

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

29th January 2024

Apologies for the lack of newsletters, Mrs Byrne and I are still getting used to the new arrangements.

I would like to write to you about the difficult events that are happening with our neighbour school Christchurch CoE Primary School. Most Inner London primary schools -Sacred Heart included- are struggling to adjust to the drop in primary aged children. Broadwater school in Tooting closed last year and schools across other London boroughs are also being closed. These are tragic and traumatic events for families and staff and my heart goes out to them.

As the nearest school to Christchurch it is only right that if we have spaces, that those spaces are made available to families. We have spaces in every year group and the financial pressure of empty spaces has been increasingly difficult to manage. Indeed, one of the reasons the Governing Body agreed to my involvement with Holy Ghost was the relief that it brought to the budget. A school budget is directly related to the number on roll and as such when a school is full the staffing support, the opportunities, the resources and the enrichment for the children are all improved.

Consequently, I have worked closely with Mrs Morris and the Local Authority to plan for the transition for those parents who want to take up the offer of a space at Sacred Heart. There will be those families for whom this is not the right school but, where they choose Sacred Heart, we want to be a welcoming and prepared as we can be. As a Catholic school that has always prided itself on being at the heart of its community, it is our Catholic mission to support our neighbours.

On Wednesday 31st January, at 4pm, I have invited the parents and children of Christchurch to a special open evening, so that they can hear from staff and parents and can be reassured that wherever possible, their children will be welcomed and nurtured if they choose to join us in Sacred Heart.

I ask that parents extend that Christian welcome in any interaction you might have in the coming weeks. I am also aware that some parents in Christchurch are upset at the decision and are campaigning to support the school-and that it is an emotional issue. That is not for me to comment. Our role is too support any new families as we do in all such cases.

I ask that we keep Mrs Morris, the staff of the school and the children in our thoughts.

This has been a difficult time for staff as well. Both Roger and Mr Thomas have lost parents in recent weeks. I ask that we pray for their families and think of them as they come to terms with their loss.

The Catholic Life of the School

It is obviously my **favourite** Wednesday Word this week: **TEACHER**

“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.” Pope Francis.

Cafod – The Big Lent Walk



This year for the first time in many years we will be in school for Holy Week. One of the events that will help the children think of others and of Jesus' sacrifice, will be our annual 'Big Lent Walk'.

On Monday a representative from CAFOD led the Monday assembly, thanking the children for their efforts last year and asking them to repeat the hard work again to support those affected by conflict.

Details will follow.

Wednesday 31st January is the Feast of St John Bosco. The children will be joining the Parish Mass at 10am. Parents are of course welcome to join us.

Sports at Sacred Heart

There are some constants in the changing seasons.

Lighter mornings, snowdrops, birdsong and Sacred Heart winning the Battersea heat of the Sportshall athletics!!!

Ms Ormonde writes,

"Another wonderful achievement for the boys and girls at Sacred Heart-winning their heat of the Sportshall Athletics, 50 points clear of the second placed team. They also won eight of the ten races and produced some unbelievable personal bests in the field events.

The girls team was captained by Charlotte in Y6 who herself completed 57 jumps in the speed bounce and won both the long jump and her two track races! The boys team was captained by Jamie who won all four events that he competed in: Long Jump, Javelin, 2+2 and 6 lap.

It was an amazing atmosphere with all of the children smiling throughout.

Congratulations to all of those that competed.

Charlotte | Judith | Kayla | Alexia | Lottie | Malvina | Kimara-Lee | Aaliyah F | Louise | Agnes | Lucianna | Mary | Jamie | Kordae | Kaylen | Alex | Freddie | Luis Z | Luis R | Isaiah H | Isaiah P | Kenzou | Ashay"

After School Sports Clubs



Winning events like the athletics don't just happen naturally.

Ms Ormonde has been working with the squad after school as well as on the recent Inset day. Normal sports clubs will resume after half term.

Families at Sacred Heart

Year 6 Family Learning and SATs preparation.

My thanks go out to all the staff but especially Mrs Garaialde for organising such a good evening for the Y6 families.

It was great to see the hall so busy at 6pm and parents and carers engaging in their children's Maths education so enthusiastically.

On Wednesday 31st January we will repeat the process but think about the English SATs tests. I hope even more parents can join us (5.30-7.00pm).

2S Class Assembly

I also had the rare privilege of joining 2S for their class assembly. I learnt such a lot about Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell. The children were brilliant and it was great to see many happy parents. The children then shared their Maths, English and history work with their parents and were so proud to show off their learning.

Upcoming Dates

31st January	St John Bosco mass at Sacred Heart Church - Parents Welcome	10.00am
31st January	Y6 English Sats meeting - Y6 Parents Welcome	5.30 to 7.00pm
6th February	1W Class assembly in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
7th February	1P Class assembly in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
12th to 16th February	HALF TERM	
21st February	Y6 Celebration of the Word in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
21st February	Y6 Confession in School	
28th February	Y5 Celebration of the Word in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
28th February	Y5 Confession in School	
6th March	Y4 Celebration of the Word in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
6th March	Y4 Confession in School	
7th March	World Book Day	
13th March	Y3 Celebration of the Word in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
13th March	Y3 Confession in school	
20th March	Y2 Celebration of the Word in the hall - Parents Welcome	9.15am
25th March	Holy Week service in the hall for pupils	
28th March	Last day of term. School closes at 1.30pm	
15th April	INSET DAY. School Closed	
16th April	Summer Term – School re-opens	