



Term: Spring 1 2024
Year Group: 1

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 **8 learning behaviours** 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***):

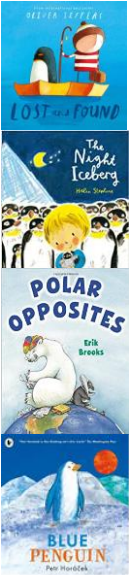
“January is a traditionally the month of beginnings-a time for making a NEW START. In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a new start. They may not have known what John meant when he said ‘Look, there is the Lamb of God,’ but they knew what he wanted them 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
<p>English</p> 	<p>This half term we will continue to develop your child's independence and love of writing with some exciting texts linked to our Geography topic of The Arctic. We will be focusing on stories such as Lost & Found, The Night Iceberg, Polar Opposites and Blue Penguin to encourage the children to produce interesting fiction and non-fiction work. The children will be writing letters and diaries from the perspective of the characters, as well as writing their own missing chapter for Lost & Found.</p> <p>This half term the children will continue to practise and apply a range of sentence types to their writing as well as develop their ability to write at greater length. The children will think about the purpose and use of a range of punctuation and the importance of adjective choice. The children will also have more responsibility for checking their own work and will have the opportunity to edit it when necessary.</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>This half term, the children will continue with their daily phonics lessons. We continue to progress through Phase 5 - learning new ways of spelling the sounds they have already learned. The children will learn to recognise these new phoneme-grapheme correspondences, (GPCs) within the texts and reading books we share and will also practise reading and writing these new GPCs in the context of a sentence.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to practise their weekly spellings every day and try to put the words into context by writing sentences. Continue to read widely and daily to your children and discuss a range of fiction and non-fiction texts with them. When reading fiction, think about the characters and their actions, make comparisons and support your child as they begin to answer more open-ended questions such as, "Why do you think he did that? What would you have done?" When reading non-fiction, take note of and explain the purpose of the contents page, of page numbers, labels, captions and the glossary. Feel free to discuss with your child the book we are focusing on at school and ask them questions about the work they are doing. Continue to support your child's love of reading and engagement with writing by encouraging them to write their own stories. You could encourage them to write letters to loved ones, shopping lists, or book reviews for their friends or teacher. Any additional writing helps.</p> <p>For more information about how we teach phonics and reading in school, visit the Little Wandle Letters and sounds website here: https://wpe.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/</p> <p>Further information can be found on the school website here: https://www.sacredheartschoolbattersea.co.uk/little-wandle-phonics/</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>This half term we will be reviewing and then continuing our work on addition, subtraction and place value; beginning with a focus on teen numbers before building up to 50. The children will be exploring a variety of ways to show the value of these numbers, including breaking the numbers into groups of tens and ones using both concrete and pictorial representations. With our whole school focus on 'Maths Mastery' we will</p>	<p>Encourage your child to complete their Maths activities each week. These are mostly focused around recapping taught topics but also involve some exposure to new aspects of the Year 1 curriculum. Continue to support your child's understanding of Place Value through problems and questioning. For example, if they want something from the shop for 50p, how many 10ps do they need? All children should have their Numbots</p>

	continue to ensure we are applying our understanding of these basic concepts through problem solving and reasoning.	password in their Reading Record to support their Maths work at home.
RE	In RE we will be learning about our community and the special people we have around us such as family, teachers, doctors, nurses, priests, etc. We will talk about their role in our community and how they can help us. We will be learning about our local 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 important it is to gather together and feel part of our community.	<p>Help your child to understand that we are all part of the church family and of God's family. Talk to your child about all the people around us and how they help us. Read the Wednesday word together and discuss the Gospel and the readings.</p> 
Science	This half term we will continue to learn about the seasonal changes we see around us during winter. The children will think about the 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 to identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. We will go to Banana Park to collect data and classify the plants and trees around us, including the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.	<p>Encourage your child to observe and report what they can see in nature, and identify the different plants and trees you can see. Observe the changes in the weather, paying particular attention to the plants and trees and discuss how they grow throughout the season. Identify some new flowers that might begin to appear as the weather becomes warmer.</p> 
History/ Geography	Our Geography topic this half term will be 'The Arctic'. Through this focus the children 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 name some of the key land features of the Arctic landscape, as well as how some of the people have adapted to living in this climate. We will be learning about and comparing the seasonal weather patterns in the Arctic to those we have and see in the UK. The children will continue to develop their Geography skills, accurately identifying countries on a globe or world map; the different points of a compass; and also, the landmarks and features on an aerial photograph. They will learn to identify human and physical features of the towns and rural areas within the Arctic region and compare these to the human and physical features of London and the surrounding areas.	<p>Please help your child to understand the difference between weather and climate and look out for seasonal changes as we move from Winter into Spring. Talk to your children about the key landmarks around them. Can they find these landmarks on a map? What other features of an aerial view map do they know? Are there any features of the landscape in England which are different to those they've found out about in the Arctic? Continue to explore different types of maps, atlases and globes with your child where possible. Which countries do they know? Can they find any of these on a map?</p> 

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 'Online Safety'.	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.
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 they 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 changed once a week. Reading folders will be collected in on Thursdays and new reading books issued on Friday. Each child will be given two books each week. One of these will be the phonetically decodable book they have already explored in class, the other will be a book for pleasure chosen from the class book corner. Please ensure both of these books are returned and that your child brings their reading folder to school every day.		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.

PE day for Year 1 is Thursday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on Thursdays.

Kind regards,
Mrs Walsh
Miss Parsons
Miss Graham