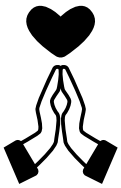
Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear God,
Thank you for the food and water you have given us.
Thank you for a roof over our heads and somewhere to live.
Thank you for our friends and families who always help us.
Help us to remember to be thankful for the things we have.
Amen



Written by Eabha-Mae

Upcoming Key Dates

Spring Term	Year 5 Swimming
Monday 11th March	Parent Consultations Nursery (St Anne), Reception (St Joseph), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 4 (St Alphonsa)
Tuesday 12th March	Parent Consultations Reception (St Francis), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 13th March	Parent Consultations Year 3/4 (St Peter), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), 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 green, 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

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term the children have been engaged in a variety of exciting activities. The newsletter gives more information about some of the activities the children took part in at the end of January and through February.

As you approach the Prayer Garden, we are now showcasing The Stations of the Cross. These freeze frames, created by last year's Year 6 students, beautifully depict each station. The children have been walking along these stations, taking time to reflect upon them.

Warm regards,
Mrs. Smith







SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

EFL Utilita Football Tournament

We are delighted to share the outstanding achievements of our students who participated in the EFL Utilita Football Tournament at the Watford training grounds on January 30th. The team, comprised of Henry, Max, Leo, Rocco, Riley, Callum and Zachary. They represented our school with exemplary sportsmanship, securing well-deserved wins in three matches and impressively drawing in another. Their commitment to teamwork and resilience on the field truly embodies the core values we aim to instill in our students. Well done.

Watford Trust Pancake Assembly and Lessons

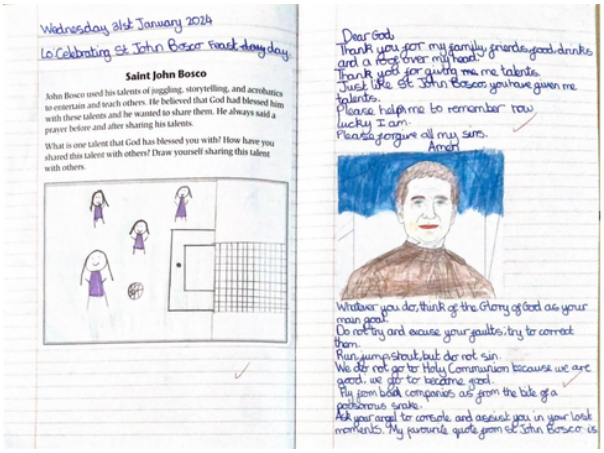
On Tuesday 13th February, Watford Schools Trust delivered lessons on Pancake Day and an assembly. The children learnt about how Lent is a time when we fast or give something up, on Shrove Tuesday we prepare for this by using up sweet treats that we have at home.





St John Bosco Feast Day

On 31st January St John Bosco celebrated their Feast Day. Over the day they learnt about John Bosco and had a special class collective worship. They learnt about how John Bosco believed that God had given us all talents and that we should use them.


Wednesday 31st January 2024

LO: Celebrating St John Bosco Feast Day

Saint John Bosco

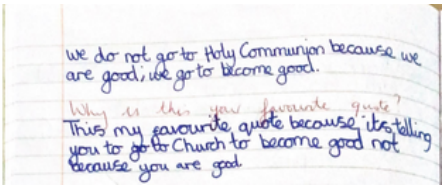
John Bosco used his talents of juggling, storytelling, and acrobatics to entertain and teach others. He believed that God had blessed him with these talents and he wanted to share them. He always said a prayer before and after sharing his talents.

What is one talent that God has blessed you with? How have you shared this talent with others? Draw yourself sharing this talent with others.

Dear God,
Thank you for my family, friends, good drinks and a hug over my head.
Thank you for giving me talents.
Just like St John Bosco you have given me talents.
Please help me to remember how lucky I am.
Please forgive all my sins.
Amen

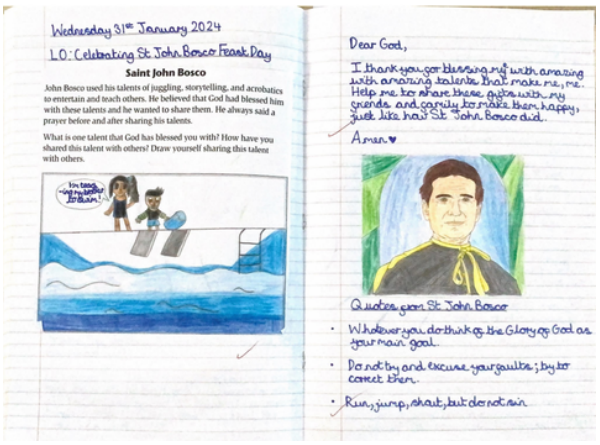
Whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your main goal.
Do not try and excuse your faults, try to correct them.
Run, jump, shout, but do not sin.
We do not go to Holy Communion because we are good, we go to become good.
Fly from bad companions as from the bite of a poisonous snake.
Ask your angel to console and assist you in your last moments. My favourite quote from St John Bosco is

By Lucy


We do not go to Holy Communion because we are good, we go to become good.

Why is this your favourite quote?

This my favourite quote because its telling you to go to Church to become good not because you are good


Wednesday 31st January 2024

LO: Celebrating St John Bosco Feast Day

Saint John Bosco

John Bosco used his talents of juggling, storytelling, and acrobatics to entertain and teach others. He believed that God had blessed him with these talents and he wanted to share them. He always said a prayer before and after sharing his talents.

What is one talent that God has blessed you with? How have you shared this talent with others? Draw yourself sharing this talent with others.

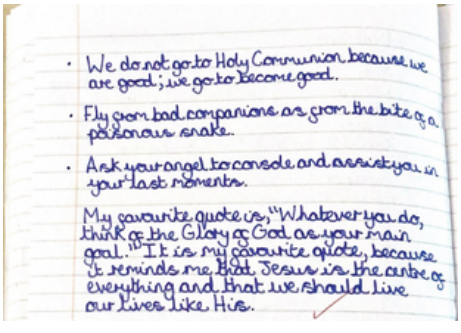
Dear God,

I thank you for blessing me with amazing with amazing talents that make me, me. Help me to share these gifts with my friends and family to make them happy, just like how St John Bosco did.

Amen

Quotes from St John Bosco

- Whatever you do think of the Glory of God as your main goal.
- Do not try and excuse your faults; try to correct them.
- Run, jump, shout, but do not sin.


- We do not go to Holy Communion because we are good; we go to become good.
- Fly from bad companions as from the bite of a poisonous snake.
- Ask your angel to console and assist you in your last moments.

My favourite quote is, "Whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your main goal." It is my favourite quote, because it reminds me that Jesus is the centre of everything and that we should live our lives like His.

By Ishaa

By Lucy

RE Survey and Head Forums

Thank you for completing the Parent RE survey and attending the Head Forums this term. We had a really high response.

You reported that your children are happy at school, they feel safe at school, the school enables your children to behave respectfully, staff are positive role models, you understand the school's Catholic mission and your children enjoy learning in RE lessons.

Whilst the vast majority of you felt that you know how well your child is doing in RE a few were not sure.
These are the ways in which we inform you about how your child is doing:
During classroom drop ins RE books are out for parents to see.
At parents consultations teachers inform you on how your child is doing in RE and any areas for improvement.
Curriculum letters inform you about what your child will be learning.
Homework tasks are given for RE so that you can see how you child is learning in RE.
With this newsletter we have attached the cover sheets for the topic your child is currently learning. This informs you of the topic, what your child should already know and what they will be learning.

A few parents were not sure how they are invited to be involved in the prayer life of the school.
These are the ways in which we do this:
Parents are invited to whole school Masses, Phase Masses and Year group Masses which take place over the school year.
Parents are invited to the Harvest Liturgy, Advent Service and Lent Service.
Parents are invited to our Infant Nativities and Phase 3/4 Lent Play.
Parents are informed of Masses, liturgies and assemblies in the school newsletters and diary dates.
Prayer bags are sent home which support pupils in using the prayers they learn in school at home.
Prayer homework tasks and the Prayer at Home Newsletters link to the prayers and types of worship pupils learn at school.
On our website there is a prayer intention link where parents can share a prayer intention that they would like us to pray for in school. This can be found in the link below:
https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/catholic-life-of-the-school/collective-worship/prayer-and-liturgy/
There is a prayer intention book for parents and visitors by the school office.

Thank you for your feedback. We find this really invaluable in supporting us to ensure that your children receive the highest possible provision for their RE lessons, collective worship and Catholic Social Teaching.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 14th February Year 1 up to Year 6 went to Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Reception and Nursery had a collective worship in school to celebrate Ash Wednesday.



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

St Josephine Bakhita Feast Day

On 8th February St Josephine Bakhita celebrated their class feast day. They learnt about Josephine Bakhita, had a special collective worship and completed some art work based on their saint. Josephine Bakhita entered the convent in 1893 and took her vows on December 8th, 1896. She lived a very humble and simple life in the convent doing various jobs such as cooking, sewing, embroidering, and attending to the door of the convent. When she attended the door, people loved talking with her and listening to her friendly, sweet, and comforting voice. As children passed by she would lay her hands on their heads, giving words of encouragement. She often said, “Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God.”







Phase 5/6 First Aid Training

On 7th February Mrs Gibbs from the Red Cross delivered First Aid Lessons to Year 5, Year 5/6 and Year 6. First Aid Education is important as they increase the number of children and young people able and willing to help in an emergency. It also improves their understanding of health issues and how to care for themselves, building a new generation of life-savers. Thank you Mrs Gibbs for these invaluable lessons.















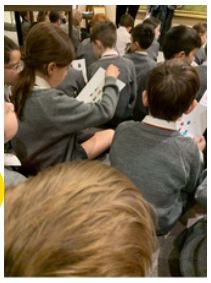
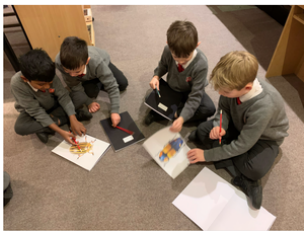


SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Phase 3/4 Trip to Bushey Museum

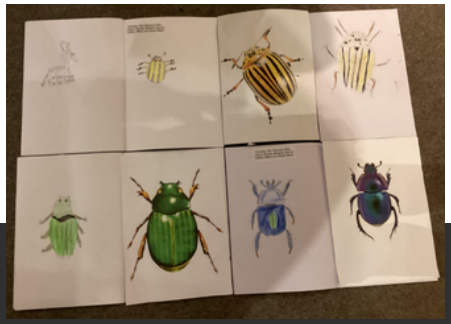
Phase 3/4 visited Bushey Museum during February for their workshop on Lucy Kemp-Welch. Lucy attended the Herkomer School of Art in Bushey and went on to achieve national recognition especially as a painter of animals. The children saw her illustrations of the 1915 edition of Anna Sewell's Black Beauty and some of her paintings. They 'met' Lucy and interviewed her about what it was like to be an artist. They then had a drawing session. The children behaved brilliantly and were excellent ambassadors for the school.









Electric Umbrella Performance

On Monday 12th February the children watched a performance by the Electric Umbrella Company. The Electric Umbrella Company create an amazing live, interactive music experience with learning disabled people. When their performers take to the stage, they help change the way the world looks at them - and others. In doing so, they are on a mission to challenge people to think differently about learning disabled people. The children really enjoyed their performance. We thank the Electric Umbrella Company for visitng our school and we look forward to seeing them next year.



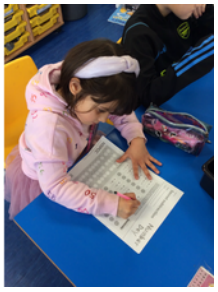




SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

NSPCC Number Day

On 2nd February we celebrated NSPCC Number Day. This is an engaging and educational fundraising initiative that combines learning with fundraising. Participants are encouraged to embrace numbers and mathematics in creative and enjoyable ways. This event is organised by the NSPCC, a leading children's charity in the UK, with a mission to prevent child abuse and provide support to children and families in need. The children came into school dressed as something number or maths related and they completed fun maths activities in school. We raised £273.50 for NSPCC.









Year 5 Residential Retreat to SPEC

Wednesday 28th February to Friday 1st March Year 5 went on their residential retreat to SPEC. The trip was an opportunity for the children to reflect on their faith and on themselves as a child of God. The retreat gave the children time to step back from their normal routines and to evaluate their relationship with God. They also developed strong connections with their peers and teachers. The children were fantastically behaved throughout the trip and also demonstrated their faith and RE knowledge. They completed a treasure hunt based on the Bible 40 minutes quicker than is normal. The staff were incredibly impressed with their knowledge and understanding. Well done Year 5 and thank you to Mrs Haywood, Miss Rosenthal, Mrs Pepper and Mrs O'Sullivan for taking them on this trip.








SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Learning over February at Sacred Heart School

The children have been working incredibly hard. Here are some examples of their learning across the curriculum.



Retelling the story of The Gruffalo in Nursery,



Reading in Nursery







The Fire Brigade visited EYFS as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.









Year 5 Grammar Work



Year 2 described the qualities of Miriam in their RE lesson.







Prayer Club leading collective worship during lunchtimes.

RE Newsletter

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

Internet Safety Newsletter

On Tuesday 6th February we celebrated Internet Safety Day. The theme was: 'Want to talk about it? Make space for conversations about life online'. Along with this newsletter, we have sent out the Spring Herts Online Safety Newsletter.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Catholic Social Teaching - Community & Participation



This half-term, we are focusing on Community and Participation.

Pope Francis said that:

'Do we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so as to be an active part of our communities, or do we close in on ourselves, saying 'I have so many things to do, that's not my job.'

During this half term we are focusing on how living in a community with others is more than simply living near people. We need to recognise the dignity in other people and treat them as such. We are also called to recognise our own gifts and talents and use them to make our communities better. It is how we live out Caritas, love in action.

Eco Ambassadors' Initiatives

On World Book Day our ECO Ambassadors worked with FOSH to lead a pre-loved book sale. For £2 pupils could fill up a bag of books. Thank you to everyone who donated books and those who bought a bag of books. We made an impressive £70. The ECO Ambassadors have decided to use this money to create a vegetable patch which children can tend to over lunchtimes. They plan to use the produce for DT cooking lessons and food stalls where pupils and parents can take vegetables home to use in their dinners. In this way they hope to reduce our carbon footprint.

The ECO Ambassadors will be setting up a pre-loved book swap/sale every time the pre-loved uniform sale is on. Pupils and parents will be able to bring a book(s) and swap this with a book or if there are books they would like to take they can make a donation on the school gateway.






Caritas Ambassadors' Initiatives

Last half term our Caritas Ambassadors asked each class to select a class charity. Each class selected their charity and over the school this means that classes are working with our local, national and international communities. For our International Lent fundraising we raised £188 for the CAFOD Emergency Fund and for our National fundraising we are currently raising money for the Children's Catholic Society. For our Local and National fundraising, each class has also selected a fundraising activity for their class chairty that will take place on Wednesday 27th March.

Nursery - St Anne: Watford Children's Hospital – The children will complete a treasure hunt around the school grounds. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Reception - St Joseph: Save the Children – Pyjama Day – The children come to school dressed in their pyjamas. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Reception - St Francis: The Toy Project – The children bring a new unwanted toy into school. These will be donated to The Toy Project.

Year 1 - St Anthony: Heart Foundation – The children will complete a Fun Run around the school grounds. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Year 1/2 - St Cecilia: Play Skills – The children will complete an obstacle course on the school grounds. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Year 2 - St Therese: Place2Be – Dress to Express Day – The children come to school wearing a colour or clothes to express how they are feeling. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Year 3 - St Bernadette: The World Wildlife Fund – The children come to school dressed in a colour or outfit of an animal. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.

Year 3/4 - St Peter: Four Paws UK – The children will make up some animal goodie bags. They will sell these on the playground after school on 27th March.
Year 4 - St Alphonsa: Cancer Research – The children are going to go on a charity walk around the local area. Please donate £1 via the school gateway.
Year 5 - St Josephine Bakhita: Make a Wish – The children are going to make a school cookbook. We will send out a request form for parents to let us know if they would like to buy a copy of the cookbook. The class will then make enough copies and send these out.
Year 5/6 - St Padro-Pio: Air Ambulance – The children are going to be setting up a car wash in the school carpark for the day. We will ask parents to book a slot if they would like their car washed. More information will be sent out.
Year 6 - St John Bosco: Make a Wish – The children will bring cakes into school on 27th March. They will sell these on the playground after school.

Learner Acronym Focus

Over the last weeks of this half term, we are focusing on E for Engage.
To help pupils to increase their engagement in lessons and school activities we:
Incorporate educational games and activities that involve movement and teamwork.
We encourage pupils to express their opinions, ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations with their peers.
We use a variety of questioning techniques including open-ended questions to stimulate critical thinking and class discussions.
Involve pupils in planning and leading fundraising activities such as our Lent fundraising.

We have developed strong links and partnerships with local organisations such as FOSH (Friends of Sacred Heart), Sacred Heart Parish, Bushey Food Bank, Bushey Museum and charities such as Children's Catholic Society and Mary's Meals.
We teach the children about Catholic Social teaching principles including Community and Participation.
Regular collective worship focuses on Catholic Social teaching and encourages pupils to pray for those in need.

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 Mutual Respect. Some of the ways in which we promote Mutual Respect are:
Our curriculum explicitly teaches and emphasis the importance of values such as respect, empathy and kindness.
In RSE lessons pupil role-play scenarios that highlight respectful behaviour.

We have a buddy system where our Year 6 pupils are paired with a Reception pupil. This promotes role modelling and encourages older pupils to support and guide their younger peers.
In the pupils' prayer books the pupils can express their thoughts and feelings about respect.
Consistency is key when promoting mutual respect in schools. By incorporating these activities into the curriculum and reinforcing positive behaviour, this helps to create a culture of respect that positively influences students' social and emotional development.

Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current attendance rate stands at 95.5%, 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.
The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

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.

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.

Dear God,

Thank you for our families and friends.
Bless all the people in the world that are less fortunate than others.
Help us to treat everyone fairly.

Written by Timothy



Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term Dates

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us to make good choices.
Thank you for looking after our families, pupils and teachers.
Thank you for all of the food we receive every day.
Please help us to continue to work hard and to be kind.

Written by James



Date	Event
Monday 11th March	Parent Consultations Nursery (St Anne), Reception (St Joseph), Year 1 (St Anthony), Year 1/2 (St Cecilia), Year 4 (St Alphonsa)
Tuesday 12th March	Parent Consultations Reception (St Francis), Year 3 (St Bernadette)
Wednesday 13th March	Parent Consultations Year 3/4 (St Peter), Year 5 (St Josephine Bakhita), 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 green, 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 4 - 6.
Thursday 28th March	End of Term and Easter Bonnet Parade. School finishes at 1:15pm.
Monday 15th April	Children return to school



Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Term Dates

Date	Event
Swimming	Year 4 swimming every Friday up to Friday 24th May
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



Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Provisional Dates for 2024 - 2025

Monday 2nd September	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Wednesday 4th September	School starts for children
Friday 25th October	Inset Day - children are not in school on this day
Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Half Term
Monday 4th November	School starts for children
Friday 29th November	Occasional Day - children are not in school on this day
Friday 20th December	End of Term - school finishes at 1:15pm
Monday 6th January	School starts for children
Friday 14th February	End of Term
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February	Half Term
Monday 24th February	School starts for children
Friday 4th April	End of Term - school finishes at 1:15pm
Tuesday 22nd April	School starts for children
Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 23rd May	End of Term
Monday 2nd June	Inset Day
Tuesday 3rd June	School starts for children
Thursday 17th July	End of term - school ends at 12:30pm