Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

April Dates

Date	Event
Spring 2nd Half	Year 4 St Alphonsa swimming
April 2025	Lent/Eastertide
Tuesday 1st April	Infant Lent Service – 9:15am – just for pupils
Wednesday 2nd April	Junior Lent Service – 10:30am
Thursday 3rd April	1:00pm Reconciliation – Years 4-6
Thursday 3rd April	Lent Fundraising Day
Friday 4th April	Last day of term, Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade – School finishes early : Nursery afternoon children/Reception 1:00pm, Phase 1/2 1:05pm, Phase 3/4 1:10pm, Phase 5/6 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

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy and fun filled March. In the first week of March we had Ash Wednesday Mass and we celebrated World Book Day. After this we had parent consultations, celebrated St Patrick's Day, Year 5 went on their residential trip to SPEC, Phase 3/4 performed their Lent play and we had Mother's Day Assemblies. You can find out more about these in the newsletter.

Looking ahead to April, we have even more exciting events, including our Lent Services, Lent Fundraising Day, Easter Bonnet Parade, St George's Day, Summer beginning of Term Mass, Assess,Plan,Do Review Meetings, Headteacher Forum, St Bernadette's Class Feast Day and our Year 5 Year Group Mass.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Smith

World Book Day

On 6th March, we had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! The children arrived at school dressed in an array of amazing costumes, bringing their favourite book characters to life. The day began with a special assembly and a parade around the school hall, where everyone had the chance to showcase their creative outfits. Throughout the day, the children took part in a variety of exciting activities linked to books, helping to foster a love of reading and storytelling. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support in helping with the children's costumes. Your efforts truly made the day extra special!

















Year 5 Residential Trip to SPEC

Last week, our Year 5 pupils embarked on a truly special retreat at SPEC, where they explored the theme of living life to the full. Throughout their time away, they discovered the meaning of true happiness and where it can be found, deepening their understanding of God's love. They also experienced moments of reflection, met Jesus in adoration, and learned that there is nothing in all of creation that God loves more than them.

Alongside this, the children took part in team-building challenges, a campfire, and a beautiful Mass. Their outstanding behaviour and enthusiasm made them fantastic ambassadors for Sacred Heart School, and we are incredibly proud of them.

A huge thank you to the staff who worked so hard to prepare for this retreat and accompanied the children on this wonderful experience.







Netball Tournament

On Saturday 22nd March, our Year 6 girls took part in an exciting netball tournament at St Margaret's School. They played incredibly well as a team, demonstrating great skill, teamwork, and determination. Their hard work paid off as they secured an impressive 3rd place in the tournament!

This achievement is a true testament to their dedication and effort. Well done, girls!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Roberts for her fantastic coaching and support in preparing the team.

We are so proud of you all! 🏆👏



Phase 3/4 Lent Play

This week, our Phase 3/4 children delivered a wonderful performance of their Lent Play. They sang beautifully and acted brilliantly, bringing the Easter story to life and reminding us all of its important meaning.

A huge well done to all the children for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this special performance. A big thank you to parents for helping with costumes and to the teachers for their support and guidance. It was a truly memorable and reflective performance! 🌿✝️















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 Community and Participation. This theme reminds us that we are all called to be active members of our communities, working together to create a more just and loving society. Through our actions, we can contribute to the common good and ensure that everyone has a voice.

As part of this each class has been planning their Lent fundraising activity for their class charity. Below are the events they are planning for next Thursday:

Class	Charity	Activity Details	Donation Instructions
Nursery St Anne	Watford Hospital	Treasure Hunt around the school grounds.	£1 donation via the School Gateway.
Reception St Joseph	Save the Children	Pyjama Day – Children come to school dressed in their pyjamas.	£1 donation via the School Gateway.
Reception St Francis	The Toy Project	Bring in a new or unwanted toy to donate to The Toy Project.	No monetary donation required. New or unwanted toys to be brought into school.

Class	Charity	Activity Details	Donation Instructions
Year 1 **St Anthony**	Water Aid	Dance-a-thon – Children will complete a Dance-a-thon.	£1 donation via the School Gateway.
Year 1/2 **St Cecilia**	Electric Umbrella	Sing-a-thon – Children will complete a Sing-a-thon.	£1 donation via the School Gateway.
Year 2 **St Therese**	Place2Be	Fun Run – Children will take part in a Fun Run event.	£1 donation via the School Gateway.
Phase 3/4: **St Bernadette** **St Peter** **St Alphonsa**	Electric Umbrella Royal Lifeboat Association Make a Wish	**Three Activities in total:** *Name the Teddy*, *Dance-a-thon*, and *Guess the Sweets in a Jar*.	Suggested donation: £3 for all three activities via the School Gateway. The money will be shared equally between the three charities.
Year 5 **St Josephine Bakhita**	Make a Wish	Cookbook Sale – Children will create a school cookbook.	Parents will be contacted about how to purchase a copy.
Year 5/6 **St Padre Pio**	Children in Need	Car Wash – Children will run a car wash in the school car park.	More information will follow.
Year 6 **St John Bosco**	RSPCA	Cake Sale – Children will bring cakes in on Thursday 3rd April to sell after school.	Payments can be made in cash at the cake sale.

We look forward to the fundraising day next week.







Spotlight on Learning & Humanities

Learner Acronym

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

This half term we are focusing on N for 'Nurture'. Some of the ways that we are helping the children develop a nurturing mindset, foster emotional well-being, empathy and a love for learning are:

- Regular discussions where children can express their feelings and listen to others.
- Using 'Zone of Regulation' to help pupils to identify how they are feeling and strategies that can help them if they are feeling worried or sad.
- Year 6 have Reception buddies who they support and help.
- Pupils take part in group tasks that promote teamwork and problem solving skills.
- Pupils are encouraged to show kindness to everyone.
- As we move into Spring, the pupils will start planting flowers and vegetables to teach responsibility and patience.
- Pupils are given regular opportunities to share their ideas and opinions on school decisions to encourage inclusivity.

Humanities

Over the Spring term the children have completed a History and a Geography topic. Below is information about these:

Phase	History	Geography
EYFS	**People Who Help Us** The children have learnt about different jobs that people do, where they do them and how they have changed over the years. **Local Area** The children have learnt about Bushey, looked at Bushey on a map and learnt about how our school has changed.	
Phase 1/2	**Who is the greatest history maker?** The children have compared different people from the past including Malala Yousafzui.	**How do penguins adapt?** The children learnt about the geographical features of Antarctica. They learnt about how penguins can adapt to their environments.

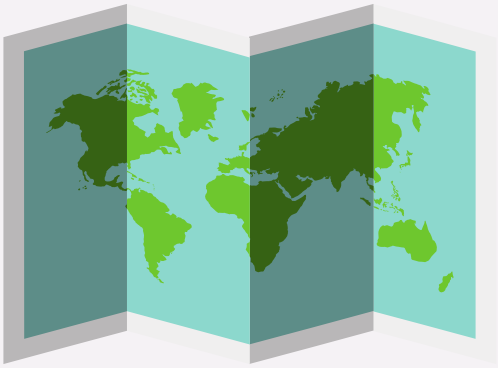






Phase 3/4	**Who were the Anglo-Saxons and how did we know what was important to them?** The children learnt about how Christianity came to Britain. They learnt about Anglo-Saxon housing and why they didn't live in the places that the Romans had left. They also learnt about Sutton Hoo.	**How can we live more sustainably?** The children learnt about what is being done to help birds on the red list. They learnt about solar cookers and a charity that is promoting them. They learnt about renewable and non-renewable resources. They also learnt about their responsibilities for looking after the world
Phase 5/6	**Why did Britain once rule the largest empire the world has ever seen?** The children learnt about why Britain wanted an empire, what India was like before the British arrived, how Britain gained control of India, interpretations of Britain's take-over of India and they learnt about the wars with the Qing dynasty.	**Why are mountains so important?** The children learnt about Mount Olympus, Mount Kia and Mount Everest, they learnt about how the world's greatest mountain ranges were formed, they learnt about how the Cambrian Mountains are different from the Himalaya Mountains, they learnt about Andrew Irvine and George Mallory and they learnt about why Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay found fossils of sea animals on the summit of Mount Everest.

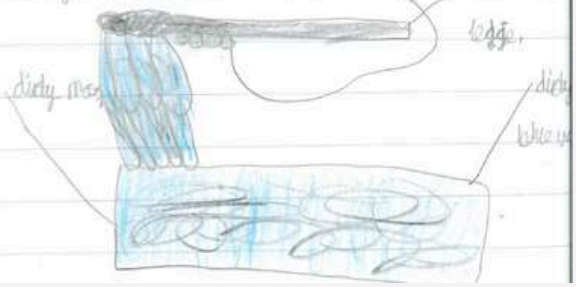






Monday 10th February 2025
LO: To describe the features of a waterfall

Water glistening
Amazing View
Tremendous Sights
Exciting Splash at the bottom
Reflecting water
Falling with a Splat
Always flows
Lushious water that flows deeper and deeper
Leaving an incredible sight



Monday, 17th March 2025

LO: What are the World's Climates?
Identify, describe, reasons

The climate of different countries around the world

Country	Type of climate (or climates) to be found here
Niger	Dry
Papua New Guinea	Equatorial
Brazil	Dry, Equatorial, tropical
Canada	Polar, Cold and Wet, Continental, Dry
Spain	Mediterranean, Temperate, Dry
India	Warm and wet, Tropical, Dry
New Zealand	Temperate
South Africa	Dry, Cold and Wet
Cuba	Tropical
Iceland	Polar

Annual average rainfall in countries around the world

Amount of rainfall	Countries
Three countries which have places with an annual average rainfall of over 2000 mm	Brazil, Indonesia Mexico
Three countries which have places with an annual average rainfall of 1000 – 2000 mm	Peru, Brazil England
Three countries which have places with an annual average rainfall of 500 – 1000 mm	Peru, Russia, England
Three countries which have places with an annual average rainfall of 250 – 1000 mm	Peru, Russia, Australia
Three countries which have places with an annual average rainfall of 0 – 250 mm	Peru, Libya, Argentina

Wednesday 12th March 2025

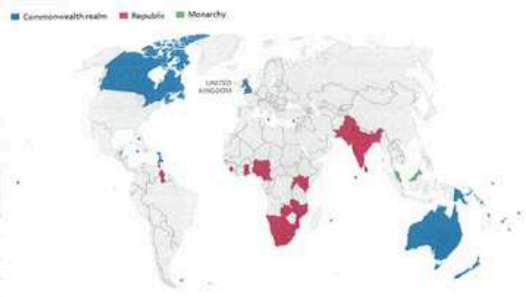
LO: I can know what the differences are between and an empire and a commonwealth

Commonwealth

The commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent and equal countries.
Together, it tackles initiatives related to trade, environmental protections, education and more. Members have no obligations to one another but are united through their common values - and, yet more their shared histories as former British colonies.

Empire

A group of territories ruled by one single ruler or state. Empires are built by countries that wish to control lands outside of their borders.



The main difference between the two are the British Empire were imposed so you didn't have a choice to be in it or not. The commonwealth has a goal towards harmony and the establishment of democracy. Every member of the association has complete freedom to live independently. The Empire wanted to take and rule other countries.

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 half term we are focusing on 'Mutual Respect'. Mutual respect means valuing the opinions, beliefs, and feelings of others while treating everyone with kindness and consideration. By fostering an environment built on respect, we help our pupils develop positive relationships and become responsible members of society.
This half term, we are focusing on ways to encourage mutual respect through a range of activities and initiatives, including:

- Respectful Communication – Encouraging children to listen attentively, speak kindly, and appreciate different viewpoints during classroom discussions and group activities.
- Teamwork & Collaboration – Providing opportunities for pupils to work together on projects, emphasising the importance of sharing ideas, taking turns, and supporting one another.
- Celebrating Diversity – Learning about different cultures, traditions, and beliefs to foster understanding and appreciation of the wider world.
- Acts of Kindness Challenge – Encouraging pupils to perform small acts of kindness, such as writing thank-you notes, helping a friend, or showing appreciation to staff members.
- Role Models of Respect – Recognising and celebrating students who demonstrate respect in their interactions with peers and adults.
- Conflict Resolution Skills – Teaching children strategies to resolve disagreements calmly and respectfully, promoting positive problem-solving approaches.

We encourage parents and carers to reinforce these values at home by modeling respectful behaviour, engaging in open discussions, and celebrating differences within their families and communities.

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

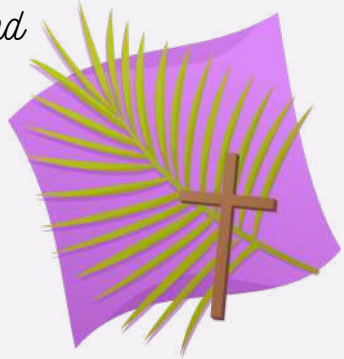
Mark 10 Mission
The Primary School produces weekly videos on the Sunday Gospel. These help children to experience the Word of God, pray and sing together. You can access these on the link below:
https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/

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/

Dear Lord,
Please help me to keep my Lenten Promise and help my friends and family. Please help us all to be kind and to do the right things.
Amen
Written by Autumn



Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Lord
Plesae show me the way during Lent.
Please remind us all to love others.
Amen
Written by Caleb



Diary Dates for Spring & Summer Term 2025

Date	Event
Wednesday 2nd April	Junior Lent Service in Church at 10:30am - parents are welcome to join us.
Thursday 3rd April	Lent Fundraising Day
Friday 4th April	Last day of term, Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade – School finishes early : Nursery afternoon children/Reception 1:00pm, Phase 1/2 1:05pm, Phase 3/4 1:10pm, Phase 5/6 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

Dear Lord
Please help me to keep my Lentern Promise.
Please help us to all love one another.
Amen
Written by Nora



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
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
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 Loving Father
Please help me to keep my Lent promise.
Help us to say extra prayers during Lent.
Amen
Written by Shauna



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 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
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