

Newsletter



Sacred Heart RC Primary School

14/12/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday associated with Joy! Goodness know joy has been in short supply this year, but as we come towards Christmas the joy of the season can still be found in abundance in primary schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL the staff from the teachers to the cleaners for the way they have tried to put their own fears and anxieties behind them and made the school a sanctuary for the children from the events outside. Children have demonstrated their resilience and their adaptability - two skills that will vital in the years ahead.

The school has managed to remain open (with the exception of one short Reception Class closure) throughout the term. The staff and children under the fantastic management of Mrs Byrne and Miss Wells have been safe, and continued working hard. The staff have adapted and supported one another through difficult times and through the many periods of absence that Covid has brought.

As the term draws to an end I wish you and all your families as much JOY as you can muster, and thank you for all your patience, cooperation and support his term. We return on the 5th January with the anticipation of better times ahead.

I wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas period, and God willing see you all in 2021.



Goodbye Mrs Wade:

As we end 2020 Mrs Wade (nee Hall) ends her long and successful teaching career at Sacred Heart. She has been for many children one of the first teachers they have known at Sacred Heart. She has given so many a wonderful start to their school days.

She and her husband have moved to out of London, and she is due to start a new job closer to home. We wish her the very best and thank her for her contribution to the life of Sacred Heart.

Nested:

Offers from parents and staff to have an advertising board outside their house are continuing to come in, but there is still time to give £20 to the school, simply by advertising the Estate Agents AND the school. Please do sign up.

Some parents have said that because of their circumstances it is not possible to host a board but would like to support the school with a donation of £20. If that is the case then a donation category will be added to Parentmail shop and parents can make a donation there. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



Presents and Vouchers:

This year many people have been inspired by campaigns to support families. We have had amazing support from an ex pupil and local business and friends. We have been given presents and shopping vouchers for some families. We are only sorry that we can't extend the wonderful gesture to every child and family.

Music @ Sacred Heart:

The music department has been working very hard to get everything up and running this term, finding all kinds of ways to work within the COVID safety guidelines. Year 1 received a generous donation of a full class-worth of percussion instruments from Hobgoblin Music shops. This was to help them learn about pitch, rhythm and timbre. Year 2 have been learning about the music of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. Years 3-6 have been writing and performing their own raps, learning about rhythm and rhyme, metre and musical structure along the way. There are indeed some very talented young rappers at this school. A huge thank you to all those parents and carers who donated guitars and ukuleles, trumpets and violins for our instrument students – we now have nearly 150 learning a wide range of instruments at the school and have been able to provide instruments to all who needed them. We do really hope that in 2021 we will be able to bring back singing and ensemble playing which have both been sorely missed.

MUSIC MATTERS!



Sad News:

Sr Winifred Acred FMA - RIP

Some of you will remember Sr Winifred. She was Headteacher of Sacred Heart from 1972 -1988.

Please see the message below from her community:

Please pray for the soul of Sr Winifred, who, after a long illness, lived to the end with immense courage, went home to God last night, December 10th, at 10.45pm.

The Wednesday Word:

The word of the week unsurprisingly is **JOY**

Sr Teresa of Calcutta said, “**Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy!**”



Zoom Mass:

Thank you to Fr Hugh and Deacon Michael for a wonderful Federation Mass on Wednesday morning. The children were brilliant and a credit to their parents and the staff. Thank you to Mrs Garaialde and Miss Drinan for all the organisation.

It transpires that I didn't send out the zoom invite to parents. We will be having mass in the New Year to celebrate the new term. I will definitely try to remember next time!

End of Term Reminders:

Wednesday 16th December is Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day. Children may wear Christmas Jumpers to school on Wednesday.

Thursday 17th December is Christmas party day. Children may wear their own clothes—but please be mindful that they will still go out to play and need to dress appropriately.



End of term:

School finishes on Friday 18th December. There are staggered pick up times for each year group:

Year Group	Finish Time on Friday 18th December	Pick Up Point
Nursery	No afternoon session Full time children to be collected 1.00pm	Nursery Gate
Reception	1.05pm	Cabul Road
Year 1	1.10pm	Cabul Road
Year 2	1.15pm	Cabul Road
Year 3	1.15pm	Este Road
Year 4	1.20pm	Este Road
Year 5	1.25pm	Este Road
Year 6	1.30pm	Este Road
Hilary House	1.30pm	Nursery Gate

**Christmas masses at Sacred Heart Church:**

Please contact the parish office to book a place at one of the Christmas masses this year:

The Mass Schedule for Christmas will be as follows:

Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm (Children's Celebration)

Mass at 7pm (Vigil Mass)

Mass at 9pm (Mass of Christmas Night)

Christmas Day Mass at 9.30am

Mass at 11.30am

Archbishop John has asked parishes to encourage their communities to make full use of the Christmas Octave this year and, if it is not possible to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day this year, to do so during the Christmas Octave. Liturgically, each of the days from 25th December until the 1st January is 'Christmas Day'. There will be Mass in Church every day during these days.