Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Dear God,
Please help those who are sick and poorly. Bless those who do not have a roof over their heads, clothes or food. Help those who are going through hard times and help them to find happiness in their lives.
Amen

Written by Liana



Upcoming Key Dates

Summer Term	Year 4 Swimming
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.
Thursday 25th April	Year 5 Year Group Mass in church
Thursday 25th April	Year 5 Year Group Mass in church
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	Religious Education Presentation followed by Head's Parents Forum in school 9:15 am. All parents are welcome to attend.

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy term. There has been lots of learning and also trips and enrichment days.
We have especially focused on Lent - the forty days up to the evening of Maundy Thursday. During this time, we focused on prayer, fasting and giving to others in need. Lent is a time to grow closer to God and to think about how we can be kinder and more loving towards others.
Over Lent the children worked on their Lent promises, focused on prayer during collective worship and planned and carried out their Lent fundraising.
The children also learnt about the Holy Triduum - the period of three days that begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.
You can find out more about this in the Newsletter,
I hope you all have a lovely Easter break.

Take care

Mrs Smith





Saint David's Day



On 1st March the children came to school dressed in red, white and green clothes to celebrate St David's Day. In class they conmpleted activities related to St David.

St David became a Christian priest. He then lived on an island for many years to study the Bible.

Once he left the island, St David founded a monastery, or religious house, at Mynyw (Menevia) in southwestern Wales. Life at St David's monastery was very strict. The monks who lived there had to work very hard. They were rarely allowed to speak. They ate only bread with vegetables and salt. They drank only water.

St David founded many churches throughout southern Wales. He later moved the centre of the church government from Caerleon to Mynyw. David died in about 600 in Mynyw.

St David spread the word of Christiainity and encouraged his followers to care for the natural world. He told his followers to:

"Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do."



Nursery celebrating St David's Day.

Watford Trust Lent Lessons

On 4th and 5th March the Watford Trust delivered Lent lessons to Phase 1/2 and Phase 3/4. They learnt about Palm Sunday and The Last Supper.





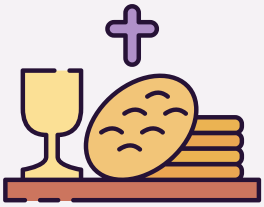












By Lucy

Phase 1/2 Trip to Bushey Museum

Over the first week of March the three classes in Phase 1/2 visited Bushey Museum as part of their History topic on toys. They learnt about what toys were like in the past and how they have changed. Also, they experienced playing with both replicas and real toys from the past.




















World Book Day & ECO Ambassadors Pre-Loved Book Sale

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children came in dressed in wonderful costumes and clothes linked to a book. Over the day, we had a whole school assembly and parade and in class the children completed book related activities. At the end of the day our ECO Ambassadors led a pre-loved book sale. They raised £70 which they plan to use to create a vegetable patch for children to tend to over lunchtimes. They will 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.











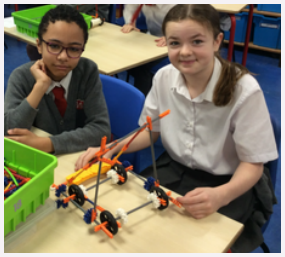




Knex Challenge

Year 6 took part in the Go Construct Knex Challenge in March. They had great fun learning about the exciting world of mechanical engineering. The children were fantastically well behaved and worked very well toegther in teams. Well done.













St Patrick's Day

On 15th March the children came into school dressed in green, orange and white clothes to celebrate St Patrick's Day. During assembly some of the children played Irish music and the children completed activities about St Patrick in class.

St Patrick was born in England, but when he was a teenager, he was captured by Irish pirates who took him to Ireland as a slave. After six years, St Patrick escaped and returned to England and his family.

When St Patrick became a priest, he travelled back to Ireland as a missionary so that he could teach the people about God. He used examples to explain the mysteries of the faith in simple ways. One day, St Patrick compared the Trinity to a shamrock. He said that the shamrock has three leaves, but it is only one plant. In the same way, God is three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—but one God.










Netball



On Monday 25th March, we played St Joseph's in a netball match. We played at home and we were all preparing to be at the top of our game.
The first team won 7-0 and the second team won 4-1. St Joseph's played really well with a mixture of Years 4, 5 and 6. We played very well too and we were all overjoyed when we won.
We would like to thank Claudia for helping us. Well done to Amelie, Freya, Caitlin, Lucy, Isla, Ava, Chika, William Weedon, William Wright, Eabha-Mae, Annie, Inaya and Lauren. Well done to everyone.
Written by Eabha-Mae.

The netballers also took part in a tournament at St Margaret's School. They played incredibly well, made it to the final and came second. Well done.

Mothers' Day



To celebrate Mothers' Day the children made cards and led assemblies for their Mothers. They all said why they love their Mum, sand a song and prayed to Mary and for our Mothers.

Dear God,
I thank you, Creator of us all, for my Mother. I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace. Bless her this day with your love." Amen.



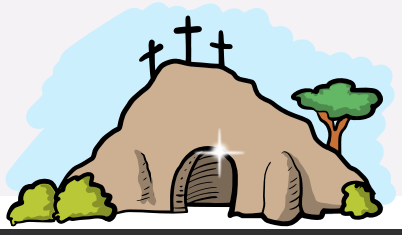
Phase 5/6 Visit to Grange Academy



On Monday 18th March, we went to the Grange Academy to see their show - Beatles Mania. It was amazing and all of Phase 5/6 attended. There were also pupils from Parmiters School playing in the Orchestra. They performed about fourteen songs in total. Thank you to the teachers of Grange Academy and their pupils and the pupils from Parmiters. Everyone loved it. Well done to Grange Academy and Parmiters School.
Written by Amelie

RE Newsletter

Please click on the link below to access the latest RE Newsletter.
www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/
It's officially Eastertide - a time for rejoicing! This significant season is the longest time of celebration in the Church's calendar (50 days) because of the great news that Jesus has risen!
In times when the news of our world is not always so good, Eastertide gives us a bigger perspective. This Good News is at the heart of all our resources and is particularly highlighted as we enter this summer term.
The link above shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout April and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.





Phase 3/4 Play

Phase 3/4 performed their Lent Play - The Three Trees to their parents and the whole school. It was a beautiful performance that reminded us of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. The Year 3's, dressed as trees and forests, blended seamlessly into the woodland setting. Their singing was beautiful and they also acted brilliantly as the crowd. The Year 4's had fantastic costumes for their different roles, spoke very clearly and acted fantastically. Well done to all of the pupils. Thank you to all of the staff and parents who helped the pupils prepare for this.























Junior Lent Service

Phase 5/6 led the Junior Lent Service. The Year 6 pupils created and enacted the Stations of the Cross in a poignant and revenant manner. Year 5 read the readings explaining each stations. Phase 3/4 joined the service and supported with the singing. It was a moving service that reminded us of the most special sacrifice that Jesus made for us all. Thank you to all the parents and parishioners who joined us for this.





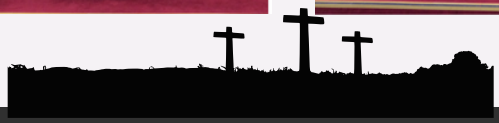












Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL& NURSERY

Infant Lent Service

On the last day of term the Year 2's led a beautiful Lent Service for all of the Infant pupils from Nursery up to Year 2. They enacted the Stations of the Cross and read readings and prayers. All of the children joined in with singing songs reminding us of the most important sacrifice Jesus made for us. It was a very moving service.









Easter Bonnet Parade

We also had our Easter Bonnet Parade. The children's bonnets were incredibly impressive. Well done to everyone for their creations and thank you parents for supporting your children in this event.













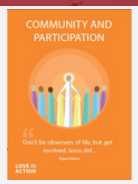






@NEWSFROMSHS

Catholic Social Teaching - Community & Participation



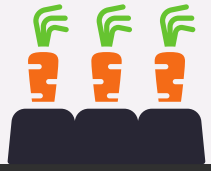
During the Spring second half term, we focused on Community and Participation. Pope Francis said that:

'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.'

We focused 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

The Eco Ambassadors" held their first 'Pre-loved' book sale which was a resounding success. They then decided to hold this each month with the 'Pre-Loved' uniform sale. This took place before the Phase 3/4 Play and the Junior Lent Service. Many pupils and parents swapped books and purchased books they had not read before. The Eco Ambassadors are also currently setting up vegetable patches for pupils to tend to over lunchtimes. They plan to use the vegetables for DT cooking lessons and to give to families to take home for their dinners. Well done.



Watford Sustainability Campion

We are delighted to announce Ellie won the Watford Sustainability Campion award this year. This was for her work as an Eco Ambassador last year where she worked with the team to develop a sustainability scheme for Watford Football Club, They planned that every person who purchased a ticket would receive a package of seeds. This plan was selected and put into place. They also helped to plan and set up a garden in Watford. As well as this Ellie has a passion for sustainability outside of school. She shops at the ReFillABell shop and arranged for them to visit the school last year to support their Geography topic. She also supports buying 'Pre-loved' clothes and regularly raises money for charity. We gratulate her on a very worthy win.





Caritas Ambassadors' Initiatives

Last half term our Caritas Ambassadors asked each class to select a class charity. The charities included local, national and international charities. Each class decided how they would like to raise funds for their charity and these events took place on Wednesday 27th March.

Nursery - St Anne
The children selected Watford Children's Hospital and competed an Easter hunt around the nursery garden.



Reception - St Joseph selected Save the Children and they came into school dressed in their pyjamas



Reception - St Francis chose The Toy Project. They donated toys to be given to the charity



Year 1 - St Anthony selected the Heart Foundation and completed a fun run.



Year 1/2 - St Cecilia: selected Play Skills and completed an obstacle course.



Year 2 - St Therese: selected Place2Be. They came into school dressed to express.



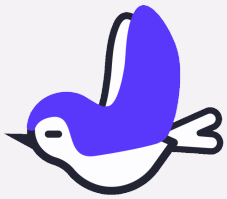
Year 3 - St Bernadette selected The World Wildlife Fund. They came into school dressed in a colour or outfit of an animal.






Year 3/4 - St Peter selected Four Paws Uk. They made bags of bird food and sold them after school.






Year 4 - St Alphonsa selected Cancer Research. They went on a charity walk around Bushey




Year 5 - St Josephine Bakhita selected Make a Wish. They made a cookbook which they sold to the school community.





Year 5/6 - St Padro-Pio selected the Hertfordshire and Essex Air Ambulance – They set up a car wash in the school carpark for the day. Parents and staff booked slots to get their cars cleaned.








Year 6 - St John Bosco selected Make a Wish. They baked cakes and sold them after school on the playground.





Well done to all of the classes for all of their hard work. Thank you to the staff and parents for supporting us with this. The money raised and items collected have been sent to the charities.

Learner Acronym Focus

Over the first few weeks of next half term, we will be focusing on A for Articulate & Aspire.
To help pupils to improve how they articulate their ideas and to develop their aspirations we will:

- Encourage pupils to express their opinions, ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations with their peers.
- Use a variety of questioning techniques including open-ended questions to stimulate critical thinking and class discussions.
- Link to our next Catholic Social Teaching topic - Dignity of the Worker. We will teach the pupils about this and encourage them to articulate their views by discussing real-world examples where these principles are applied or not applied.
- Provide pupils with opportunities to engage with organisations that promote social justice and workers' rights. For example we will continue to support Mary's Meals which provides lunches so that children can go to school to learn and increase their opportunities for work in the future.
- Provide constructive feedback on pupils' articulation of Catholic Social Teaching and their aspirations for the future, helping them to refine their understanding and communication skills.
- Encourage pupils to pupils to pray for everyone to be treated with dignity at their place of work.

British Values

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.

Next Half Term, we are continuing to focus on Mutual Respect which links closely to our Catholic Social Teaching unity Dignity of the Worker. Some of the ways in which we will promote Mutual Respect are:

- Our curriculum explicitly teaches and emphasis the importance of values such as respect, empathy and kindness.
- In Catholic Social Teaching lessons, pupils will learn about the importance of everyone being treated with dngnity in the work place.
- In RSE lessons pupil discuss, debate and 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 the importance of showing respect to everyone.

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.

Mental Health

We all have mental health, just like we all have physical health. It's about how we think, feel and act. Sometimes we feel well, and sometimes we don't. When our mental health is good, we feel motivated and able to take on challenges and new experiences. But when our mental health is not so good, we can find it much harder to cope.

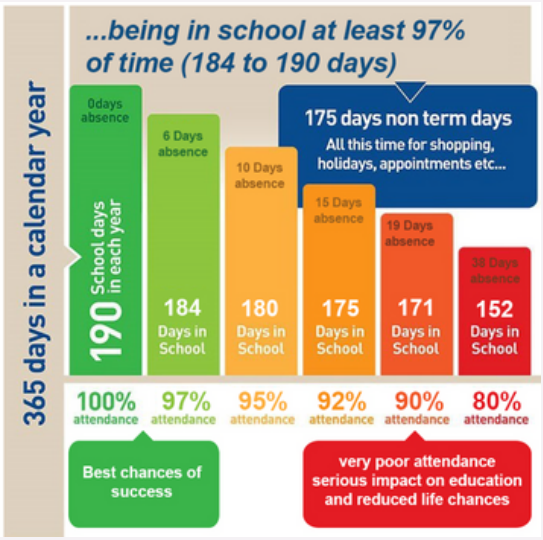
Young Minds has lots of information how how parents can support children with their mental health. It also had guidance for parents. You can access this on the link below:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/



Attendance and Punctuality Update

Our current attendance rate has increased to 95.9%. Thank you for your support with this as we are getting closer to our target of 97%. Regular attendance and punctuality is crucial for your child's academic progress and for 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.

If in a school year, you are late every day by...	You would have lost approximately...	or you would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	18 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	35 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	50 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	73 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	110 Lessons

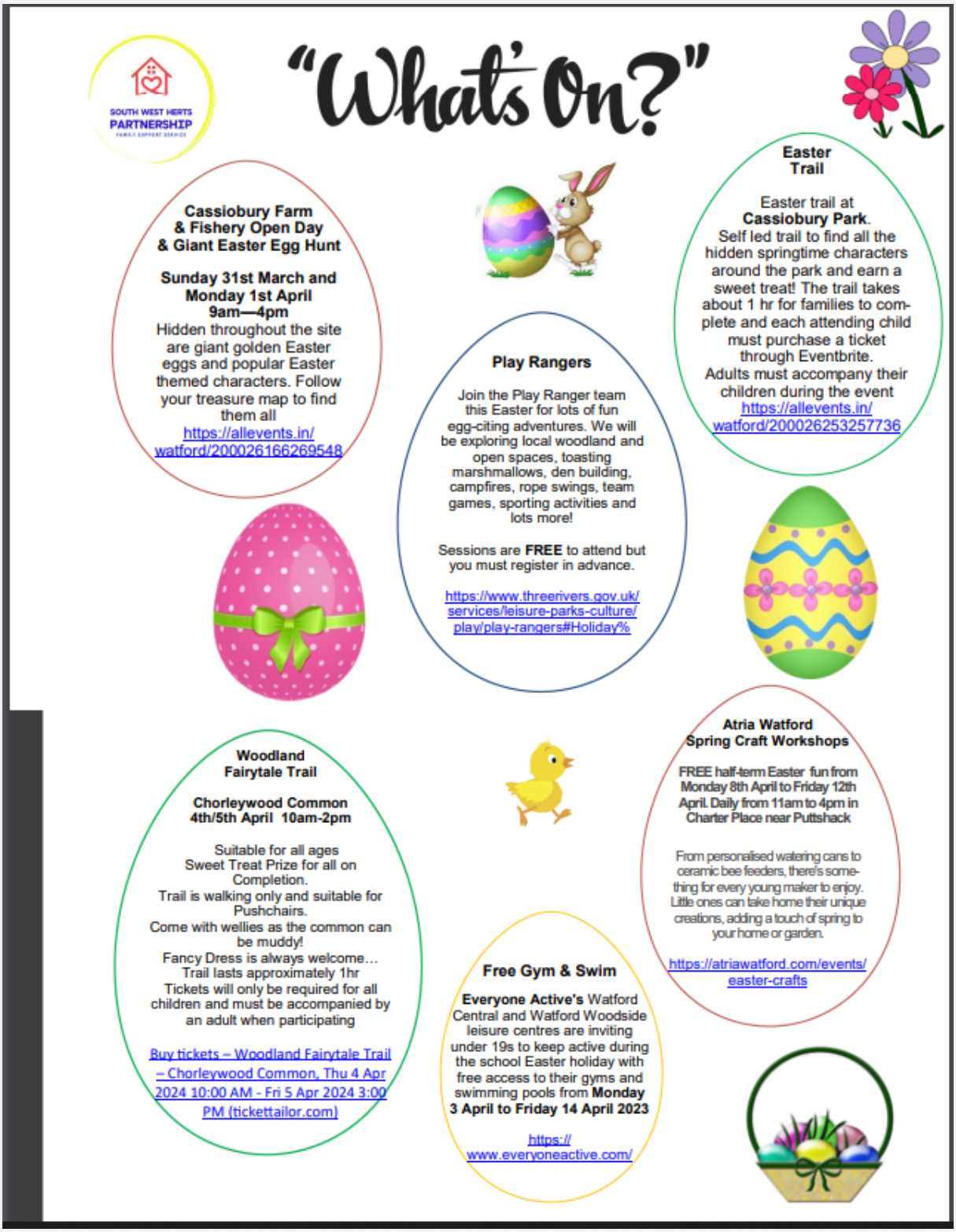
Pupil Premium Funding

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.

Family Actvities to do over Easter



Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Summer Term Dates

Any changes highlighted in yellow

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.
Thursday 25th April	Year 5 Year Group Mass in church
Monday 29th April – 1st May	Assess, Plan, Do, Reviews
Tuesday 30th April	RE Presentation followed by 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
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
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
Monday 24th June	All Year 1 visit to St James's Church
Monday 24th June	Year 5 and Year 5/6 visit to Bushey Synagogue
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.
Tuesday 25th June	Phase 3/4 visit to Bhaktivedenta Manor
Tuesday 25th June	All Year 2 visit to St James's Church
Wednesday 26th June	Year 1 (St Anthony) class trip to Ashridge
Wednesday 26th June	Year 6 visit to Bushey Synagogue
Thursday 27th June	Phase 3/4 Mass in Church - 9:15 - Parents are welcome to join us
Thursday 27th June	Year 1/2 (St Cecilia) class trip to Ashridge
Friday 28th June	St Peter and Paul Mass in Church - 9:15 - Parents are weclome to join us
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	Year 2 (St Therese) class trip to Ashridge
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