Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

12TH JANUARY 2024

Dear God,
Thank you for all the food you have given us.
Thank you for the world and all the people in the world.
Thank you for our teachers, our family and our friends.
Amen
Written by Hannah



Upcoming Key Dates

Spring Term	Year 5 Swimming
Monday 15th January, Tuesday 16th January & Thursday 18th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Wednesday 17th January	5pm in school - Religious Education Parent Presentation
Thursday 18th January	Lancaster Model Session with Year 6
Monday 22nd January – Wednesday 24th January & 29th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Wednesday 31st January	St John Bosco (Yr 6) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Thursday 1st February	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 2nd February	NSPCC Number Day - the children come into school in their own clothes wearing something number related.
Friday 2nd February	Candlemas Liturgy in the hall

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I extend a warm welcome to the new year and hope your holiday season was filled with joy and relaxation. Our students have returned to school with a renewed enthusiasm for learning, setting a positive tone for the upcoming term.

Last week, we gathered as a school community for a meaningful beginning-of-term Mass at the church. Thank you to everyone who joined us in this celebration, reinforcing the strong bond we share.

Looking ahead, our school choir is eagerly preparing to showcase their talents at the Young Voices event at the O2 next week. We eagerly await the stories and experiences they will bring back.

As always, communication is key, and we encourage you to stay engaged with your child's academic journey and school activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our dedicated staff.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful weekend ahead.

Warm regards,
Mrs. Smith

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SPONSORED RUN FOR MARY'S MEALS

We are thrilled to share the success of our festive Fun Run led by our amazing Caritas Ambassadors.

The Fun Run was not just about lacing up our trainers and getting active; it was a heartfelt initiative to raise funds for Mary's Meals. For those unfamiliar, Mary's Meals is a charitable organisation that provides nutritious school meals to children in some of the world's poorest countries.

The impact of this initiative is profound. The promise of a good meal attracts hungry children into the classroom, providing them with the energy to learn and fostering hope for a brighter future. With every step we took during the Fun Run, we were contributing to a cause that goes beyond our school walls, reaching children who need our support.

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we raised a grand total of £1022.75! Every £19 raised provides lunch every day for a pupil for an entire year. Here's some more fantastic news: Mary's Meals is currently doubling all donations which will increase our total raised amount to £2234.50. This will provide lunch for 117 children for an entire year. Well done everyone.







CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION BY ST LUKE'S HOUSE

Our St Luke's Caritas Ambassadors took the lead in spreading cheer and goodwill by organising a special initiative to create Christmas Hampers for the Bushey Red Trust Food Bank. The response from each class was fantastic, with students and families generously contributing items to fill these hampers.

We extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed such lovely items for the hampers. Your generosity has made a significant impact on our ability to spread holiday joy and support those in need.





Watford Environmental Champion of the Year

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with you! Ellie has been nominated for Watford's Environmental Champion of the Year award. This recognition is a testament to Ellie's unwavering commitment to environmental causes and her exceptional contributions as an advocate for sustainability.As Ellie embarks on this exciting journey as a nominee, we wish her the very best of luck.







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Christmas Card Campaign by St John's House:

At the end of last term, the Caritas Ambassadors in St John's House initiated a heart-touching Christmas Card campaign. Our creative youngsters crafted and delivered beautiful Christmas cards to spread festive cheer to members of our parish and local community. This thoughtful gesture brought smiles and warmth to those around us during the holiday season.









Prayer at Home

Please remember to use your Prayer at Home newsletters with your children at home. You have been sent home a copy and you can also access this on the Faith at Home page on the school website via the link below:

https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/faith-at-home/

Prayer Bags

Parents play a crucial role in promoting faith at home by being role models of Catholic Values and teachings. Living out the faith through actions, kindness, forgiveness and love helps children see the practical application of their beliefs. To support with this a different child in each class takes home a Prayer Bag each week. They use this to support their prayer at home and they record in the Prayer Diary which is in the bag.



RE Newsletter

Please click on the link below to read the January RE Newsletter.
www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

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Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity & Peace



This half term, we are focusing on Solidarity and Peace.

Solidarity is a word which can be overused and little understood. However, it is fundamental to the way in which we treat one another. If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God's image and likeness as seen in the guideline of human dignity, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored. The quotation from St John Paul II is an ongoing challenge.

'[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of others.
It is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to... the good of all...because we are all really responsible for all.'
St John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis

Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action. "We are all really responsible for all" – all of us. Wherever we are. Whatever our age. Whatever our circumstances. We are all responsible for one another, those close by, and those far away. All of our actions have consequences locally and globally. From how we treat people we meet in the street, to the coffee we buy in the supermarket. It is how we live out Caritas, love in action.

Caritas Ambassadors' Initiatives

We are thrilled to share some exciting news from our dedicated Caritas Ambassadors who are actively engaged in planning meaningful fundraising events for the term.



1. Mary's Meals Fundraising Link on School Gateway: Our Caritas Ambassadors are in the process of setting up a special fundraising link for Mary's Meals on the school gateway. This innovative approach allows children to seamlessly transfer funds raised for Mary's Meals outside of school directly through the school gateway. The collected contributions will then be forwarded to Mary's Meals. The fundraising link is set to go live next week, providing a convenient and centralised platform for our community to support this important cause.

2. Class Charity Boxes: In a bid to involve every class in the spirit of giving, our Ambassadors have ordered charity boxes for each class. They have asked every class to choose a charity close to their hearts and commence fundraising efforts.

3. National Lent Fundraising – Catholic Children's Society: For our National Lent Fundraising endeavour, the Caritas Ambassadors have chosen the Catholic Children's Society as the beneficiary. Later this term, donation boxes will be sent home.

4. Pupil Engagement for Lent Fundraising: The Caritas Ambassadors are actively seeking input from our pupils. They have asked students across the school to propose International and local charities for our Lent Fundraising. Additionally, they are encouraging creative thinking about various ways we can raise funds. We eagerly anticipate the unveiling of their final plans, reflecting the collective ideas and initiatives from our student body.

We are immensely proud of our Caritas Ambassadors for their commitment to making a positive impact through these fundraising initiatives.

Stay tuned for further updates on our fundraising activities, and thank you for your ongoing support!

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Learner Acronym Focus

Over the next two weeks, we are focusing on R for Resilience

Here are some ways that we help pupils to develop their resilience:

1. Storytelling Sessions: We share stories and books that highlight characters overcoming challenges. We discuss the characters' resilience and encourage students to share their thoughts and experiences.
2. Role-Playing Scenarios: In lessons, we set up scenarios where students can role-play challenging situations. We guide discussions on different ways to approach and handle these challenges.
3. Positive Affirmations: During the school day, we encourage students to create and repeat positive affirmations about their abilities. We encourage them to share affirmations with classmates.
4. Goal Setting: We teach the importance of setting realistic goals. We guide students in breaking down larger goals into smaller, achievable steps.
5. Community Service Projects: Engage students in community service to foster a sense of purpose and contribution. Reflect on the impact of their actions and the resilience needed to make a positive change.

Your support in encouraging these positive learning habits at home will greatly contribute to your child's success in school – whether it's celebrating their achievements or simply talking about their day, your involvement makes a world of difference!

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.

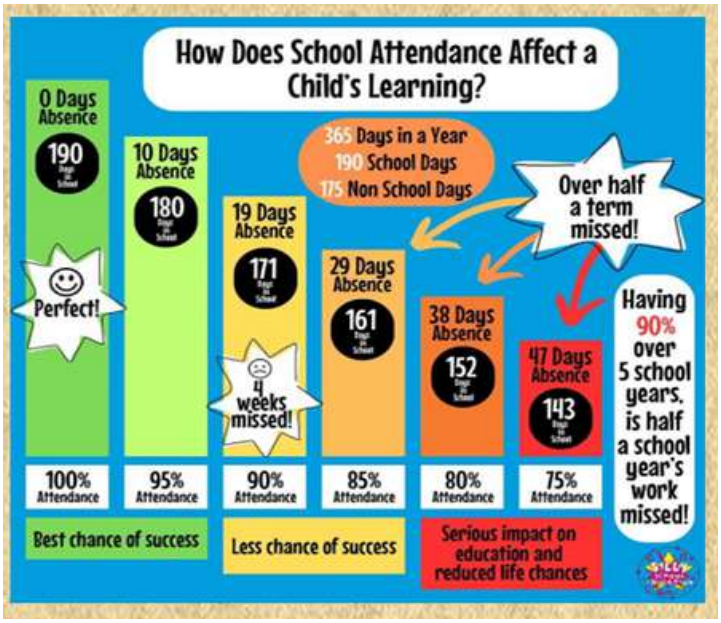
This half term, we are focusing on Individual Liberty. Some of the ways in which we promote Individual Liberty are:
1) Pupils create art work using pictures and words that represent who they are.
2) In lessons we encourage pupils to share their ideas and thoughts and to ask questions. This helps them to form their own opinions.
3) In lessons pupils play games together that develops their teamwork and collaboration and emphasises the importance of contributing to the group.
4) We use 'Zones of Regulation' to encourage pupils to express how they feel and they learn how to regulate their emotions.

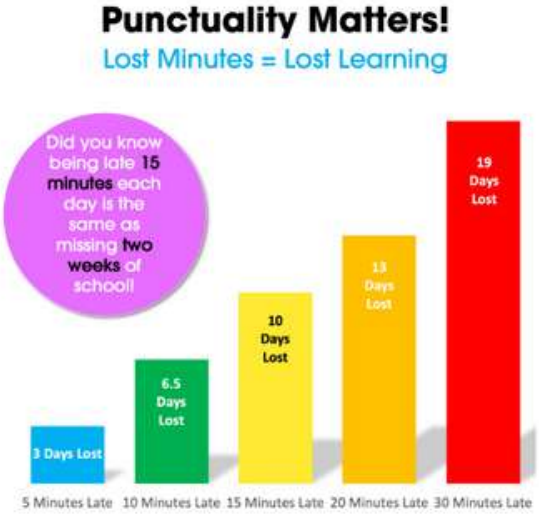
You can nurture individual liberty at home by fostering open communication, respecting your child's choices, and encouraging decision-making through age-appropriate responsibilities and positive reinforcement.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current attendance rate stands at 95.3%, and while this is commendable, we aim to achieve a target of 97%. Regular attendance and punctuality is crucial for your child's academic progress, fostering a positive and structured learning environment for the entire class. We thank you for supporting this by ensuring your child is in school unless they are unwell and by dropping them off to school on time.





Parent Mental Health Day

stem4, a charity that supports young people to build positive mental health, is proud to be the UK founder of Parent Mental Health Day, which started in 2022. The Cost of Living Crisis, which so closely followed the pandemic, and increased concerns about digital harms, rising rates of mental ill health and the impact of stretched services have further increased parent and carer anxiety and, in some cases, helplessness and hopelessness. Parent Mental Health Day 2024 is an opportunity for parents and carers to acknowledge and discuss their struggles and share in their achievements of connecting positively with each other and the whole family, and to learn ways to connect positively to maximise young people's mental health.
You can find more information about this on the link below:
https://stem4.org.uk/parentmentalhealthday/

School Crossing Patrol

Hertfordshire County Council are recruiting for a School Crossing Patrol for our school. Please see the flyer below:



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 individual music tuition, 1:1 maths/literacy support, Breakfast Club and After School Club places, etc.

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 Infant and Infant 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.



Reception Admissions

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 and you would like to apply for a place in Reception at Sacred Heart School for September 2024, 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 2024-2025.

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 2023

Online system opens to apply for a place in Reception for September 2024

15th January 2024

Deadline to apply for a school place

16th April 2024

National Allocation Day

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Spring Term Dates

Dear God,
We love everybody that you made in the whole wide world.
Teach us to be helpful, kind and loving to everyone.
Amen
Written by Robyn



Date	Event
Monday 15th January – Wednesday 17th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Monday 15th January, Tuesday 16th January & Thursday 18th January	5pm in school - Religious Education Parent Presentation
Thursday 18th January	Lancaster Model Session with Year 6
Monday 22nd January – Wednesday 24th January & Monday 29th January	Assess, Plan, DO, Review face to face meetings – SENCO, Teacher, Parent, Child
Wednesday 31st January	St John Bosco (Yr 6) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Thursday 1st February	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 2nd February	NSPCC Number Day - the children come into school in their own clothes wearing something number related.
Friday 2nd February	1:30pm – Candlemas Liturgy in the hall
Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February	Feeling Good Week & Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6th February	Internet Safety Day – Want to talk about it? Make space for conversations about life online.
Thursday 8th February	St Josephine Bakhita Class (Year 5) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day.
Thursday 8th February	9:15am - Year 6 Year Group Mass in Church – Year 5 Maths with Teacher and TA
Friday 9th February	Phase 3/4 Trip to Bushey Museum
Monday 12th February	Electric Umbrella Co. Production at school
Tuesday 13th February	Computing including Internet Safety Parent Presentation
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday Service in Church
Thursday 15th February	Phase 3/4 Trip to Bushey Museum
Friday 16th February	Phase 3/4 Trip to Bushey Museum
Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February	Half Term
Monday 26th February	Children return to school
Tuesday 27th February	Maths Parents Presentation in School
Wednesday 28th February – Friday 1st March	Yr 5 Retreat - SPEC



Spring Term Dates continued

Date	Event
Thursday 29th February	Head's Parent Forum in school
Friday 1st March	Non-Uniform day. To celebrate St David's Day the children may wear red, white, green or yellow clothes. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Tuesday 5th March	Parents can go into school to see their children's work.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day - children come into school dressed as a character, object or something related to a book.
Friday 8th March	Mothers' Day Assemblies - live streamed - TBC
Monday 11th March	Parent Consultations – Reception (St Joseph), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 3/4 (St Peter)
Tuesday 12th March	Parent Consultations – Reception (St Francis), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 13th March	Parent Consultations – Nursery (St Anne), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), Year 4 (St Alphonsa), Year 6 (St John Bosco)
Thursday 14th March	Parent Consultations – Year 2 (St Therese), Year 5/6 (St Padre Pio)
Friday 15th March	Children come in wearing red, white and orange to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Non-Uniform day. We ask for a £1 donation towards the school funds via the School Gateway.
Monday 18th March	Senco Drop Ins - 9:30 am- 11am. Please ring the office if you would like to book a slot.
Tuesday 19th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play in school - 9:15am
Wednesday 20th March	Phase 3/4 Lent Play in school - 9:15am
Thursday 21st March	Junior Lent Service in Church - 10:30am
Thursday 21st March	Reconciliation for Years 3 - 6.
Thursday 28th March	End of Term and Easter Bonnet Parade. School finishes at 1:15pm.
Monday 26th February	Children return to school



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Summer Term Dates

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 4 swimming every Friday up to Friday 24th May
Monday 15th April	Children return to school
Tuesday 16th April	St Bernadette's Class (Yr 3) wear own clothes to celebrate feast day which is on 16th April.
Thursday 18th April	Beginning of Term Mass - Year 3 to lead
Tuesday 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.
Tuesday 23rd April	5pm - Religious Education Parent Presentation in school
Thursday 25th April	Year 5 Year Group Mass in church
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 1st May	St Joseph's Class (Reception) wear their own clothes to celebrate St Joseph's feast day
Thursday 2nd May	Phase 1/2 Mass in Church
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7th May – Thurs 9th May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Wednesday 8th May	5pm – Spanish Parent Presentation in school
Thursday 9th May	Ascension Mass in Church
Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May	Year 6 Sats
Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May	Year 6 Residential Trip to Longridge
Tuesday 21st May	9 – 10:15 – EYFS Sports Day 10:45 – 12:00 – Phase 1/2 Sports Day 1:15 – 2:30 – Phase 3/4 Sports Day
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	Half Term
Swimming	Year 3 swimming every Friday up to Friday 12th July
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th June – 7th June	Multiplication Check
Wednesday 5th June	5pm - Music Parent Presentation in school
Friday 7th 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 10th June – Friday 14th June	Multiplication Check and Phonics Screening
Thursday 13th June	St Anthony (Yr 1) wear their own clothes to celebrate their feast day



Summer Term Dates continued

Monday 17th June – Friday 21st June	Sports Week
Monday 17th June	All classes from Nursery up to Year 6 - Fathers' Day class assemblies – these will be live streamed.
Tuesday 18th June	9:15 – Phase 5/6 Sports Day
Thursday 20th June	Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.
Monday 24th June – Friday 28th June	One World Week
Tuesday 25th June	International Day
Tuesday 25th June	9:30am – 11am SENCO Drop Ins – If any parent would like to meet Mrs Travers please contact the office and they will give you a time slot.
Thursday 27th June	Phase 3/4 Mass in Church
Friday 28th June	St Peter and Paul Mass in Church
Monday 1st July	St Peter's Class (Yr3/4) wear their own clothes to celebrate feast day which was on 30th June.
Tuesday 2nd July	St Bernadette's (Yr 3) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Wednesday 3rd July	St Peter's (Yr 3/4) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Wednesday 3rd July	6 – 7:30pm – Phase 5/6 Production
Thursday 4th July	St Alphonsa's (Yr 4) Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Thursday 4th July	6 – 7:30pm – Phase 5/6 Production
Thursday 11th July	Transition Day
Friday 12th July	St Anne's class (Nursery) wear their own clothes to celebrate the feast day of St Anne which is on 26th July.
Thursday 18th July	End of Term school finishes at 12:30 pm for Years R up to Year 5 (pupils have lunch in school) School ends at 1:30pm for Year 6 pupils. 9:15 – Year 6 Leavers Mass in Church