

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

24th November 2023

This afternoon we welcome back most of the Y6 children. They have been away for a wonderful week in Sayers Croft activity Centre in Surrey. I managed to spend the first day and night with them and Mrs Byrne was able to accompany the year group on their walk to Pitch Hill on Wednesday. Mrs Chowdhury and Mr Julian also visited with some children to enjoy activities yesterday. The weather has been kind over their stay. It is a memorable week in their primary school lives and one which helps form strong bonds in their final year.

It is however becoming harder and harder to staff and manage whilst at the same time ensuring a smooth and safe running of the school. With many other workers enjoying a mixed employment with WFH, Schools are asking staff to give up a week of their lives 24hrs a day to care for the children. I am enormously grateful to all involved in making this school journey such a success.

Christmas lights at Battersea High Street

The Ofsted line, 'If you have a talent they will find it here,' was certainly in evidence last Saturday as both the Choir and the Orchestra showed off their talents on the Riverside radio stage. The children were a fantastic advert for the school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of a real stage and sound system. I'm grateful to the parents for their ongoing support and to all the staff who helped make the day a success.

Coincidentally that weekend, The Gospel was about 'talents'. Sacred Heart are certainly not keeping their talents hidden!



Anna goes to No 10 Downing Street

As part of our work with school food organisations like the Food Foundation, Mrs Byrne and Anna in 6G were invited to hand a letter about Universal Free School Meals into No 10 Downing Street. Ana was interviewed on Parliament Green and was a wonderful ambassador for the school.

They both had a wonderful time and it was hard to tell who was the most excited on their return.

Parental Financial Support

Many Primary schools ask parents for an annual contribution to help school funds. At Sacred Heart we have resisted that, given the difficulties all parents have in the financial circumstances. However, we do ask parents for their support in other ways.

The Christmas Fair is coming up and I know the Friends of Sacred Heart are asking parents to support them with their time and energy, as well monetary support. Please contact the committee if you can help make the day a success. All money goes to improving the school and the education of the children.

We have also asked for parents to volunteer to finish off the garden before the Grand Opening. The garden will provide a space for children's wellbeing, prayer and exploration and we desperately need some muscle to support Mr Madden and Ms Clifton. If you can help tomorrow morning between 9.30 and 12pm that would be amazing.

Apple Partnership

There may be parents who are taking advantage of the FREE Saturday classes for Y5 and 6 children, who may be able to volunteer tomorrow 😊 These classes are made possible by funding from Apple and the children are having a really enjoyable morning.

On Friday 1st, Apple have invited Y5 children to a Art installation at the Power Station. This starts at 4.30 and ends at 5.15pm. Parents will have to collect from the Power Station, Riverside Walk (in front of the Coaling Jetty) from 5.15pm.



Catholic Life of the School

The Wednesday Word is **Kindness**

"How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day each one of us could say: 'I have performed an act of charity towards others!'" Pope Francis

Each one of us can perform an act of charity by volunteering to help the school at the Christmas Fair or in the garden tomorrow!! 😊

Trips and Visits

Year 2

The children in Year 2 'enjoyed' a rain soaked trip to the Wetlands Centre at Barnes last week. This was a free trip including (luckily) a coach. Despite the weather, the children had a great time thinking about the importance of nature in our lives and the place of wetlands in conservation.



Year 6

Well done to our year 6 team: Rueben, Malvina, Charlotte and Anna who represented Sacred Heart School at the Wandsworth heat of CWISL's annual book quiz (Children's Writers and Illustrators for Stories and Literacy).



We may not have won the quiz, but we did win a free author visit to the school and came away with lots of new books for the key stage 2 library.

Staff Sickness

As I mentioned at the beginning of the newsletter, staffing arrangements for all aspects of school life are tricky at the best of times. This is the season for colds and flu and teachers are particularly susceptible. We always endeavour to cover these absences internally but on occasion we might need to use teachers from a supply agency.

Unfortunately, Ms Ormonde is absent at the moment. Coaches from Chelsea FC have been teaching PE lessons but it has not been possible to arrange cover for clubs. We continue to look for solutions.

Key Dates

29th November	3B Class Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
6th December	Music Concert 2pm in the School Hall
9th December	School Christmas Fair
13th December	KS2 Advent Service in Church 4.30 for all KS2 Pupils and Parents
14th December	KS1 Nativity 9.30am and 2.00pm
15th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
18th December	Nursery Singalong 11am and 2.45pm
19th December	Reception Singalong 2.45pm
19th December	Hilary House Nativity
20th December	Class Parties
21st December	Break up for Christmas holidays at 1.30pm (no afternoon Nursery)
8th January 2024	New Term Starts
15th January	Inset Day (School Closed) Catholic Schools shared Inset Day
17th January	3C Class Assembly 9.15am in the hall
24th January	2S Class Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
30th January	2M Class Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
31st January	Feast of John Bosco Mass in Church 10.00am
6th February	1W Class Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
7th February	1P Class Assembly 9.15am in the Hall
12th to 16th February	Half Term