Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

December Dates



Date	Event
2nd Half Term	Year 5/6 Swimming
Monday 2nd December	St Andrews Day - Children come into school dressed in blue, white or tartan. Please pay £1 on School Gateway.
Tuesday 3rd December	Flu Vaccinations - Mop - Up Session Rec to Yr 6 - POSTPONED
Wednesday 4th November	9:15 am - Phase 1/2 Nativity Play in School - Parents and Carers are welcome
Thursday 5th December	9:15am - Phase 1/2 Nativity Play in School - Parents and Carers are welcome
Thursday 5th December	9:15am - KS2 Advent Service in Church - Parents and Carers are weclome.
Monday 9th December	Christmas Jumper Swap Day
Wednesday 11th December	9:15am - Reception Nativity in School - Parents and Carers are welcome.
Thursday 12th December	9:15am - Nursery Nativity in School - Parents and Carers are welcome.
Thursday 12th December	Reconciliation - Years 4-6
Friday 13th December	3:15pm - Christmas Bazaar
Monday 16th December	Whole School Pantomime - Aladdin at Watford Palace
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 20th December	End of Term - School finishes at 1:15pm

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

During November we remembered those who we have lost and on 11th November we especially remembered those who have fought for us in wars both past and present.
We also had our annual fireworks display, Anti-Bullying Week and STEAM Week.
In addition we celebrated the Year 4 Mass and Phase 5/6 Mass.
Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported us with these.
This month we look forward to seeing you at our Phase 1/2, Nursery and Reception Nativities, the Junior Advent Service and the Christmas Bazaar.

Kind regards
Mrs Smith

Father,
Thank you for looking after us all.
Please help us to all work together for world peace.
Amen



REMEMBRANCE

On 11th November, we observed a solemn two-minute silence to honour and remember all those who have fought in wars, past and present. It was a poignant moment for both students and staff as we paid our respects to those who have given so much in service to our country.

In addition to the silence, we held a special Remembrance Assembly where we reflected on the significance of the day. The assembly was an opportunity for everyone to come together, share stories, and reflect on the courage and sacrifices of those who have served in conflicts around the world.

As part of our Remembrance activities, students from Phase 5 and 6 visited St James' Church in the morning. There, they said special prayers to remember the fallen and to express gratitude for their sacrifices. It was a truly moving experience for the children as they stood together in the peaceful garden, surrounded by the names of those who gave their lives.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who participated and helped make this Remembrance Day meaningful for everyone at school. It was a day of reflection, respect, and remembrance.







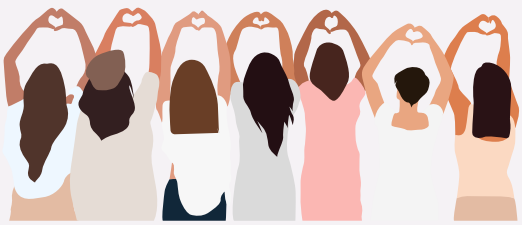
YEAR 4 MASS

On Wednesday 6th November, Year 4 gathered for their special Year Group Mass at Sacred Heart Church, centred around the theme of 'Love and Friendship'. This theme resonates deeply with our school's mission statement, "Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher", reminding us all of the importance of kindness, community and the values we hold dear.

The children did a wonderful job of reading clearly and confidently and their beautiful singing added to the warmth and spirit of the Mass. It was a truly uplifting occasion, as we reflected on the significance of love and friendship in our lives, both within our school community and beyond.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families and friends who joined us for this special celebration. Your support means a great deal to us, and it was lovely to see so many of you there to share in this meaningful experience with the children.







Phase 5/6 Mass

On Wednesday 13th November, students in Phase 5 and 6 gathered for their special Phase Mass at Sacred Heart Church. The theme of the Mass was 'Trust', a powerful and important value that reflects our core beliefs and the aims of our Catholic school community. Trust is central to the relationships we build with one another, with Christ, and in the way we live out our faith every day.

The children read with clarity and confidence, and their enthusiastic singing brought a joyful spirit to the celebration. It was a beautiful occasion, allowing us all to reflect on the trust we place in God, our school community and ourselves.

We would like to thank all those who were able to join us for this special Mass. Your presence and support are deeply appreciated, and it was wonderful to have you with us to share in this meaningful celebration.







STEAM Week

From 4th to 8th November, we celebrated our exciting STEAM Week at school, a week dedicated to exploring the fascinating world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. The children had a wonderful time learning about various scientists and diving into a variety of hands-on experiments. It was an enriching week that sparked curiosity and encouraged creative thinking.

A highlight of the week was a visit from Dr Galindo Roman, who came to work with Phase 5 and 6 students. Dr Galindo Roman taught the children about the importance of CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), a vital life-saving skill. The pupils had the opportunity to practice CPR techniques on teddy bears that they brought from home, making it a fun yet educational experience. We are incredibly grateful to Dr Galindo Roman for taking the time to teach our pupils these invaluable lessons, equipping them with knowledge that could make a difference in an emergency.

Thank you to everyone involved in making STEAM Week such a success. The children's enthusiasm and curiosity were truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to explore the wonders of STEAM in the future.







Fireworks

On 9th November, we held our annual Fireworks Display and what an unforgettable evening it was! The display was absolutely spectacular, lighting up the night sky with vibrant colours and dazzling effects. It was a fantastic event enjoyed by everyone who attended, bringing our school community together for a memorable night.

A huge thank you to FOSH (Friends of Sacred Heart), whose dedication and hard work made the event possible. From the initial planning stages to the final sparkles in the sky, their efforts were evident in every detail. It was clear that a lot of love and time went into organizing this event, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment.

We are also thrilled to announce that thanks to the incredible support of our school community and local area, we raised an amazing £4,993.51! This fantastic amount will go towards supporting key projects and resources for our pupils, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped make the event such a success — whether through organising, volunteering or attending. Your support means the world to us and plays a crucial role in making events like this possible.












Anti-Bullying Week

From 11th to 15th November, we marked Anti-Bullying Week here at school. This year's theme was 'Respect', a powerful reminder of the importance of treating one another with kindness, empathy and understanding.

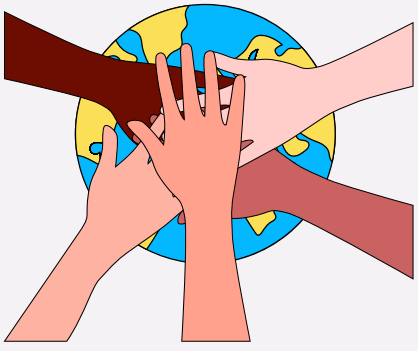
Throughout the week, our House Captains led a special assembly where they encouraged pupils to think about how they can show respect to others in their daily lives. It was a meaningful opportunity for the children to reflect on the ways in which they can contribute to a positive and supportive school environment.

In the classroom, respect was explored across a variety of subjects. In PSHE/RSE, pupils learned about the value of respect in relationships and how it can help prevent bullying. In reading and writing lessons, they explored stories and texts that highlighted the importance of treating others with dignity. In dance lessons, students reflected on respect through movement, understanding how gestures and expressions can communicate respect and kindness.

It has been a truly inspiring week and we are proud of how the pupils embraced the theme of respect in both their learning and their interactions with one another. We hope that the lessons learned during Anti-Bullying Week will continue to shape a respectful and caring atmosphere at our school for years to come.









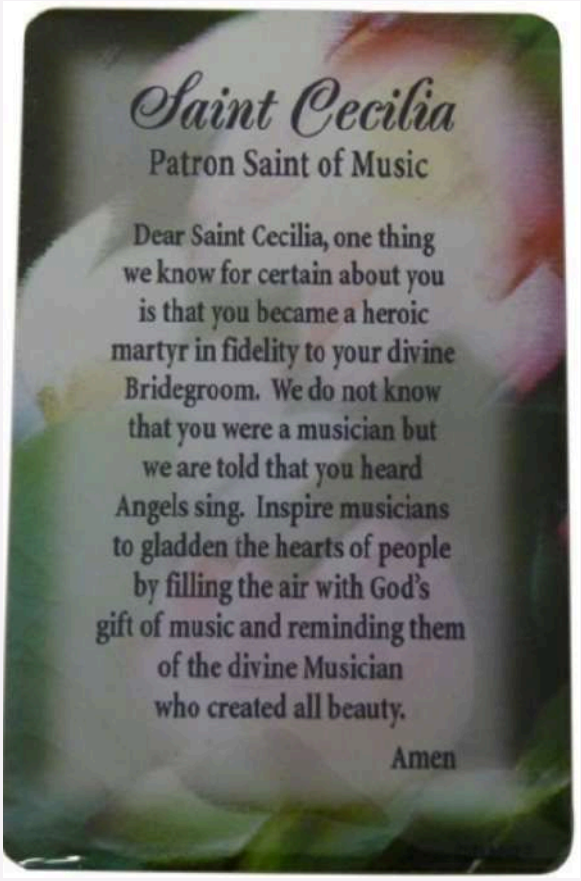
St Cecilia's Feast Day

On Friday 22nd November Year 1/2 celebrated St Cecilia's day. They came to school dressed in their own clothes, learnt about St Cecilia and celebrated with a special class worship.

St. Cecilia was born during the second century to a very rich family. She married a man named Valerian. Husbands and wives get to share a very special gift when they are married. However, St. Cecilia wanted to save this gift for Jesus alone. On the night of Cecilia's wedding she told Valerian she was saving the special gift for Jesus and that her guardian angel was protecting it. Her husband wanted proof by seeing her angel.
"After you convert and are baptised a Christian you will be able to see my angel," Cecilia told him.
Do you think he converted? He DID and was then able to see her guardian angel!
While her husband was watching, her angel crowned Cecilia with roses and lilies. After Valerian became a Christian, his brother did too. The three of them worked for God the rest of their lives. Cecilia preached to anyone willing to listen about Jesus and converted many to Christianity.
St. Cecilia is considered the patron saint of music. It is thought that she sang in her heart during her wedding, asking Jesus to be able to keep her special gift for him.

St. Cecilia, Pray for us





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 are focusing 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 are collecting 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 are leading a Christmas Card campaign where the children will make Christmas cards for people in our parish and local community.
The ECO Ambassadors will be holding their annual Christmas Jumper Swap. The children have been asked to bring in a jumper by Friday 6th December. Next Tuesday those children who have brought in a jumper will be able to select a different jumper to take home.



Christmas Jumper Swap

Did you know that 1 in 4 Christmas jumpers bought in the last year will be thrown away or never worn again?

To help cut our waste, the Eco Committee are holding:

A Christmas Jumper Swap!

1) Bring in an old Christmas jumper that no longer fits you or you no longer wear.
2) Your teacher will write your name down.
3) You can choose a 'new to you' Christmas Jumper for no money at all from the donated items.

All donations must be in a wearable condition and brought into school by **Friday 6th December.**

Spotlight on Learning & Music

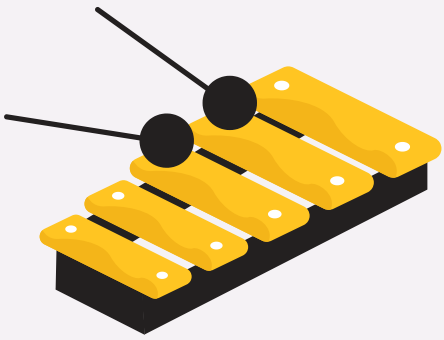
Learner Acronym

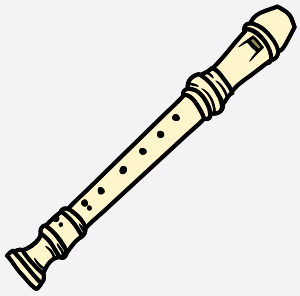
L – Love
E – Engage
A – Articulate & Aspire
N – Nurture
E – Effort
R - Resilience

This half term we are focusing on E for engage. The more engaged pupils are in lessons the deeper their learning will be. We use a range of strategies in class to support the pupils to be fully engaged in their learning. This includes pupils explaining their ideas to their talk partner, all pupils showing the answer using whiteboards or resources and having clear routines and structures in lessons so that the pupils know how to complete their learning. Please discuss with your children how engaged they feel they have been with their learning this week.

Music

Phase	Topic
EYFS	Singing Nursery Rhymes and Advent/ Christmas Songs
Phase 1/2	Singing Advent/ Christmas Songs and learning about rhythm.
Phase 3/4	Learning to play the Glockenspiel and reading music. Learning Advent/Christmas songs
Phase 5/6	Learning to play the recorder and reading music.







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.

This half term we are focusing on Rule of law. We do this by:

Ensuring that our school rules and expectations are clear and fair.
In RE, PSHE and across the curriculum we help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
We help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made.
We help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals.
We include visits from the police in the curriculum. We teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.
We develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts.
We train our Year 5 and 6 pupils as peer mediators and they support each other in resolving conflicts.
To help your children with this, please remind and encourage them to follow these school rules: We use kind words and kind hands.
We wear our uniform with pride.
During the winter, the children must all wear a shirt and tie.
The playground equipment is only used during school hours. When entering and leaving school, pupils and parents always use the pedestrian gate. Scooters and bikes are left in the bike shelter when pupils go onto the playground.
We thank you for supporting us with this. There are many ways we celebrate the pupils achievements and exemplary behaviour. We give verbal praise, written praise, stickers, headteacher stickers, smile awards and house points.

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



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 - 6pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am, 6pm
There is a children's liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.



Parish Newsletter

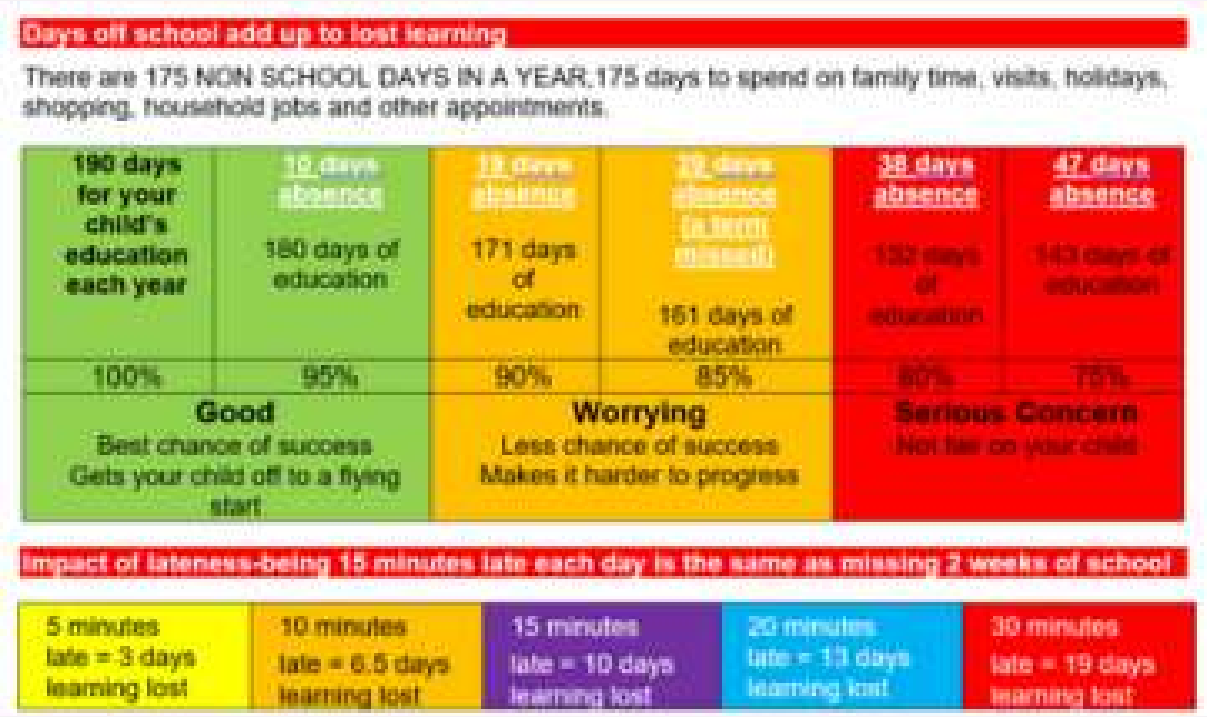
You can access the parish newsletter on this link:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bushey/weekly-newsletters/

Dear God,
We thank you for helping us keep safe,
Please grant us Peace,
We pray for those who fought in wars and are still fighting including the animals,
We pray for the children and families who are suffering in the world,
Amen
by Ada



Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our attendance is lower than we would like it to be at 95.2%. As a school we aim to be at least over 96%. We also have many children arriving late to school. Since September we have had 459 occurrences of lateness. To ensure that your child is receiving their full education and maximum time to develop their friendships we ask that you ensure that they are on time to school and in school every day unless they are ill.



Wellbeing

Anna Freud has support and advice for parents on how to ensure they look after themselves. See the link below:
https://www.annafreud.org/resources/family-wellbeing/self-care-for-parents-and-carers/



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 our 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.





Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Diary Dates for 2024 - 2025

Date	Event
2nd Half Term	Year 5/6 Swimming
December 2024	**Advent**
Monday 2nd December	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St Andrew's Day the children may wear blue, white or tartan clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 3rd December	Mop up flu vaccination
Wednesday 4th December	Phase 1/2 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Play – 9:15am in the hall – younger siblings who are not school age are welcome.
Thursday 5th December	Phase 1/2 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Play – 9:15am in the hall – no younger siblings.
Thursday 5th December	Junior Advent Service – 10:45am in the Church
Monday 9th December	Christmas Jumper Swap Day
Wednesday 11th December	Reception Nativity – 9:15am in school
Thursday 12th December	Nursery Christmas Play – 9:15am in school
Thursday 12th December	Reconciliation Year 4-6
Monday 16th December	Whole School trip to Pantomine
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Dinner Day - Children can wear their own clothes, a Christmas Jumper and Christmas Hat to school
Friday 20th December	End of Term – school finishes 1:15pm



Diary Dates for 2024 - 2025 continued

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 Epiphany – 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
February 2025	**Month of the Holy Family**
Wk 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 2024 - 2025 continued

Date	Event
Spring 2nd Half	Year 4 St Alphonsa Swimming
Wednesday 26th February	9:30 – 10:30 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.
March 2025	**Lent**
Friday 28th March	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 – Yrs 1 – 6 go to church 9:15am
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – Children come to school dressed as a character from a book.
Wk 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	1pm Reconciliation – Years 4-6



Diary Dates for 2024 - 2025 continued

Date	Event
Thursday 3rd April	Lent Fundraising Day
Friday 4th April	Last day of term, Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade – school finishes 1:15pm
Summer 1st Half Term	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.
Friday 25th April	Beginning of Term Mass – 9:15 am in church – Year 3 to lead
Wk beginning 28th April	Assess, Plan, Do Review Meetings
Monday 28th April	Parent Head's Forum – parent and carers are welcome
Tuesday 29 April	St Bernadette's Class (Yr 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 2024	**Month of Mary**
Thursday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day
Wk beginning 5th May	Assess, Plan, Do Review Meetings



Diary Dates for 2024 - 2025 continued

Date	Event
Monday 5th May	May Bank Holiday - School is closed
Wednesday 7th May	Phase 1/2 Mass in Church – 9:15am
Wk beginning 12th May	KS2 Sats
Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May	Year 6 trip to Longridge
Tuesday 20th May	Phase EYFS Sports Day 9 – 10:30 Phase 1/2 Sports Day 10:45 - 12
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Half Term
Summer 2nd Half Term	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 – 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 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 2024 - 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 – 10:30 Phase 5/6 Sports Day – 10:45 – 12:15
Wk 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 12pm to 1:pm on the school field.
Monday 30th June	St Peter's Class (Yr3/4) 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 – 6pm
Thursday 3rd July	Phase 5/6 Production – 6pm
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	9:15 – Year 6 Leavers Mass in Church End of Term Years N to Year 5 finish 12:20 Year 6 finish 1:30