

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

10th January 2025

Welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope you and your family enjoyed the break and celebrated the season and Christ's birth together.

Can I say thank you on behalf of Mrs Byrne, Ms Wells and I and all the staff for your generosity last term. Your kind gifts, cards and best wishes are always greatly appreciated.

Mr Nathan Gash

Over the holidays we received the tragic news that Mr Gash our trumpet and keyboard teacher had died suddenly over Christmas. Mr Gash has worked at Sacred Heart for 12 years and the news came as a great shock to his friends and colleagues. I have written separately to the parents whose children were taught by Mr Gash and have tried to manage their anxiety and sadness. We send our condolences and support to his family at this dreadful time.

May his soul and the souls of the faithfully departed Rest In Peace.



New staff

This week we welcomed Mr Madden's replacement- a teacher familiar to many of the children. We are delighted to have secured the services of Mrs Kean formerly of Christchurch to work in Y4.

I am sure you will join me in making her welcome to this part of Battersea that she knows so well.

The Royal Opera House - Hansel and Gretel

Despite it being the first week back, it always remains exciting at Sacred Heart. Yesterday the choir and the orchestra enjoyed an amazing visit to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. They were lucky enough to attend the school's matinees of Hansel and Gretel.

It was a wonderful production and the effects and acting left the children spellbound throughout the performance. I am so grateful to Mr Clarke for securing the tickets and Ms Drinan and Ms Maclou for their support on the day.



Swimming

I am delighted that thanks to the support of F.O.S.H that the children have started swimming each week again. Covid and the increased cost of the Latchmere Centre meant it has been off the agenda for a while. The Y6 children were exceptionally well-behaved and enjoyed the opportunity.

Heating

Just in time for the cold snap the heating pumps were replaced over the Christmas holidays. The classrooms are warm and toasty despite the low temperatures. The Diocese will cover 90% of the cost and the school will have to find the remaining 10%. Many schools ask parents to make an annual contribution to the building fund. Given the rise in the cost of living we have never made that request but parents who want to help are encouraged to speak with the FOSH parents.

Catholic Life of the School

The Wednesday word is Baptism

“Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift.” St Gregory of Nazianzus

Thank you to Mrs Cook and the children and parents of 2C for swelling the attendance of the family prayer group this Friday. We came together as clergy, staff, children and parents each Friday at 8.30am to make the work of the week and the coming weekend in God’s hands.

Celebration of the Word

At Sacred Heart, the celebration and sharing of God’s Word are central to our mission. These special services, led by Deacon Michael, involve the children being active participants in the liturgy (with a different year group hosting each week). Following each year group service, parents will have the opportunity to look at their child’s RE, English and Maths books. It is a valuable opportunity for parents to discuss their child’s learning journey with them.

We would like to invite Year 2 parents and carers to join us for the **Year 2 Celebration of the Word** service, which will take place on **Wednesday, 15th January, at 9:15 AM** in the school hall. A letter has gone out to Year 2 parents with further information.

Celebration of the Word timetable

| Celebration of the Word at 9.15am in School Hall (with Parents) | |
|--|--------------|
| Date | Class |
| 15th January | Y2 |
| 22nd January | Y1 |
| 29th January | Reception |
| | |
| Celebration of the Word at 9.15am in School Hall (with Parents) | |
| Date | Class |
| 12th March | Y6 |
| 19th March | Y5 |
| 26th March | Y4 |
| | |
| 2nd April | Y3 |

Sacred Heart Ethos

We are currently updating our school behaviour policy and as part of this process, we have a newly devised Sacred Heart Ethos, which has been drawn from our Federation Mission Statement (**The parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13:31**), Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles and our already established Learning Behaviours.

We will be using our Sacred Heart Ethos to help guide our children to make positive choices with their learning and in their relationships with others.

Our Sacred Heart Ethos has been structured using the **SACRED** acronym and hopefully you will hear your children referring to this in the days ahead.

SACRED HEART ETHOS

S: Service

A: Affection and Appreciation

C: Consideration and Co-operation

R: Reflection and Reconciliation

E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

D: Dignity



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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Service | Helping others and the world (Being 'Pilgrims of the Earth'); We are guardians of God's creation. (CST link/s-Stewardship ; Preferential Option for the Poor ; Distributive Justice) |
| Affection and Appreciation | Showing loving kindness and care; being thankful for each other and the world around us. (CST link/s-Solidarity ; The Common Good) |
| Consideration and Co-operation | Showing thoughtfulness, thinking about the views of others, and working together for the common good in school and the wider world. (CST link-Subsidiarity , Distributive Justice) |
| Reflection and Reconciliation | Always being honest, listening to others, reflecting on choices & showing forgiveness and friendship. (CST link/s-Promoting Peace ; Participation) |
| Endeavour and Enjoyment | Always trying our best and finding joy in all that we do, for both ourselves and others. (CST link/s The Common Good) |
| Dignity | Recognising that everyone is special and unique-valuing and respecting ourselves and others (CST link/s Human Dignity ; The Common Good) |

Spring 1 Events 2025

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| 6 th January | New Term |
| 8 th January | Swimming starts for Y6 |
| 10 th January | Prayer Group 2C – 9.15am- all welcome |
| 15 th January | Y2 Celebration of the Word with Deacon Micheal 9.15am. All Y2 parents are welcome. |
| 15 th January | Y6 Family Learning – maths. 5.00-6.00pm. All Y6 parents are welcome. |
| 16 th January | 5C – Apple store visit |
| 17 th January | Prayer Group 1W – 9.15am- all welcome |
| 21 st January | Year 4 – Academy of Culinary Arts workshop in school |
| 22 nd January | Y1 Celebration of the Word with Deacon Micheal 9.15am. All Y1 parents are welcome. |
| 22 nd January | Police visit to Reception classes |
| 22 nd January | Y6 Family Learning. 5.00-6.30pm. All Y6 parents are welcome. |
| 23 rd January | 5L Apple store visit |
| 23 rd January | Police visit to Nursery |
| 24 th January | Prayer Group RN – 9.15am- all welcome |
| 24 th January | Sportshall Athletics Championships |
| 27 th January | Virtual author visit Y6 – Glen Blackwell |
| 29 th January | Reception Celebration of the Word with Deacon Micheal 9.15am. All Reception parents are welcome. |
| 31 st January | Feast of John Bosco Mass at Sacred Heart Church 10.00am Y2-6. |
| 7 th February | Chelsea FC Girls Football Tournament |
| 7 th Battersea | Battersea Society visiting Y6 “Growing up in Wartime Battersea”. |
| 7 th February | Y2 Florence Nightingale trip |
| 7 th February | Prayer Group RW – 9.15am- all welcome |
| 12 th February | Smriti Halls – author visit Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3 (Learn to Love to Read) |
| 14 th February | Prayer Group Blue – 9.15am- all welcome |
| 14 th February | Break up for half term at 3.30pm |
| 17 th – 21 st February | Half Term |
| 24 th February | School re-opens |