fairness, respect, and gratitude for all forms of work. They are also learning that everyone has the right to work in a safe and supportive environment, where they are treated with dignity and respect, just as Jesus showed in His care for others.

By developing an understanding of the Dignity of Workers, we are encouraging our children to grow into thoughtful, respectful, and compassionate individuals who value the contributions of others in society.





SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

British Values

Each half term, we explore a different British value to support our pupils in becoming considerate and responsible members of society. This half term, our focus is on developing tolerance and respect for people of different faiths, races, and cultures. We want our children to understand and celebrate the rich diversity of the world around them, recognising that our differences are something to value and learn from.

Across the school, the children will explore a range of beliefs, traditions, and cultures through lessons, stories, and class discussions. We will provide opportunities for them to share their own experiences and learn about the backgrounds of others in a respectful and supportive environment.

Through assemblies, collective worship, and everyday classroom activities, we will emphasise the importance of kindness, inclusion, and understanding. The children will learn how to challenge stereotypes, show empathy, and treat everyone with fairness and respect.

By encouraging open-mindedness and celebrating diversity, we aim to help our children grow into caring, confident individuals who are prepared to live harmoniously in a multicultural society.

We encourage families to support this focus at home by modelling respectful behaviour, talking openly, and embracing differences in everyday life.

The British values we promote throughout the year are:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths, races, and cultures

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on Learning

This half term, our focus is on R for Respect as part of our LEARNER values:

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



This half term, we are focusing on developing a strong sense of nurture across the school. We want every child to feel safe, supported, and valued so they are able to thrive both emotionally and academically.

Throughout the school day, we are creating a nurturing environment by building positive relationships, encouraging kindness, and ensuring that every child feels listened to and understood. Staff are supporting children to recognise and manage their emotions, develop resilience, and grow in confidence.

In classrooms, we are using activities such as circle time, group discussions, and collaborative learning to promote a sense of belonging and mutual respect. We also provide calm spaces and opportunities for reflection, helping children to feel secure and ready to learn.

By placing nurture at the heart of our school, we aim to support the whole child, helping them to develop the skills they need to form positive relationships, cope with challenges, and feel happy and confident in their learning environment.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on RE

Below are the topics the children will be learning about over the Spring Term in RE. Each topic is studied through focus lenses: Hear, Believe, Celebrate and Live. The names of these lenses reflect the structure and language of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which teaches that the mystery of faith, once "heard" and received, requires believers to "believe in it, " "celebrate it" through liturgy, and "live from it" in their daily lives.

Year	To the ends of the world	Dialogue & Encounter
Phase EYFS	**Hear:** The children will learn the following texts from the Bible: Story of Pentecost(Simple Telling). The early Christian community (Acts 2:42-47). **Believe:** The children will learn that the Church teaches that: The Holy Spirit is our friend. The Holy Spirit looks after us. Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Good News of Jesus lived out by the early Christian community. **Celebrate:** The children will learn that: The parish church is a special place where we meet our friends. We sing and say prayers. Pentecost is a special celebration in the Church. Sunday is a special day for the Church to celebrate. **Live:** The children will learn that we are called to live as God's family and community and that we are one family - God's family.	**Dialogue:** The children will hear a simple life of St Peter and St Paul, friends of Jesus. A member of the local parish will come in to school to talk about their faith and why it matters to them to be a friend of Jesus. The children will explore a range of pictures of Jesus from a non-European tradition. **Encounter:** A visitor from the local area or a school community member will come into school to talk about their local (faith) community and why it matters to them. The children will engage in a broad sensory curriculum about the music, food, smells, tastes, and specific clothing worn, to enrich understanding.





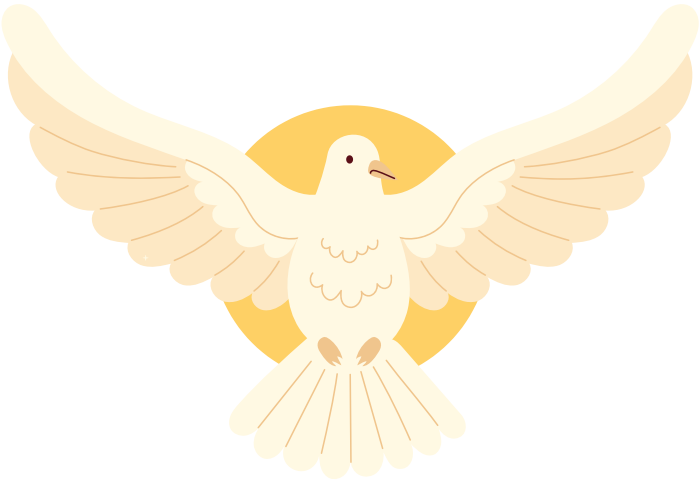


SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on RE

Year	To the ends of the world	Dialogue & Encounter
Phase 1/2	**Hear:** The children will learn the following texts from the Bible: The road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35), Promise of the Spirit and the Ascension (Acts 1:1-11), Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) **Believe:** The children will learn that the Church teaches that: When people open their hearts to the Holy Spirit they are changed, as the apostles are changed. The mission of the Church begins at Pentecost. **Celebrate:** The children will learn that: The Church celebrates Ascension and Pentecost on special days of celebration (holydays of obligation). The words of the 'Glory Be' prayer. An age-appropriate hymn referencing the Holy Spirit. **Live:** The children will learn: How Pentecost is celebrated in another part of the world. How artists and musicians around the world celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit and the mystery of the Trinity.	**Dialogue:** The children will learn that the Church teaches that: • The Church is the community of all those who belong to Christ. • The cross is a symbol of Christianity. • The shortest summary of the Catholic faith is the sign of the cross. The pupils will know about Christianity locally by: • Learning about their local parish community. • Learning about their local parish church. Encounter • Experience music, art, or religious objects that reflect Christian communities in a place outside their local parish. **Encounter:** The children will learn about aspects of modern Jewish life in Britain, including specific vocabulary about the Jewish belief in one God and the Torah as a special text which contains stories of the Jewish people's history and is a guide for Jewish life.





SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on RE

Year	To the ends of the world	Dialogue & Encounter
Phase 3/4	**Hear:** The children will learn the following texts from the Bible: • Road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) • The mission to the world (Matt 28:16-20) • The group of apostles (Mary) (Acts 1:12-14) • Early Church (Acts 2:42-47) • Paul's Letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:23-27) **Believe:** The children will learn that the Church teaches that: The disciples recognised Jesus when he breaks the bread. At Mass, what we eat looks like bread, but it is Jesus who comes, the living God. The bread is the Body of Christ. There is only one God, who is three Persons. God is a community within himself: an eternal exchange of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this mystery the Trinity. Through Mary, the Holy Spirit guided the first disciples. She continues to guide our prayers. Mass was celebrated in the early Church. **Celebrate:** The children will learn: That the sign of the cross is the shortest summary of the Christian faith. That some prayers that reference the Trinity and the work of the Holy Spirit. That the celebration of Mass ends by reminding Christians of Jesus' instruction to make disciples of all nations. **Live:** The children will learn: That being a Christian means to share the gospel. That Christians today continue to follow the example of the apostles and early Church when they gather to say Mass. How the Emmaus story is represented in art. Triptych 2014; He Qi, The Road. That the mystery of the Trinity is represented symbolically, e.g., Trinity knot.	**Dialogue:** By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have encountered the following key text: • Exodus 12:1-8,15-20, 13:3 • Lk 22:14-23 By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: • For Christians, the Eucharist is linked with the Jewish celebration of Passover. **Encounter:** By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have encountered the following: • Some simple facts about how the Jewish festival of the Passover is celebrated by Jews in Britain today. By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have encountered the following: • Recognise links and simple connections between some Islamic religious laws, beliefs, worship, and life (e.g., belief in one God, the Creator, the significance of Muhammed, importance of the will of God etc.). • Recognise the importance of artistic expressions of belief in Islam, for example, in Islamic art or religious music.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on RE

Year	To the ends of the world	Dialogue & Encounter
Phase 5/6	**Hear:** The children will learn the following texts from the Bible: • Scriptural echoes of the Sacrament of Confirmation (Is 11:2, 61:1, Lk 4:16, Mt 3:13-17) • Pentecost (Acts 2:1-8, 14-18) • The gifts of the Spirit Paul (1 Cor 12:4-11) • Baptism in the Spirit (Acts 8:14-16) **Believe:** The children will learn that the Church teaches that: 'Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand Jesus'. (YC 114) The Sacrament of Confirmation completes baptismal grace, enriches those receiving the sacrament with the strength of the Holy Spirit who helps them be true witnesses of Christ in word and deed. The effects of confirmation are an increase in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a closer bond with Jesus and the Church and a desire to spread the Gospel. These are experienced as the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Mary is an example of discipleship. The Holy Spirit appears under different names and signs through Scripture. **Celebrate:** The children will learn: The actions, signs, prayers, and symbols of the Catholic rite of Confirmation. The Rosary is a prayerful reflection on the life of Christ and the glorious mysteries remember what followed the Resurrection. 'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful' prayer. **Live:** The children will learn: Some examples of artistic symbolic representation of the Holy Spirit. An example of a saint whose life was transformed by encountering Jesus and who went on to transform the lives of others.	**Dialogue:** .By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: The many different writers of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. What Christians call the Old Testament originates in Hebrew scriptures. The Old Testament is important for Christians because it speaks of God's covenant with Abraham and is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek which were the languages of the writers. God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. **Encounter:** By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have encountered the following: That the Tanakh (or Hebrew Bible) uses different names for God, to express different aspects of His nature. That the Shema prayer is the basic creed of Judaism. It encapsulates the intrinsic unity of the world and its Creator. Use specialist vocabulary to describe some Jewish beliefs expressed in the Shema prayer. A mezuzah as it contains the Shema prayer and on the box is the letter 'Shin' or sometimes the whole word 'Shaddai' meaning mighty,

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

At Sacred Heart, good attendance and punctuality play a vital role in helping every child succeed. Attending school regularly, unless a child is unwell, supports their learning, confidence, and ability to build strong friendships.

Arriving on time is just as important, as learning starts as soon as the school day begins. To help ensure a calm and organised start, we have staggered start times across the different phases:

Start Times by Phase:

EYFS

Registration: 8:40am

Children are marked late once the register has closed.

An unauthorised absence is recorded if a child arrives after 9:10am.

Phase 1/2

Registration: 8:45am

Children are marked late once the register has closed.

An unauthorised absence is recorded if a child arrives after 9:15am.

Phase 3/4

Registration: 8:50am

Children are marked late once the register has closed.

An unauthorised absence is recorded if a child arrives after 9:20am.

Phase 5/6

Registration: 8:55am

Children are marked late once the register has closed.

An unauthorised absence is recorded if a child arrives after 9:25am.

The school gates open shortly before 8:40am, with classroom doors open from 8:40am for all children to enter. If you are dropping off more than one child, please arrive at the time of your youngest child.

After 8:50am, only children should enter through the playground gate. If you need to accompany your child after this time, please go via the school office. The school gate will close just before 9:00am.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children arrive promptly and ready to begin their learning each day.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL&NURSERY

RE Parent Information



School RE Newsletter

Please click on the link below to read the latest School Newsletter and Prayer at Home Newsletter
https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/newsletters/

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/

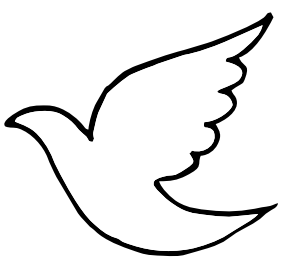
Sacred Heart Church Services



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.

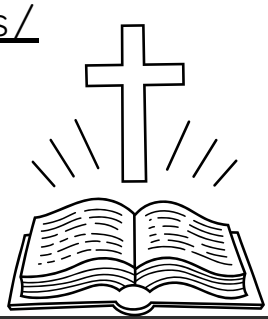
Parish Newsletter

You can access the parish newsletter on this link:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bushey/weekly-newsletters/









SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL&NURSERY

Summer Wellbeing Advice for Parents

As we move into the summer term, we would like to share some helpful reminders to support your child's wellbeing during this busy and often exciting time of year.

With longer days and warmer weather, it is important to maintain consistent routines. Ensuring your child gets enough sleep each night will help them stay focused, happy, and ready for learning.

Encouraging regular outdoor play and physical activity can also support both physical and mental wellbeing.

Please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle each day and ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather, including sun hats and sunscreen where needed.

This term can sometimes feel demanding, particularly for children preparing for assessments or transitions. Taking time to talk with your child about their day, listening to any worries, and offering reassurance can make a big difference. Encouraging a healthy balance between schoolwork, rest, and play is key.

Finally, small moments together—such as reading, playing games, or spending time outdoors—can have a big impact on your child's wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure all children feel happy, healthy, and ready to learn.

Pupil Premium

In certain circumstances, schools can claim around £1,600 per child for pupils whose parents receive certain benefits. This applies to all children from Nursery to Year 6.

The funding can be used to support learning, wellbeing, and enjoyment at school, including things like 1:1 maths or literacy support and contributions to school trips.

Eligibility is the same as for Free School Meals in KS2.To apply, visit: https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Once approved, the funding continues each year, but you'll need to reapply when your child moves from Nursery to Reception and Year 2 to Year 3.

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



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Diary Dates Summer 2026

Date	Event
Summer 1st Half Term	Year 3/4 (St Peter) Swimming
May	**Month of Mary**
Friday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Friday 1st May	Year 5 Year Group Mass - 9:15am in Church
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Phase 1/2 Mass – 9:15am in Church
Wk Beginning 11th May	KS2 SATs
Monday 11th May	SATs – Grammar & Spelling Tests
Tuesday 12th May	SATs – Reading Test
Wednesday 13th May	SATs – Arithmetic and Reasoning Test
Thursday 14th May	SATs – Reasoning Test
Thursday 14th May	Ascension Day Mass Yr 1 – Yr 6 - 1:30pm in Church
Monday 18th May – Thursday 21st May	Year 6 trip to Longridge
Tuesday 19th May	Phase EYFS Sports Day 9:00am – 10:30am Phase 1/2 Sports Day 10:45am - 12:00pm
Wednesday 20th May	Year 2 Indoor Athletics Competition - Queens' School
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	Half Term

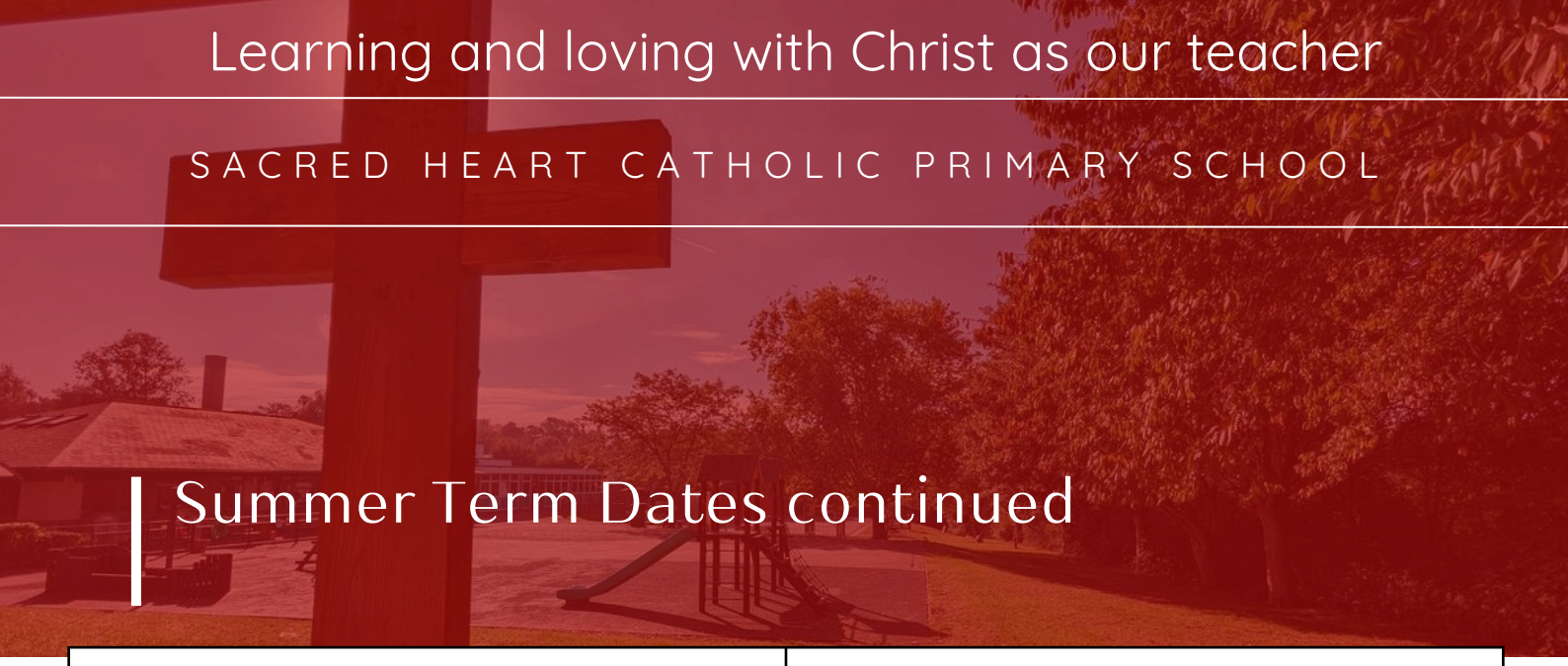


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Summer Dates Continued

Date	Event
Summer 2nd Half Term Half Term	Year 3 (St Bernadette) Swimming
June	**Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Wk beginning Monday 1st June	Multiplication Check Year 4
Wednesday 3rd June	9:30am – 10:30am SENCO Drop Ins – If a parent would like to see the SENCO on this day, please contact the office and they will give you a time slot.
Wk Beginning 8th June	Multiplication Check & Phonics Screening Week
Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June	Yr 6 Bikeability
Friday 12th 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 15th June	St Anthony (Yr 1) wear their own clothes to celebrate their feast day – feast day is on 13th June. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 16th June	Whole School Photo
Wednesday 17th June	Phase 3/4 Sports Day – 9:00am – 10:30am Phase 5/6 Sports Day – 10:45am – 12:15pm
Wk Beginning 22nd June	One World Week
Tuesday 23rd June	International Day – pupils may wear clothes/colours that represents their heritage
Thursday 25th June	Phase 3/4 School Trip - Bhaktivedanta Manor
Monday 29th June	St Peter's Class (Yr3/4) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 30th June	Reception School Trip - Willows Activity Farm
Tuseday 30th June	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm



Summer Term Dates continued

Date	Event
July	**Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus**
Wednesday 1st July	Phase 3/4 Mass in church at 9:15am
Wednesday 1st July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm
Thursday 2nd July	St Anthony School Trip - Ashridge Estate
Friday 3rd July	St Cecilia School Trip - Ashridge Estate
Monday 6th July	St Bernadette and St Peter School Trip - Chiltern Open Air Museum
Monday 6th July	Nursery - Basil & Crew Mobile Farm
Monday 6th July	Year 1 School Trip - St James's Church, Bushey
Tuesday 7th July	Year 2 School Trip - St James's Church, Bushey
Tuesday 7th July	St Alphonsa School Trip - Chiltern Open Air Museum
Wednesday 8th July	St Therese School Trip - Ashridge Estate
Thursday 9th July	Transition Day
Saturday 11th July	School Summer Fair
Tuesday 14th July	Sacred Heart Phase 5/6 Football Tournament
Wednesday 15th July	St Anne's class (Nursery) wear their own clothes to celebrate the feast day of St Anne which is on 26th July. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Friday 17th July	9:15am – Year 6 Leavers Mass in church School finishes 12:20pm for Years N, R, 1, 2 12:30pm Years 3,4,5 Yr 6 finish at 1:00pm



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Provisional 2026 - 2027 Term Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September	Term Starts
Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October	Half Term
Friday 27th November	Occasional Day
Friday 18th December	End of term - school closes at 1:15pm
Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Term Starts
Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February	Half Term
Thursday 25th March	End of term - school closes at 1:15pm
Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	Term Starts
Monday 31st May - 4th June	Half Term
Monday 7th June	Inset Day
Monday 19th July	9:15am – Year 6 Leavers Mass in Church School finishes 12:20pm for Years N, R, 1, 2 12:30pm Years 3,4,5 Yr 6 finish at 1:00pm