



Term: Spring 1 2025
Year Group: 6

Information for Parents

“We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God.”

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 2025.

As the new year brings resolutions, personal goals and renewed focus, this is a perfect time to remind your child of their targets from Parent/Teacher consultations, which took place in November. Please support your child 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***, (in reference to the Gospel for Sunday 5th January 2024-***Matthew 2: 1-12 The Feast of the Epiphany***):

“What guided the wise men to Jesus? When we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we remember how the wise men from the East were guided to Jesus. Ask your child what ‘guidance’ means to them. Who guides them through life, to make sensible and wise choices? Who or what guides you on your journey through life? The wise men in the Gospel were guided by a star, but since the birth of Jesus we no longer need stars to guide us. Jesus is the way: the way to happiness, to truth, and to eternal life.

As we journey through life to God, we need good guidance to help us along the way. Ask your child if they know some of the ways in which Jesus guides us today. Perhaps it is through: listening to good and wise people; learning Church teaching; being open to correction; prayerfully considering what effect our words and actions might have on ourselves and others; reading the gospels together; going to church and listening carefully; praying to Jesus for guidance.”

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your guidance-for being there to guide our family on our journey together through life.

Amen

One way we will be helping to ***guide*** our children in their learning and the choices they make, as they grow and develop, is through our 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 learning behaviours.

Our Sacred Heart Ethos has been structured using the **SACRED** acronym:

S: Service

A: Affection and Appreciation

C: Consideration and Co-operation

R: Reflection and Reconciliation



E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

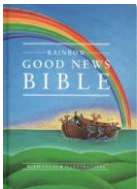



D: Dignity







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)

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 be writing diary entries from the viewpoint of a London child evacuee during WW2- using the gripping World War II story, 'Friend or Foe' (by Michael Morpurgo) as a stimulus. We will also use this book (along with our History learning of WW2) to write a Balanced argument. We will identify the main structural, grammatical and language features of these genres and will plan, draft, proof-read and edit our final pieces of work.</p> <p>To support our learning further, we will be continuing to use Alan Peat's Exciting Sentences, to help pupils to write more varied sentences that engage the reader and reinforce correct sentence structure, grammar and punctuation.</p> <p>Within reading, we will be continuing to develop pupils' reading fluency and expression when reading aloud via modelled, choral, echo and paired reading.</p> <p>In Guided Comprehension, we will continue to refine the following skills, based on NC reading domains: word meaning/vocabulary building; fact retrieval, prediction, inference, explanation (via the strategy of Point, Evidence, Explain), summarising and sequencing</p>	<p>Support your child at home with their grammar and spelling homework where possible.</p> <p>-Listen to them read daily for at least 20minutes, encouraging expression as well as intonation. Ask relevant questions about the text that has been read to you to check your child's comprehension. Read to you child too (even in Year 6!). Modelling and then reading together really helps to improve fluency and expression and to help build your child's sight vocabulary and comprehension.</p> <p>Do make a note in your child's Reading Record when you have heard them read.</p> <p>Encourage your child to explain what they have read via the P.E.E method P-Make a point E-Provide the evidence E-Explain your reasoning</p> <p>An easy mnemonic to help pupils to remember the reading skills they need to develop is VIPERS:</p> <p>VOCABULARY INFERENCE PREDICTION EXPLANATION RETRIEVAL SUMMARISING/ SEQUENCING</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Maths lessons this half term will focus on Fractions, Measurement, Ratio, Algebra and decimals. Our children will further develop their fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills by applying them to problems in different contexts.</p> <p>Particular emphasis will be placed on mental calculations strategies, fast recall of multiplication and division tables, written calculations, multiplication and division, problem</p>	<p>Continue to engage in the wonderful interactive educational platforms of, TTRS, HIT THE BUTTON, and 'STOP THE CLOCK'.</p> <p>Daily practice will impact positively on your child's sense of number and mental calculations as they begin their year 6 maths journey.</p>

	solving / investigations and mathematical vocabulary.	
RE 	<p>Our topic this half term is Community: Sources. We will be deepening our understanding of the Bible as the story of God's love, told by the People of God. We will also explore the many books of the Bible and the purpose for which they were written.</p> <p>During this topic, pupils will acquire the skills of being able to respond, celebrate and apply their personal life choices to the word of the Lord. Remembering that the Bible recounts God's invitation to us to share and spread his love.</p>	<p>Set aside a special time each day to read the Bible with your child; start the day thinking about God. Bring your prayer requests before Him and ask for the help you'll need to face the day. End the day with a prayer with Jesus. Reflect on the events of that day, bringing requests before the Lord related to people the children have encountered or situations that are fresh in their mind.</p> <p>Discuss the Monday Word assembly as a family, and of course try your best to attend Sunday mass!</p>
Science  	<p>Light</p> <p>Pupils will be exploring the way that light behaves, how light reflects and will deepen their understanding about the science behind the formation of shadows.</p> <p>Our children will carry out a range of enquiries that support their understanding of 'taught scientific concepts', whilst also developing the scientific skills below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking questions • making predictions • setting up tests • observing and measuring • recording data • interpreting and communicating results • evaluating 	<p>Science "happens" all around us every day, and you have endless opportunities to invite your child into the wonders of science. Without expensive chemistry sets, equipment or kits, your child can be introduced easily to the natural world and encouraged to observe what goes on in that world. There is truly a wealth of information online about the topic of light.</p> <p>Together with your child, you may also want to visit the Science Museum, which has a wealth of interactive hands-on resources that will engage, inspire and quench your child's thirst for knowledge.</p> <p>https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk</p>
History 	<p>In History this term, we will be deepening our understanding of WW2. We will be looking to answer many of the important questions that Historians worldwide have asked:</p> <p>Why did Britain go to war in 1939 and what dilemmas did Chamberlain face?</p> <p>Why was it necessary for children to be evacuated?</p> <p>How was Britain able to stand firm against German threat?</p> <p>What was life like for people on the Home Front and how did they manage to carry on 'normal lives'? Why is it difficult to know what life was like?</p>	<p>To support your child's History knowledge and understanding, visit the National History Museum; The Imperial War Museum or the Churchill War Rooms.</p> <p>The children could also be encouraged to bake with rationed ingredients, or to try out some WW2 recipes? This would give them a real taste of WW2 life! Please try your best to visit the 'Imperial War Museum'</p> <p>https://www.iwm.org.uk/ or The HMS Belfast - The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2JH to immerse yourself fully in the war experience!</p>

<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Swift Playgrounds is a revolutionary app for iPad and Mac that makes it fun to learn and experiment with Swift — a powerful programming language created by Apple and used by the pros to build today's most popular apps. By solving puzzles in a dynamic 3D puzzle world, students will develop a set of coding skills to build up their basic programming vocabulary. Their coding journey begins with simple commands, functions, and loops. From the start, they'll write real Swift code—the same code used by real programmers.</p>	<p>Remind children about how to stay safe online. Go through rules as a family about acceptable and unacceptable things to do online when playing on games/apps and websites, and communicating with friends on the net. Reinforce appropriate and correct procedures to follow!</p> <p>As an extra activity, find out and explore as much information as you can about WW2</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>This half term, Y6 will have a six-week block of swimming, working towards the National Curriculum Objectives of swimming competently for 25m and basic survival skills in the water.</p>	<p>Go for a family swim with your child. We understand that parents are busy, but family swims are a fun activity that can be enjoyed whatever the weather. It will also help children develop their swimming ability quicker and long periods of time out of the water will result in a loss of stamina and ability. We found that nearly 60% of parents and guardians of children aged 7-11 haven't been swimming with their children in more than a month. Let's make a change!!!</p>
<p>Art</p> 	<p>Mixed Media Artist study</p> <p>This half term, we will be focusing on understanding narratives and descriptive language in art, exploring meanings behind paintings, and developing personal interpretations and abstract art pieces based on selected artists.</p> <p>Our lessons will explore creative expression, analysis, and evaluation skills in art.</p>	<p>Watch and enjoy 'Landscape Artist of the Year' or catch up with, 'Portrait Artist of the Year'</p> <p>also visit: The National Gallery- Trafalgar Square! Tate Modern - Bankside, London SE1 9TG</p>
<p>PSHE (including online safety)</p> 	<p>Life to the Full <i>plus!</i></p> <p>Me, My Body, My Health. This half-term our children will learn that celebrating differences between people is enriching to a community and know that their self-confidence should arise from being loved by God.</p> <p>Online Safety is being aware of the nature of the possible threats that you could encounter whilst engaging in activity through the Internet.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage your child to talk about their emotions and feelings on a regular basis. Remind them that we all have emotions and that it is quite natural to experience different feelings in our everyday lives. All emotions have a place in our lives, but it is our behaviours linked to specific emotions that shape who we are.</p>

**Online Reputation:**

This half term, we will be finding out and explaining the ways in which anyone can develop a positive online reputation.

We will find out and understand what an online reputation is, understand that people may conduct online searches to find out information about me, and we will also explore and understand that the information people find about me will allow them to form an opinion of me.

Online safety -**Have a conversation!**

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet?

Upcoming class Family Learning events and dates: Wednesdays 15th and 22nd January

All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School follow the homework policy.

In Year 6 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English: -Reading -Comprehension -Spellings -Grammar	Friday	Friday	Set clear routines for reading time and homework. Read with your child. Listen to them read out loud but also read aloud to your child. The children benefit from hearing texts read with appropriate volume, tone and expression. Practise spellings little and often.
Maths: -Times tables - Arithmetic/Reasoning - Mathletics	Friday	Friday	Practise timetables daily. Recite your times tables out loud, backwards, written in order and with multiplication and division facts.

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 (swimming) days for Year 6 is on Wednesday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Tuesday night.

Kind regards,

Class Teachers Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Garaialde

Support Staff Mrs Harris and Miss Emily