Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

MARCH DATES

Date	Event
2nd Half Term	Year 4 St Alphonsa's Class Swimming
March	**Lent**
Wk Beginning 2nd March	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 3rd March	St Bernadette School Trip to Bushey Museum
Wednesday 4th March	St Alphonsa and St Peter School Trip to Bushey Museum
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – Children come to school dressed as a character from a book.
Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th March	SPEC Year 5 Residential Trip
Monday 16th March	Mother's Day Assemblies
Tuesday 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 18th March	From 1:00pm Reconciliation – Yrs 4 - 6
Thursday 19th March	Lent Fundraising Day
Tuesday 24th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Wednesday 25th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Thursday 26th March	Junior Lent Service – 10:30am in Church – Year 5 and 6 to lead
Friday 27th March	Last day of term/Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade : School finishes early-Nursery afternoon children/Reception – 1:05pm Phase 1/2 – 1:10pm Phase 3/4 – 1:15pm Phase 5/6 – 1:20pm

A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely half term. February has been busy and exciting, with Feeling Good Week, Children's Mental Health Week, a fantastic Electric Umbrella performance, NSPCC Number Day, and a special Year 6 Mass. You can read more in the newsletter.

We're looking forward to another packed half-term, including St David's and St Patrick's Day celebrations, Parent Consultations, the Year 5 SPEC trip, Easter events, Lent services, Mother's Day assemblies, fundraising, and our Easter Bonnet Parade.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Smith





Feeling Good Week & Children's Mental Health Week

This February, we were delighted to celebrate Feeling Good Week and Children's Mental Health Week, with a range of meaningful activities for our pupils.

The week began with an inspiring performance from Electric Umbrella, who promote inclusion, celebrate difference and strengthen community connections. Their uplifting workshops and performance encouraged confidence, teamwork and self-belief, setting a positive tone for the week.

In PSHE lessons, children focused on the importance of looking after their mental health. They explored ways to support their emotional wellbeing and discussed strategies for managing feelings. The week also included a special class worship centred on wellness and feeling good, reinforcing these important messages.

It was a fantastic week of reflection and learning, and we are incredibly proud of how thoughtfully our pupils took part.





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NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 6th February, we enjoyed a brilliant celebration of NSPCC Number Day. The children arrived in fantastic number and shape-themed outfits, showing great creativity and enthusiasm.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of fun and challenging Maths activities, developing their problem-solving skills and celebrating a love of learning.

Thanks to the generosity of our families, we raised £200.00 for the NSPCC, helping to support their vital work with children and young people. The donation link remains available on School Gateway for anyone who would still like to contribute.

Thank you for your continued support in making the day such a success!







Internet Safety Day

On 10th February, the children took part in Safer Internet Day, exploring this year's theme: "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

Throughout the day, pupils engaged in thoughtful discussions and activities focused on understanding artificial intelligence, how it is used in everyday technology, and how to use it safely and responsibly. They learned about making informed choices online, thinking critically about the information they see, and understanding both the benefits and risks of new technologies.

To support your child at home, we encourage regular conversations about their online activity, including how they use AI tools and digital platforms. Talking openly about online experiences helps children develop confidence and safe habits in an ever-changing digital world. The website www.internetmatters.org offers helpful guidance and resources for parents and carers.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these important messages at home. Together, we can help our children make smart and safe choices online.

YEAR 6 MASS

On Wednesday 11th February, Year 6 celebrated their special Year Group Mass, centred on the theme of love and faithfulness. The children read confidently and sang beautifully, helping to create a reverent and uplifting atmosphere.

They represented the school wonderfully, and it was a lovely occasion for all who attended. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us. If you were unable to be there, the Mass can be viewed via the parish website.





Mardi Gras

On Friday 13th February, the school celebrated Mardi Gras in style. The children came to school dressed in bright party clothes and enjoyed a range of fun activities within their phases.

During the day, they learned about the significance of Mardi Gras. It is traditionally a time of celebration before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Historically, it was a day to enjoy rich foods and festivities before the period of prayer, fasting and reflection during Lent.

The celebration helped the children understand the importance of preparing their hearts and minds for the Lenten journey, making the day both joyful and meaningful.





St Jospehine Bakhita's Feast Day

On Monday 9th February, St Josephine Bakhita's class marked her feast day with a special celebration. The children spent time learning about her life and legacy, reflecting on her remarkable courage, faith and kindness.

They took part in a dedicated collective worship, thinking about her message and how it can guide us in our daily lives. St Josephine Bakhita reminded us: "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God."

Her words encouraged the children to consider how they can show compassion, love and goodness to others. It was a thoughtful and inspiring day for everyone involved.

Bushey Museum Trips

Phase 1/2 recently enjoyed a visit to Bushey Museum to support their learning about old toys. During the visit, the children explored a fascinating collection of toys from the past, including traditional teddy bears and other much-loved favourites.

They compared the materials, designs and features of old toys with the toys they play with today, noticing how they have changed over time. The visit brought their learning to life and sparked lots of thoughtful discussion.

The children's behaviour was excellent throughout and they represented the school brilliantly.

People Who Help Us

Last half term, EYFS explored the topic 'People Who Help Us', learning about the important roles people play in supporting our community.

As part of their learning, firefighters visited the school with their fire engine. The children were excited to see the vehicle up close and learn about the different equipment carried on board. The firefighters explained their job, how they help keep people safe, and what to do in an emergency.

It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought the children's learning to life.

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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. This total was shared with the parish, meaning that half of the proceeds will go directly towards improving the Infant climbing frame.

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:

- St Patrick's Night at the Parish Centre
- Selling Mother's Day Gifts
- 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, our theme is Community and Participation, reminding us to be active members of our communities and work together for the common good. We introduced the theme in a special assembly, where children reflected on how they can practise these values at school and at home.
In RE lessons and across the school, the children will explore this theme through:

- **Class Discussions & Reflections** – learning what community means and why supporting others matters.
- **Acts of Service** – participating in projects that benefit others, including class charity initiatives and our upcoming Lent fundraiser.
- **Group Collaboration** – team-based activities to strengthen relationships and problem-solving.
- **Prayer and Worship** – reflecting on biblical teachings about community and participation.
- **Celebrating Community Heroes** – discovering inspiring stories of people who have made a difference.

Through these activities, children will grow in understanding their role in their communities and the positive impact of their actions. Families are encouraged to continue these conversations at home and find ways to contribute together.



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British Values

Each half term, we focus on a different British value to help our pupils grow into thoughtful, responsible members of modern Britain. This half term, our focus is Mutual Respect – valuing the opinions, beliefs, and feelings of others while treating everyone with kindness and consideration.

To encourage mutual respect, children are taking part in a range of activities, including:

- **Respectful Communication** – listening attentively, speaking kindly, and appreciating different viewpoints.
- **Teamwork & Collaboration** – working together on projects, sharing ideas, taking turns, and supporting each other.
- **Celebrating Diversity** – learning about different cultures, traditions, and beliefs.
- **Acts of Kindness Challenge** – performing small acts of kindness, like helping a friend or thanking a staff member.
- **Role Models of Respect** – recognising pupils who demonstrate respect in their interactions.
- **Conflict Resolution Skills** – learning strategies to resolve disagreements calmly and respectfully.

We encourage families to reinforce these values at home by modelling respectful behaviour, having open discussions, and celebrating differences in everyday life.

The key British values we explore 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



Through Respect, we aim to help our pupils appreciate the opinions, feelings, and rights of others, and to treat everyone with kindness and consideration.
Some of the ways we are encouraging respect include:

- **Class and Group Discussions** – listening carefully to others, sharing ideas politely, and valuing different viewpoints.
- **Acts of Kindness** – supporting peers, helping around the school, and showing appreciation to staff and friends.
- **Celebrating Diversity** – learning about different cultures, traditions, and ways of life to foster understanding and inclusion.
- **Role Models of Respect** – hearing from community members and highlighting pupils who demonstrate respect in their actions.
- **Conflict Resolution Skills** – teaching strategies to handle disagreements calmly, fairly, and respectfully.

By focusing on Respect, we hope our children will grow in empathy, build positive relationships, and become thoughtful and responsible members of their school and wider community.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Spotlight on Science

This year, our children will be exploring a wide range of exciting Science topics. In each topic, they will develop their scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as their investigative and problem-solving skills.
Through hands-on experiments, observations, and discussions, pupils will learn to ask questions, make predictions, test ideas, and record their findings—building the skills of a young scientist while discovering more about the world around them.
Here are the topics your child will be learning about this academic year:

Phase	Learning
EYFS	In EYFS, children explore the world around them through hands-on activities and play. They develop curiosity, observation skills, and early scientific thinking. Key learning includes: • Exploring Materials and Objects – noticing different shapes, textures, and properties. • Learning About Living Things – observing plants, animals, and seasonal changes. • Investigating the Environment – exploring weather, day and night, and changes in nature. • Asking Questions – encouraging children to wonder, ask “why?” and “how?” and explore answers. • Simple Experiments – testing ideas and seeing what happens through fun, practical activities. These experiences help children understand their world, develop problem-solving skills, and enjoy discovering new things every day.

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Spotlight on Science

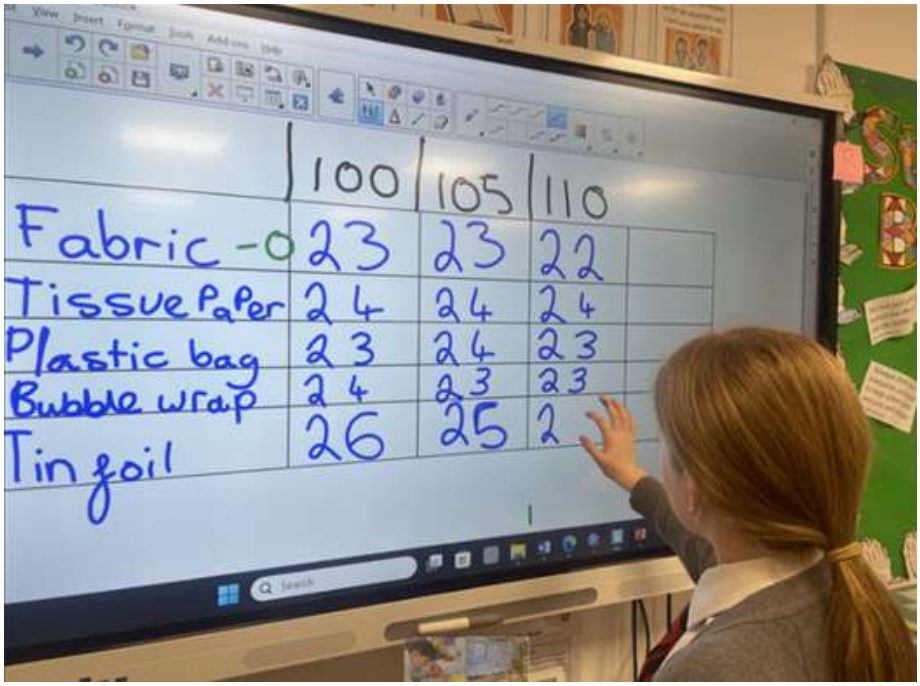
Phase	Learning
Phase 1/2	This year in Science, Phase 1/2 are exploring a variety of exciting topics that help them understand the world around them. Their learning focuses on knowledge, observation, and hands-on investigation. • Animals, Including Humans – Children learn about different types of animals, their body parts, and what humans and animals need to stay healthy. • Uses of Everyday Materials – Pupils explore a range of materials, their properties, and how different materials are used in everyday objects. • Plants – Children investigate how plants grow, identify common plants and flowers, and explore what plants need to thrive. • Seasonal Changes – Pupils observe and describe changes in the weather, daylight, and nature across the seasons. Through these topics, Phase 1/2 develop their observation, questioning, and problem-solving skills while building a love of learning about the natural world.
Phase 3/4	This year in Science, Phase 3/4 are exploring a range of fascinating topics that help them develop scientific knowledge and investigative skills. • Animals, Including Humans – Children learn about the human skeleton, muscles, and nutrition, and compare humans to other animals. • Rocks – Pupils investigate different types of rocks, their properties, and how they are formed and used. • Forces & Magnets – Children explore how objects move, the effects of different forces, and the properties of magnets. • Light – Pupils learn about sources of light, how shadows are formed, and how we see objects. • Plants – Children study the life cycle of plants, how they grow, and what they need to survive. Through these topics, Phase 3/4 develop their observation, experimentation, and problem-solving skills, while gaining a deeper understanding of the natural and physical world.

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Spotlight on Science

Phase	Learning
Phase 5/6	This year in Science, Phase 5/6 are exploring a wide range of exciting topics to develop their scientific knowledge and investigative skills. • Properties & Changes of Materials – Children learn about different materials, their properties, and how some materials can change physically or chemically. • Forces – Pupils investigate forces in action, including gravity, friction, air and water resistance, and how forces affect movement. • Earth and Space – Children explore the solar system, the movement of planets, the Earth's rotation, and the concept of day and night. • Animals, Including Humans – Pupils study the human body, focusing on growth, development, and the circulatory system. • Living Things and their Habitats – Children learn about classification of living things, habitats, and how organisms adapt to their environment. These topics help Phase 5/6 develop their observation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills, while deepening their understanding of both the natural and physical world.





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ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY UPDATE

At Sacred Heart, we know that good attendance and punctuality are key to every child's success. Being in school regularly ensures children do not miss important lessons and experiences, while arriving on time helps them start the day positively, focused, and ready to learn.

We understand that occasional absences can happen due to illness or emergencies, but we encourage families to make consistent attendance a priority. Here are some ways you can support your child:

- **Establish a Morning Routine** – A regular bedtime and morning schedule helps children wake up on time and start the day calmly.
- **Prepare the Night Before** – Organising school bags, uniforms, and packed lunches in the evening reduces morning stress and avoids delays.
- **Encourage a Positive Attitude Towards School** – Talk about the importance of learning and celebrate your child's successes to make school exciting and motivating.
- **Schedule Appointments Wisely** – Whenever possible, book medical or dental appointments after school or during holidays to minimise missed lessons.
- **Communicate with the School** – If your child is unwell or facing challenges affecting attendance, let us know promptly so we can provide support.
- **Lead by Example** – Showing reliability and good time management in everyday life helps children understand the value of punctuality.

Your support is vital in ensuring every child benefits from consistent learning opportunities. Thank you for helping us promote excellent attendance and punctuality, giving all pupils the best chance to achieve their potential.

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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/

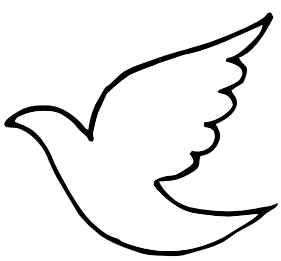
Sacred Heart Church Services



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.

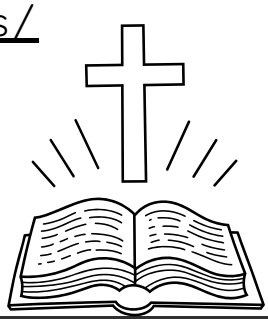
Parish Newsletter

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









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Wellbeing

Supporting your child's wellbeing starts with looking after your own. Taking time for self-care helps you stay patient, positive, and present for your children, while shared activities and open conversations can boost the whole family's mental and emotional health.

SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) offers a range of practical resources for parents and carers, including guidance on supporting children's mental health, coping strategies, and ideas to promote family wellbeing. These resources are designed to help families navigate challenges and build resilience together.

You can explore the support and advice here: SAMH – Resources for Parents and Carers

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.

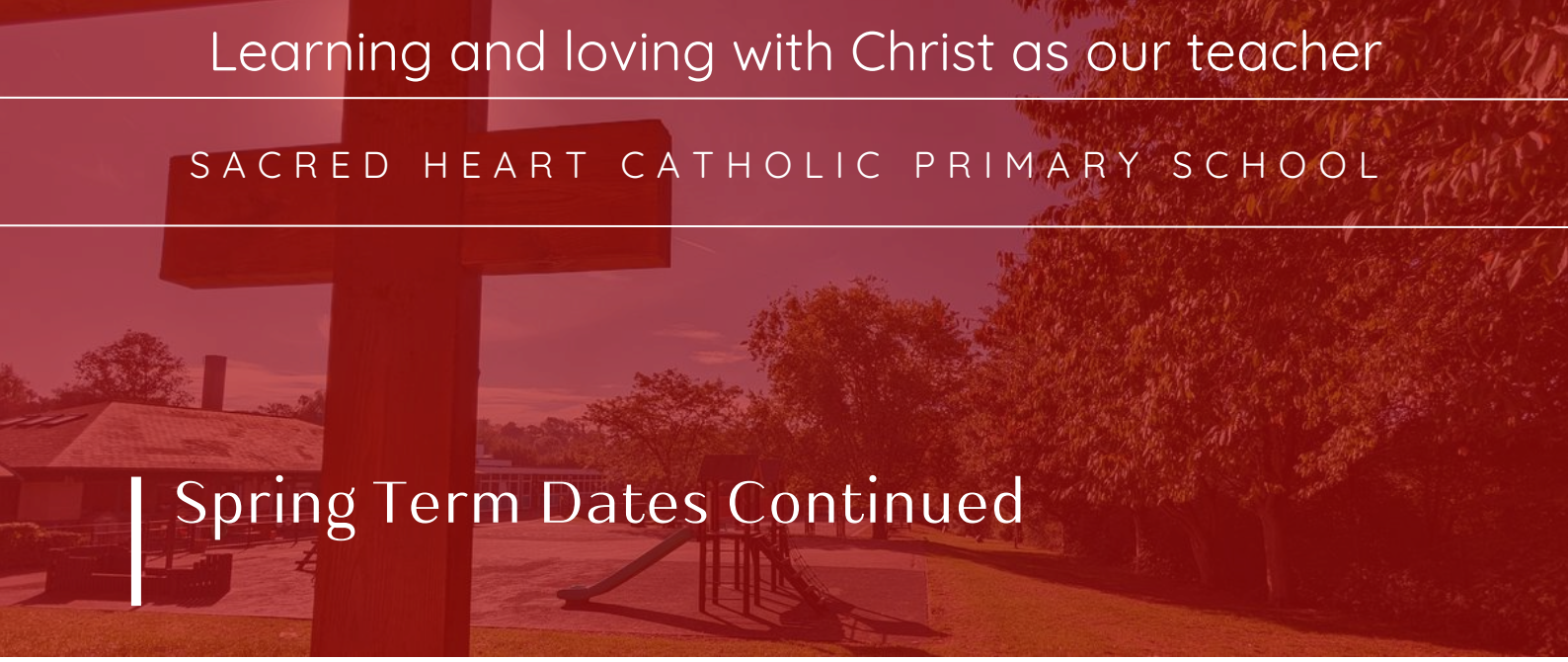
The funding can be used to support learning, wellbeing, and enjoyment at school, including things like 1:1 maths or literacy support and contributions to school trips.

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.



Spring Term Dates Continued

Date	Event
Spring Term	Year 4 (St Alphonsa) Swimming
March	**Lent**
Wk Beginning 2nd March	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 3rd March	St Bernadette School Trip to Bushey Museum
Wednesday 4th March	St Alphonsa and St Peter School Trip to Bushey Museum
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – Children come to school dressed as a character from a book.
Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th March	SPEC Year 5 Residential Trip
Monday 16th March	Mother's Day Assemblies
Tuesday 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 18th March	From 1:00pm Reconciliation – Yrs 4 - 6
Thursday 19th March	Lent Fundraising Day
Tuesday 24th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Wednesday 25th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play – 9:15am
Thursday 26th March	Junior Lent Service – 10:30am in Church – Year 5 and 6 to lead
Friday 27th March	Last day of term/Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade : School finishes early-Nursery afternoon children/Reception – 1:05pm Phase 1/2 – 1:10pm Phase 3/4 – 1:15pm Phase 5/6 – 1:20pm



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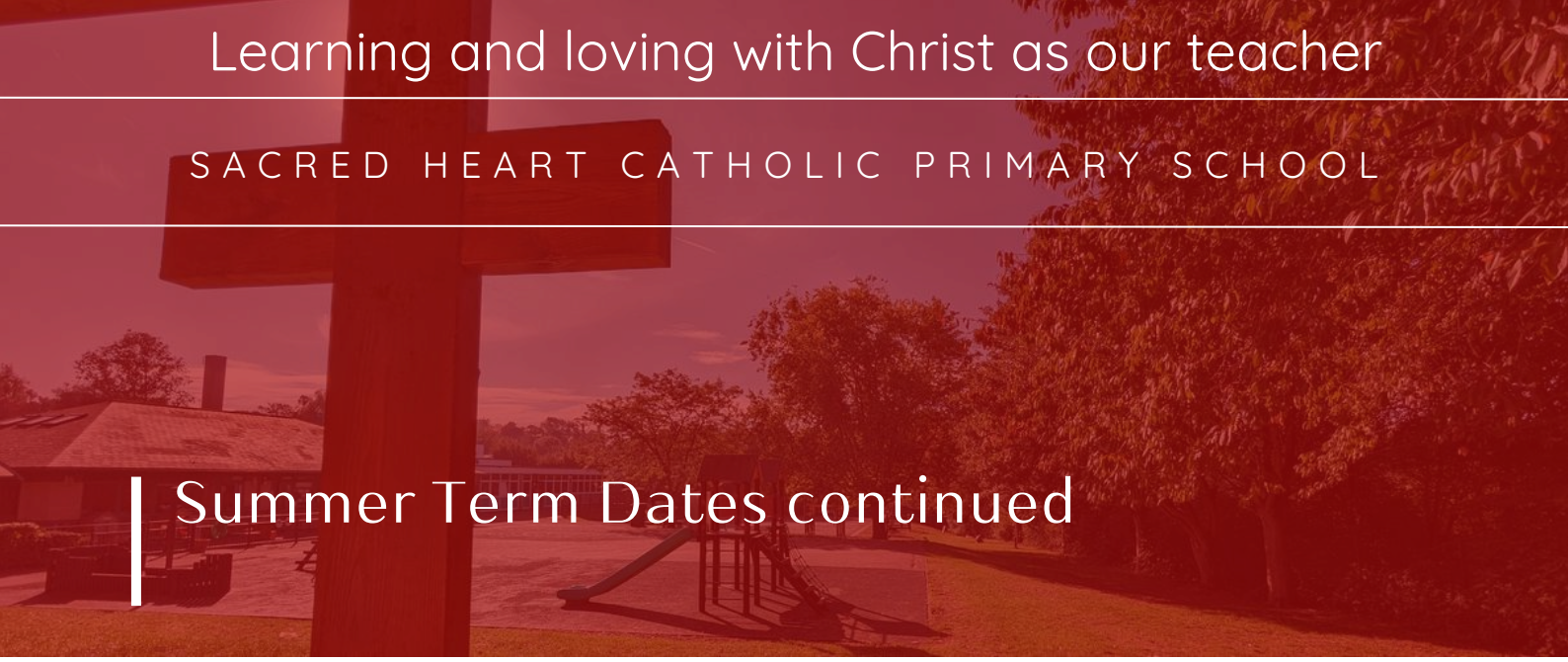
Diary Dates for Spring & Summer 2026

Date	Event
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Summer 1st Half Term	Year 3/4 (St Peter) Swimming
April	**Lent / Eastertide**
Wednesday 15th April	Class and Team Photographs
Thursday 16th April	St Bernadette's Class (Yr 3) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the class charity via the School Gateway.
Friday 17th April	Beginning of Term Mass – 9:15am in Church – Year 3 to lead
Thursday 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.
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



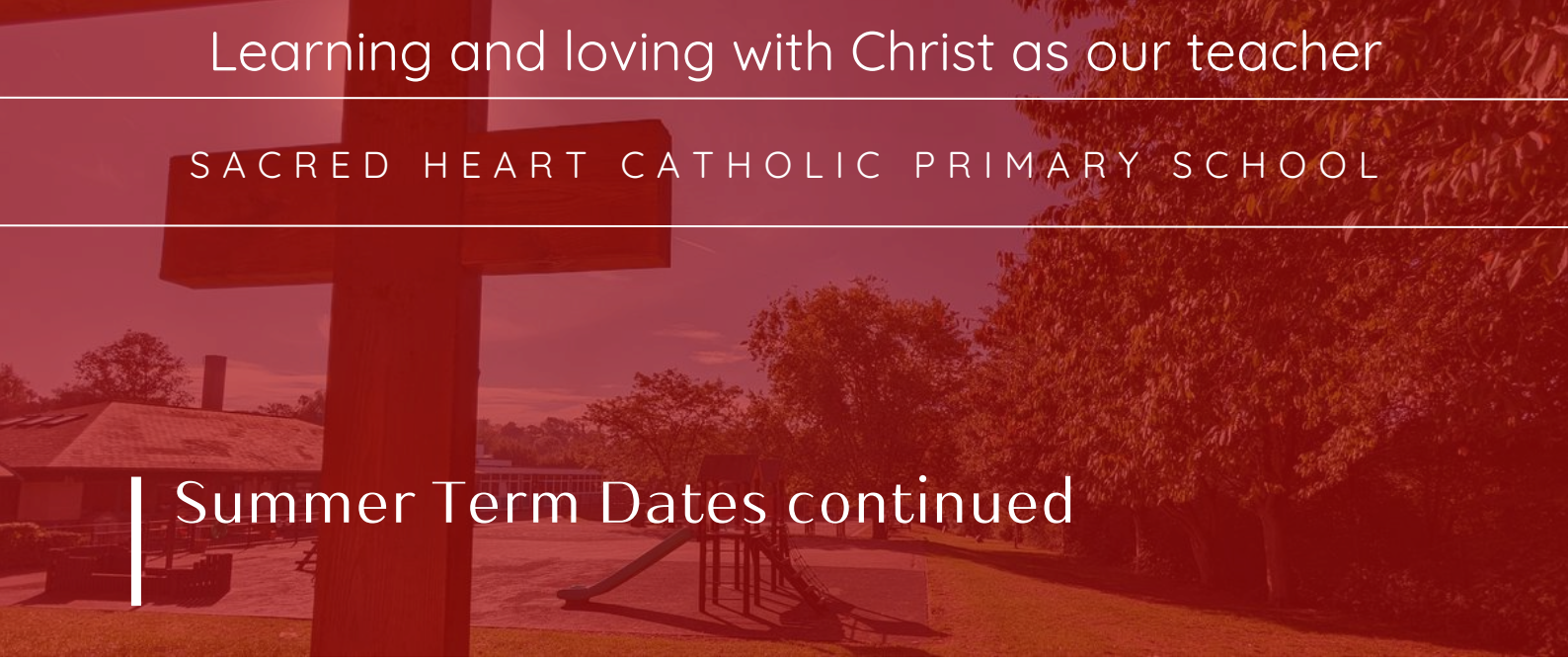
Summer Dates Continued

Date	Event
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 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
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	Half Term
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
Tuesday 2nd June	Pupils Back



Summer Term Dates continued

Date	Events
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 - Queens
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



Summer Term Dates continued

Date	Events
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	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
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	Events
Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day
Wednesday 3rd 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