

Information for Parents

"Let us allow God's constant help to make us new people." Pope Francis

Dear Parents and carers,

A very happy new year to you all! We hope you managed to have a relaxed and restful Christmas break with your families and friends. We wish you and your family a blessed 2024.

As the new year brings resolutions, personal goals and renewed focus, this is a perfect time to remind your child of their targets and areas to improve with their learning. Please support them in achieving these goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The <u>8 learning behaviours</u> we focus on at school are:

Not giving up Being curious Having a go Co-operating Enjoying learning Improving Using your imagination Concentrating

Good News for Families

Along with encouraging and supporting your child in their learning journey, January is also a very good time for your child to reflect and focus on their *spiritual journey*.

As mentioned in the *Wednesday Word* for this week (in reference to the Gospel for Sunday 14th January 2024-*John 1: 35-42*):

"January is a traditionally the month of beginnings-a time for making a NEW START. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a new start. They may not have known what John meant when he said 'Look, there is the Lamb of God,' but they knew what he wanted them to do: they had to start afresh and get close to Jesus. Once John's disciples got to know Jesus, they couldn't wait to tell their friends and share their joy with them.

We too are filled with this same joy when we get close to Jesus and share the good news. Regardless of our past, God is always ready to help us to begin again. God invites each one of us to 'Come and See'-to make a NEW START with Him, each and every day."

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with others as we start this New Year.

Amen

Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home	
English	This half term we will continue to	Encourage your child to practise their	
OLIVEA ILEELAI	develop your child's independence and	weekly spellings every day and try to put	
	love of writing with some exciting texts	the words into context by writing	
LOST as FOUND	linked to our Geography topic of The	sentences. Continue to read widely and	
Nines	Arctic. We will be focusing on stories	daily to your children and discuss a range	
Iceberg Helen Status	such as Lost & Found, The Night Iceberg,	of fiction and non-fiction texts with them.	
	Polar Opposites and Blue Penguin to	When reading fiction, think about the	
1 100	encourage the children to produce	characters and their actions, make	
POLAR	interesting fiction and non-fiction work.	comparisons and support your child as	
OVF STIES	The children will be writing letters and	they begin to answer more open-ended	
and the second	diaries from the perspective of the	questions such as, "Why do you think he	
	characters, as well as writing their own	did that? What would you have done?"	
°	missing chapter for Lost & Found.	When reading non-fiction, take note of and	
		explain the purpose of the contents page,	
ALL IS	This half term the children will continue	of page numbers, labels, captions and the	
PENGUIN. Per Horoček	to practise and apply a range of sentence	glossary. Feel free to discuss with your	
	types to their writing as well as develop	child the book we are focusing on at school	
	their ability to write at greater length.	and ask them questions about the work	
	The children will think about the purpose	they are doing. Continue to support your	
	and use of a range of punctuation and	child's love of reading and engagement	
	the importance of adjective choice. The	with writing by encouraging them to write	
	children will also have more	their own stories. You could encourage	
	responsibility for checking their own	them to write letters to loved ones,	
	work and will have the opportunity to	shopping lists, or book reviews for their	
	edit it when necessary.	friends or teacher. Any additional writing	
	Phonics	helps.	
	This half term, the children will continue		
	-	For more information about how we teach	
	with their daily phonics lessons. We		
	continue to progress through Phase 5 -	phonics and reading in school, visit the Little Wandle Letters and sounds website	
	learning new ways of spelling the sounds		
	they have already learned. The children	here:	
	will learn to recognise these new	https://wpe.littlewandlelettersandsounds.	
	phoneme-grapheme correspondences,	org.uk/resources/for-parents/	
	(GPCs) within the texts and reading books	Further information can be found on the	
	we share and will also practise reading	school website here:	
	and writing these new GPCs in the	https://www.sacredheartschoolbattersea	
	context of a sentence.	.co.uk/little-wandle-phonics/	
Maths	This half term we will be reviewing and	Encourage your child to complete their	
	then continuing our work on addition,	Maths activities each week. These are	
	subtraction and place value; beginning	mostly focused around recapping taught	
	with a focus on teen numbers before	topics but also involve some exposure to	
	building up to 50. The children will be	new aspects of the Year 1 curriculum.	
	exploring a variety of ways to show the	Continue to support your child's	
	value of these numbers, including	understanding of Place Value through	
	breaking the numbers into groups of tens	problems and questioning. For example, if	
	and ones using both concrete and	they want something from the shop for	
	pictorial representations. With our whole	50p, how many 10ps do they need?	
	school focus on 'Maths Mastery' we will	All children should have their Numbots	

 continue to ensure we are applying our distance of the basic concepts through problem solving and reasoning. RE In RE we will be learning about our community and the special people they might see at Mass on Sunday. The children will color church and the people they might see at Mass on Sunday. The children will explore the jobs these "special people do at church and how they help us. Read the Wednesday word together and how they can help us. We will be learning about the isonormunity. Science This half term we will continue to learn about the seasonal changes we see in nature, and identify the different plants and trees around them as well as the change in weather. As we prepare to move into spring, we will begin our topic on plants. The children will begin our topic on plants. The children will begin to identify and different plants and trees around a us, including the difference the season. Identify some new flowers that might begin to appear as the weather becomes warmer. Our Geography topic this half term will be touching upon the North and South poles, the Equator and some of the World's regions. The children will be learning to identify and anse some of the World's regions. The children will be learning about and comparing the seasonal weather patters of the key land features of the Arctic region and compare these and see in the UK. The children will be learning about and comparing the seasonal weather patters of the landscape, as well as how some of the world's region. The children will be learning about and comparing the seasonal weather patters of the landscape, as well as how some of the towns and rural areas within the Arctic region and compare these to the world's region and the surrounding areas. 				
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Computing	This half term, the children will be exploring programmable toys such as Beebots. They will programme the Beebot to move around maps or to find 'treasure'. The children will think about the instructional steps they will need the Beebot to complete to achieve their tasks and the importance of being exact or careful whilst inputting their instructions. The children will also continue to use iPads safely to interact with age appropriate software as we explore	If your child has access to a computer at home help them to learn how to use the mouse and type using keyboard. Use computing as a medium for finding out facts and for practising phonics, reading and maths skills using websites such as, http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1 www.oxfordowl.co.uk If you do not have a computer or tablet at home, please take your child to the library where they will be able to access a computer.	
	'Online Safety'.		
PE	Year 1 will spend this half term focusing on gymnastics and dance activities to increase their strength, flexibility, balance, agility, co-ordination and creativity. The children will also have an additional PE session every Tuesday with Wimbledon Tennis coaches. Through these sessions they will continue to build on their tennis skills, using a forehand, backhand, volley and serve technique whilst working with a partner.		
Art	This half term, the children will be learning about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing techniques, and applying these skills in painting and printing. The lessons encourage exploration and confidence in colour use, culminating in creating a painted plate in the style of an artist. This unit enhances pupils' understanding of colours and their applications in art.	Encourage your child to draw and be creative, experimenting with different colours and shapes. Ask them to talk about their creations, ask them to talk about their choice of colour and whether they can recall that the primary colours are yellow, blue and red and that these colours can be combined to make other (secondary) colours – red + blue = purple, yellow + blue = green, red + yellow = orange.	
PSHE (including online safety)	This half term we will continue to explore a range of emotions. The children will learn to recognise emotions within themselves. They will be learning that all emotions are acceptable, but that some emotions can make us feel comfortable, whereas others can make us feel uncomfortable. They will begin to think of and learn strategies for managing our emotions and continue to develop empathy and understanding towards one another.	Help your child to recognise a range of emotions. What emotions make them feel comfortable/uncomfortable? Do they recognise feeling happy, calm, relaxed as comfortable feelings? What do they usually do if the feel sad/angry and do they recognise these as uncomfortable feelings. Who do they/can they go to for help if they are experiencing uncomfortable feelings and what strategies can they use to help themselves feel better?	

Upcoming class assemblies and/or Family Learning events and dates: 1W class assembly Tuesday 6th February at 9:15am 1P class assembly Wednesday 7th February at 9:15am All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School follow the homework policy.

In year 1 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spelling Pack	At the beginning of each half term.	Spelling tests are on Wednesday mornings.	Practise the spellings with your child every day using the method 'Look, cover, write, check'. Please ensure everything in in their Homework folders and these are returned to school every Wednesday. Please ensure Spelling books are also in the correct folder for your child's ease.
Maths Pack	At the beginning of each half term.	Math tests are on Wednesday mornings.	Complete the Maths homework with your child every day. Please read the instructions carefully before completing the homework.
Reading	Reading books are week. Reading fol collected in on Th reading books issu Each child will be each week. One of the phonetically of they have already the other will be a pleasure chosen f book corner. Plea these books are re your child brings folder to school e	Iders will be Jursdays and new ued on Friday. given two books of these will be decodable book v explored in class, a book for from the class se ensure both of eturned and that their reading	Listen to your child read their phonetically decodable reading practice book every day and discuss the story or non-fiction text with them. If your child has finished their books, please re-read these books with your child to develop fluency, in line with the Year 1 National Curriculum. Also share your child's chosen 'book for pleasure' with them, discussing the story with your child and modelling the correct use of expression.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in with his or her PE kit on Monday, and leave it at school until Friday. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

<u>PE day for Year 1 is Thursday.</u> Please remember to remove your child's earrings on Thursdays.

Kind regards, Mrs Walsh Miss Parsons Miss Graham