Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

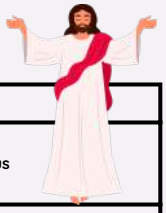
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



Dear God,
In this time of December we ask you to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus, your Son and our Saviour. During this time we ask for your forgiveness and help those who have no presents under the tree. Please send the Holy Spirit our way to bless our local community and the wider world around us to keep us safe forever more. Amen
Written by Emily and Emily

January Dates



Date	Event
January	**Dedication to the Holy Name of Jesus**
Spring 1st Half	Year 5 St Josephine Bakhita Swimming
Monday 6th January	Term Starts
Wednesday 8th January	Beginning of Term Mass in Church - Year 4 to lead
wk beginning 20th & 27th January	Assess, Plan, Do Review Meetings
Thursday 23rd January	Parent Head's Forum – parent and carers are welcome
Friday 31st January	St John Bosco (Yr 6) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Friday 31st January	1:30pm – Candlemas Liturgy in the hall – just pupils

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

During December we had a very busy and exciting month as we prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We had our Phase 1/2, Nursery and Reception Nativities, the Junior Advent Service, reconciliation for Years 4 - 6 and the Christmas Fair.
Also, the ECO Ambassadors led a Christmas Jumper Swap and the Caritas Ambassadors led our Advent fundraising events.
In addition to these we had a whole school trip to the Pantomime and our annual Christmas Dinner day.
Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported us with these.
This Christmas, may your homes be filled with peace, joy and the blessings of the Holy Spirit. On behalf of all of the staff at Sacred Heart, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this time be filled with love, laughter and the warmth of family and friends.

With warm wishes and blessings,
Mrs Smith



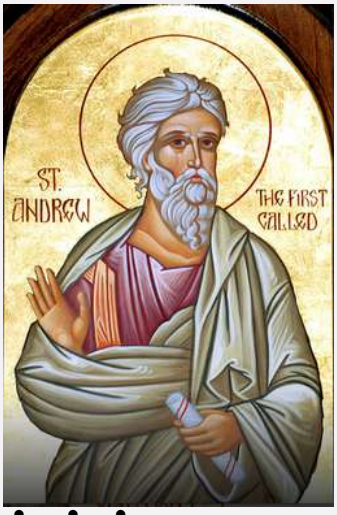
St Andrews' Day

On the 2nd December, our school transformed into a sea of blue, white, and tartan as the children embraced the spirit of St. Andrew's Day. St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, teaches us valuable lessons in unity, kindness, and community. Just as he shared what he had with others, our students learned the importance of generosity, friendship, and coming together as one big Sacred Heart family. St. Andrew's Day serves as a reminder that our differences make us unique, and it's in coming together that we create a harmonious and vibrant community. Let's carry the spirit of St. Andrew with us, fostering kindness, unity, and a love for learning every day.

Dear God,

Please help us to be like St Andrew and to follow Jesus with all our heart. Help us to show love and kindness to everyone. Help us to make our world a peaceful world.
Amen

Written by the House Captains



Phase 1/2, Reception and Nursery Nativities

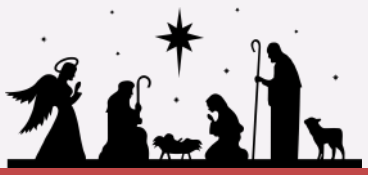
On Wednesday, 4th and Thursday, 5th December, Phase 1/2 performed their beautiful Christmas Nativity, followed by Reception on the 11th December and Nursery on the 12th December. All of the children sang beautifully, acted brilliantly, and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas through their performances.

A huge congratulations to all the children for their hard work and dedication in bringing the Christmas story to life on stage. Their enthusiasm and talent truly shone!

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff who worked tirelessly to put these performances together, ensuring every detail was perfect. A special thank you to the parents and carers who attended the performances and supported the children with such enthusiasm. Your presence helped make these events even more special.

Well done to everyone involved in making this year's Nativity performances a memorable and joyful celebration of the Christmas season.

On the next page you can see pictures from the Nativity plays.




BaaRny


BaaRny


BaaRny


BaaRny


BaaRny
MARK
LUKE


BaaRny
MARK





Junior Advent Service

On 5th December, our Junior students led the school's annual Advent Service at church. The service was truly special, with exceptional singing, clear and heartfelt readings, and an atmosphere of reverence throughout.

At the heart of the service was a beautiful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas—thanking God for sending Jesus to us and reflecting on the significance of His birth in our lives. The children's thoughtful participation made this service a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

A huge well done to the children for their hard work and dedication. Their performances were both inspiring and moving. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to all of the staff who prepared the pupils so thoroughly for this important occasion.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us at the service. Your presence added to the sense of community and celebration as we came together to reflect on the season of Advent.

Well done to everyone involved in making this year's Advent Service such a meaningful and memorable occasion









Christmas Fair

On Friday 13th December, the school was filled with festive cheer as FOSH (Friends of Sacred Heart) hosted our annual Christmas Fair. The event was a wonderful celebration of the season, with something for everyone to enjoy.

There was so much to do and see, from visiting Santa's Grotto to enjoying fun children's games and a lively tombola. The face painting was a hit, and many other festive activities added to the joyful atmosphere. Delicious hot food and drinks were served, keeping everyone warm and satisfied throughout the day.

Adding to the festive spirit, the junior pupils performed songs from their Advent Service, filling the air with beautiful music and reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

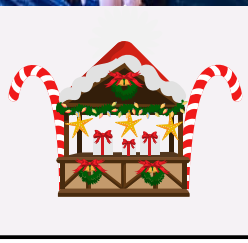
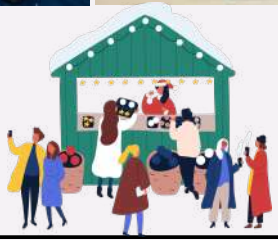
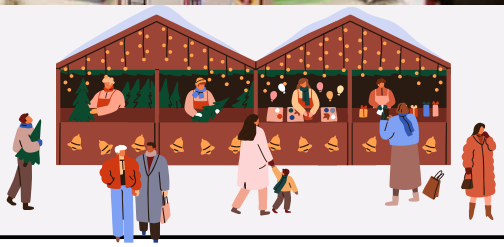
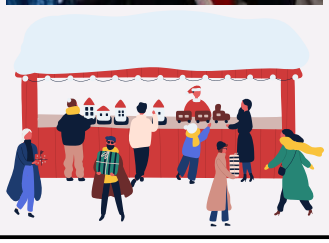
A huge thank you to FOSH and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to organise and run this event. Your time and effort helped make the fair a memorable occasion for all. We would also like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the fair. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make this event a great success.

Thank you for helping us spread the Christmas joy and supporting the school community.







Whole School Pantomime

On Monday, 16th December, the whole school had the exciting opportunity to visit Watford Palace Theatre to watch the pantomime Aladdin. The performance was full of energy, laughter, and festive cheer. The children thoroughly enjoyed every moment. From the dazzling costumes to the hilarious jokes, it was a truly fantastic experience for all involved.

We are extremely proud of the pupils' exemplary behaviour during the trip. They were a credit to the school, showing respect and enthusiasm throughout the performance.

A big thank you to FOSH (Friends of Sacred Heart) for generously providing the pupils with a snack and drink during the interval. This ensured that everyone was refreshed and ready for the second half.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped make this trip possible. Your time and support ensured that the day ran smoothly and that the children had a wonderful experience.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this trip such a memorable and enjoyable event for the whole school.









Christmas Dinner Day

On Thursday, 19th December, we celebrated our annual Christmas Dinner Day in true festive style. The children came into school wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats, adding to the joyful atmosphere that filled the school.

The highlight of the day was the delicious Christmas dinner, prepared by our talented cooks. The meal was enjoyed by both pupils and staff. It truly captured the spirit of the season. From the turkey to the desserts, everything was wonderfully festive and tasty.

A huge thank you to our amazing kitchen staff for not only making such a delicious Christmas dinner but for all the wonderful meals they prepare for us throughout the school year. Your hard work and care are greatly appreciated by everyone.

This special day has definitely put us all in the Christmas spirit, and we're now all looking forward to Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day so memorable and festive.














Saint
Cecilia















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 we have focused on Option for the Poor. The 'preferential option' means allowing someone to have the first choice. It means giving someone the best that is available; not just the scraps or leftovers. God calls us to look for those in need and work hard to support them as best we can.

The Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors have been carrying out our fundraising for this half term:

The Caritas Ambassadors in St Matthew's House sold poppies at the beginning of November. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

The Caritas Ambassadors in St Mark's House helped with the Hope Trust Christmas Boxes. Thank you to everyone who made a box.









The Caritas Ambassadors in St Luke's House collected money for CAFOD after the Nursery Nativity, Reception Nativity, Phase 1/2 Nativity and the Junior Advent Service.

The Caritas Ambassadors in St John's House lead a Christmas Card campaign where they made Christmas cards for people in our parish and local community. After they delivered these they made the following comments:

"I liked making people happy. I liked giving cards to the care home as it looked like we made their day.

It made me feel proud because I am quite shy and I managed to speak to people that I hadn't spoken to before.

I liked that we were spreading Christmas joy.

I liked seeing people's faces light up."















Spotlight on Learning & DT

Learner Acronym

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

Next half term we are focusing on A for 'Articulate & Aspire'. Some of the ways that we do this are:
by encouraging group and class discussions;
giving the pupils public speaking opportunities such as 'show and tell', storytelling and debates;
teaching vocabulary so that the pupils build a rich and diverse vocabulary bank that they can use;
inviting community figures into school to talk about their life journey and experiences;
celebrating achievements.

DT

This half term the pupils have been focusing on the topics below. Throughout the topics the pupils follow the DT sequence of learning - Researching the products they will be making, learning the skills they need to make the product, making the product and evaluating their final product.

Phase	Topic
EYFS	Fairy Tale Crafts Christmas Crafts
Phase 1/2	Structures - Bay Bear's Chair
Phase 3/4	Food: Biscuits
Phase 5/6	Food: Pizza's







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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.

Next half term we are focusing on Individual Liberty. We will do this by:

- Giving pupils choice in the way they complete activities.
- In PSHE and RSE pupils are taught about rights and freedoms.
- Pupils are taught about individuals that fought for liberty such as civil rights leaders.
- Pupils are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions in class discussions, emphasising that every viewpoint is valued.
- We celebrate diversity by encouraging pupils to share aspects of their culture, beliefs and interests.
- In Friday's celebration Assembly pupils share their talents and interests with the whole school.
- At the beginning of the Spring term, classes review their classroom rules focusing on how liberty works within a framework of mutual respect and accountability.
- We encourage participation in pupil groups such as House Captains, ECO Ambassadors, Caritas Ambassadors, Prayer Leaders, Digital Leaders and Sport Leaders where pupils can voice opinions and influence decisions.

By creating a balanced approach that combines education, encouragement and real-life application we help the pupils to understand and value their individual liberty while recognising its role in a harmonious and respectful society.







Reception School Admissions

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and you would like to apply for a place in Reception at Sacred Heart School for September 2025, please apply to your Local Authority and complete our school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Please submit the school's SIF directly to our School Office, along with any supporting documents.

If you would like to visit our school please contact the School Office, 01923 901179, who will arrange an individual tour with Mrs Smith, Head of School. On our website, you will find a copy of our school brochure, which will give you an insight to our school, our Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and our Admissions Policy for 2025-2026.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice is signed by priests for all practising Catholics defined by Canon Law; this form is available from your parish Priest. Fr Jim will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice after Mass on Sundays.

1st November 2024 Online system opens to apply for a place in Reception for September 2025
15th January 2025 Deadline to apply for a school place
16th April 2025 National Allocation Day



Nursery Admission

Nursery 2025 School Admissions
If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 and you would like to apply for a place in Nursery at Sacred Heart School for September 2025, please complete our Nursery application form and submit this directly to the School Office, along with any supporting documents.
If you would like to visit our school please contact the school office, 01923 901179, or email admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk to arrange a tour with Mrs Smith, Head of School.
On our website, you will find a copy of our school brochure, which will give you an insight to our school and the Nursery class, our application form and our Nursery Admissions Policy.
The Certificate of Catholic Practice is signed by priests for all practising Catholics defined by Canon Law, which includes weekly attendance at Mass on Holy Days of Obligation; this form is available from your parish Priest. If you would like a paper copy of any of the documents, please contact the school.

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.



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 on this link:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bushey/weekly-newsletters/

Dear God, Our Father,

Thank you for sending the gift of hope to use through your Son Jesus. He guides us through the night sky like the star of Bethlehem shone above the Wise Men. We thank you for trusting Mary to bear your Son. We especially remember your Son in this time of Advent. Help us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by listening to you and saying our prayers. Please bring us closer to the Holy Spirit and keep us safe with you forever.

Amen

Written by Ellie & Tait



Attendance and Punctuality Update 📊🕒

Our current attendance rate stands at 95%. We aim to achieve a target of 97% and to be at least above 96%. Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic progress, fostering a positive and structured learning environment for the entire class.
Since September, we've recorded 544 instances of lateness. Punctuality is not only vital for your child's academic success but also plays a key role in maintaining a positive and structured learning atmosphere for the entire class.

Why It Matters:

Regular attendance and punctuality establish the foundation for a successful learning experience. Consistent routines contribute to your child's academic growth, and arriving on time ensures they don't miss essential instructional time.

How You Can Help:

1. Timely Arrival: Please ensure your child arrives at school on time, ready to embrace a day of learning.
2. Communication: If your child is unwell, please inform the school as soon as possible to facilitate appropriate support.
3. Holiday Planning: Schedule family holidays during school breaks to avoid disruptions to your child's education.

Your Ongoing Support:

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support in emphasizing the importance of attendance and punctuality. By working together, we can create an optimal learning environment for every child at Sacred Heart Primary School.

Wellbeing

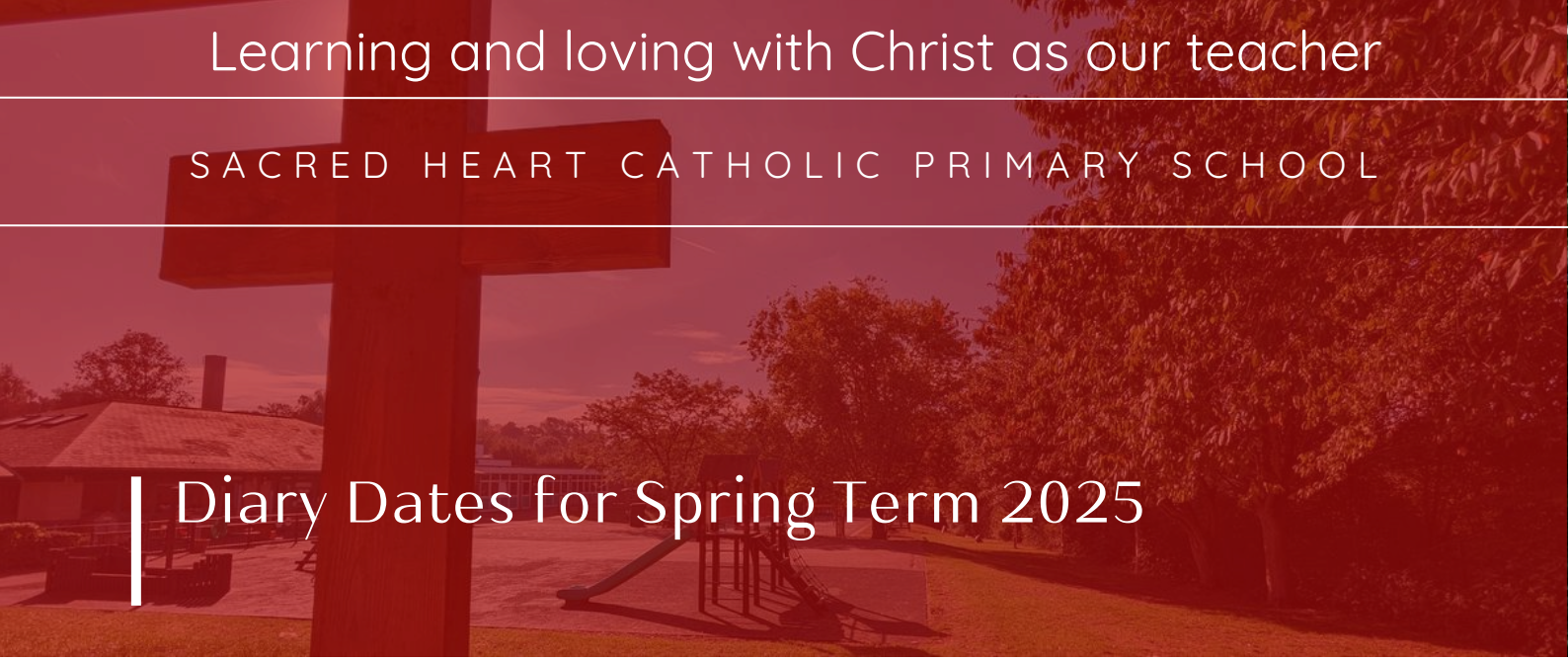
Managing Anxiety and Stress This Christmas: Tips from Action for Children 🎄

As we approach the festive season, Action for Children offers valuable insights on coping with anxiety and stress. Explore helpful tips and advice by visiting the link below:

https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/blog/mental-health-christmas-cope-anxiety-stress/

Dear Lord Heavenly Father,
Thank you for giving our Mother Mary the opportunity to bear a Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. We thank you for guiding the Three Wise Men to the light of the world through the fabulous shining star. This Christmas help us to remember all the miracles that Jesus performed and watch over those less fortunate than ourselves.
Amen
by Scarlett & Julia



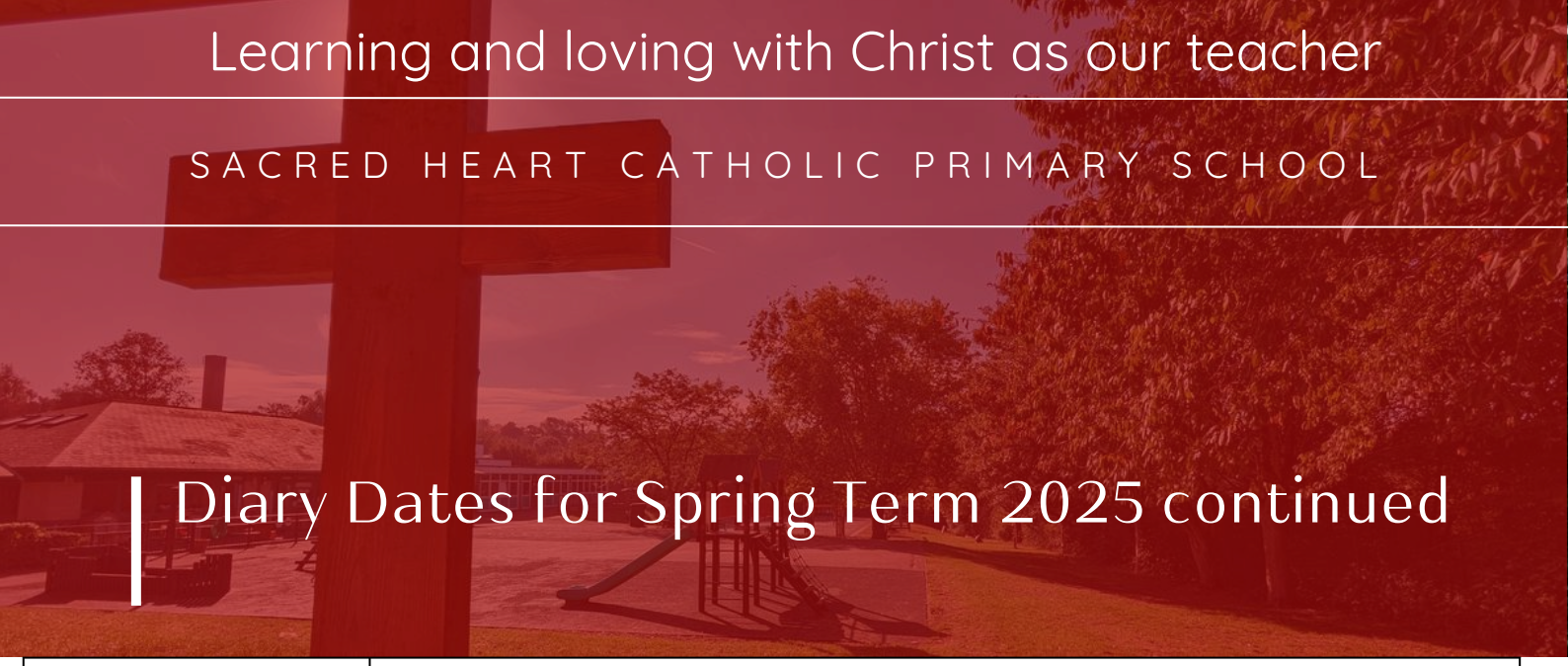


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Diary Dates for Spring Term 2025

Date	Event
Spring 1st Half	Year 5 St Josephine Bakhita Swimming
January 2025	**Dedication to the Holy Name of Jesus**
Monday 6th January	Term starts
Wednesday 8th January	Beginning of Term Mass - Year 4 to lead
Week beginning 20th & 27th January	Assess, Plan, Do Review meetings
Thursday 23rd January	Parent Head's Forum – parent and carers are welcome
Friday 31st January	St John Bosco (Yr 6) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Friday 31st January	1:30pm Candlemas Liturgy in the hall – just pupils
February 2025	**Month of the Holy Family**
Week beginning 3rd February	Feeling Good Week & Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 3rd February	1:30pm – Electric Umbrella Assembly
Friday 7th February	NSPCC Number Day – Pupils come dressed linked to a number
Monday 10th February	St Josephine Bakhita Class (Year 5) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Tuesday 11th February	Internet Safety Day
Wednesday 12th February	9:15am - Year 6 year group Mass in church
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February	Half Term



Diary Dates for Spring Term 2025 continued

Date	Event
Spring 2nd Half Friday 28th February	Year 4 St Alphonsa Swimming
Wednesday 26th February	9:30 – 10:30am SENCO Drop Ins
March 2025	**Lent**
Friday 28th February	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St David's Day the children may wear red, white, green and yellow clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday – Years 1 – 6 go to church 9:15am
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – Children come to school dressed as a character from a book
Week beginning 10th March	Parent Consultations
Monday 17th 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
Wednesday 19th March – Friday 21st March	SPEC – Year 5 Residential Trip
Tuesday 25th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play 9:15am
Wednesday 26th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play 9:15am
Friday 28th March	All classes from Nursery up to Year 6 - Mothers' Day class assemblies – these will be live streamed
April 2025	**Lent/Eastertide**
Tuesday 1st April	Infant Lent Service – 9:15am – just for pupils
Wednesday 2nd April	Junior Lent Service – 10:30am
Wednesday 2nd April	1:00pm Reconciliation – Years 4-6

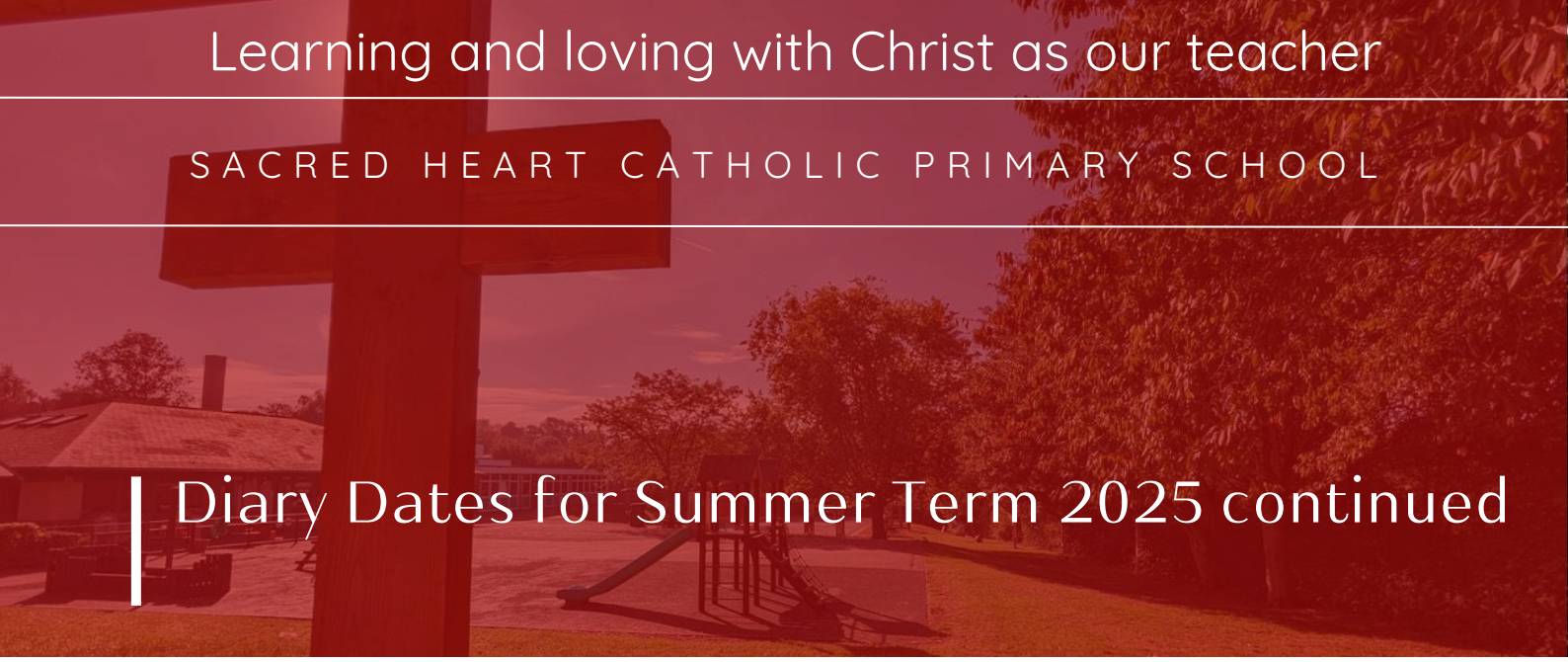


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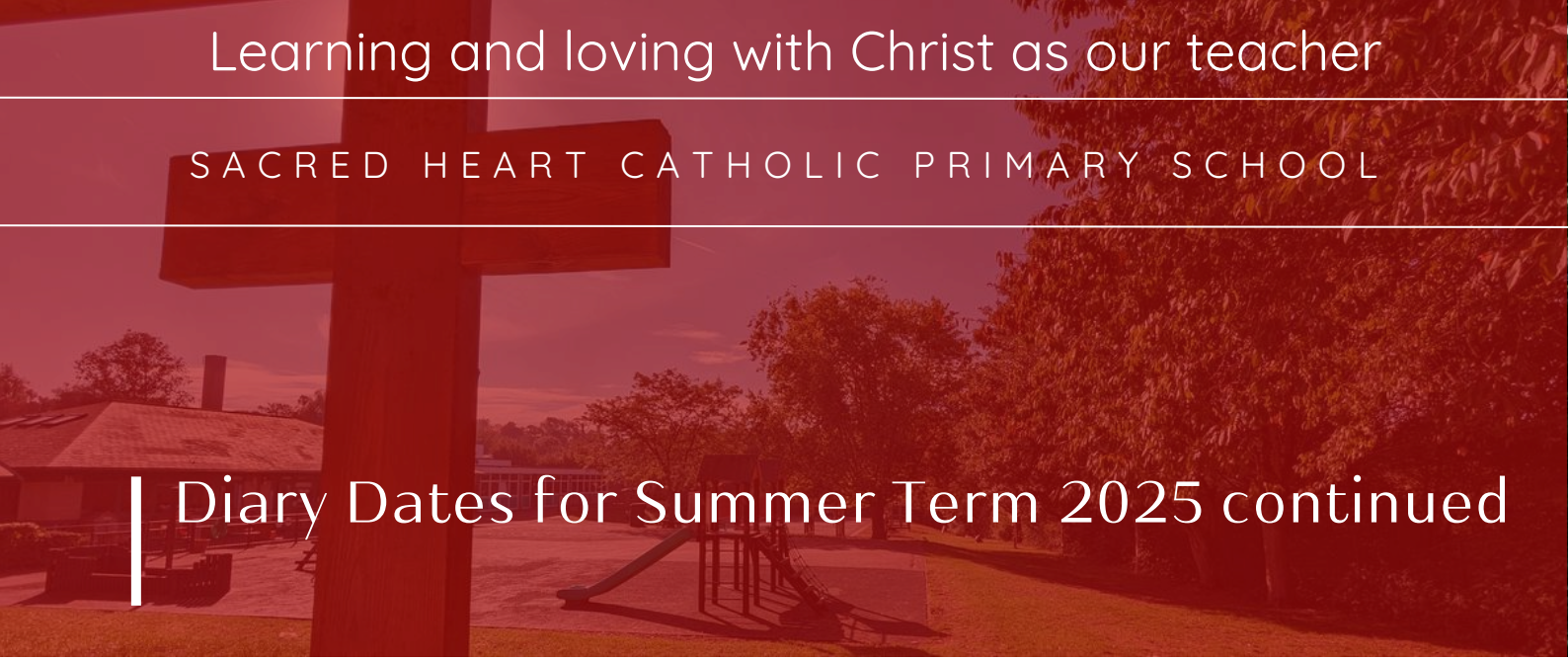
Diary Dates for Spring & Summer Term 2025

Date	Event
Thursday 3rd April	Lent Fundraising Day
Friday 4th April	Last day of term, Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade – school finishes at 1:15pm
Summer 1st Half Term Friday 25th April	Year 3/4 St Peter swimming
Tuesday 22nd April	First Day Back at school
Wednesday 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 payable via School Gateway
Friday 25th April	Beginning of Term Mass – 9:15 am in church – Year 3 to lead
Week beginning 28th April	Assess, Plan, Do Review meetings
Monday 28th April	Parent Head's Forum – parent and carers are welcome
Tuesday 29th April	St Bernadette's Class (Year 3) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day which is on 16th April
Wednesday 30th April	Year 5 Year group Mass in church 9:15am
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



Diary Dates for Summer Term 2025 continued

Date	Event
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
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Half Term
Summer 2nd Half Term Friday 6th June	Year 3 St Bernadette Swimming
June 2025	**Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**
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
Friday 13th June	St Anthony (Yr 1) wear their own clothes to celebrate their feast day



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
Tuesday 24th June	International Day – pupils may wear clothes/colours that represent their heritage
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 30th June
July 2025	**Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus**
Wednesday 2nd July	Phase 3/4 Mass in church at 9:15am
Wednesday 2nd July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm
Thursday 3rd July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6:00pm
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 to Year 5 finish 12:30pm Year 6 finish 1:30pm