



Information for Parents

***“Dear young people, Jesus is counting on you to be his friends and witnesses to his infinite love.”
Pope Francis***

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the first half of the Summer term at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School, Battersea. We hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Easter break with your family and loved ones. The holiday period was of course tinged with great sadness however, with the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

On the first day of term, we came together as a school to pray and to celebrate the life and achievements of his holiness. We will as a school community, ensure that we continue his work in all we do, caring for the less fortunate and for our planet- a mission that is particularly significant in this, the ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ Jubilee Year. As Pope Francis himself said, ***“Hear the cry of the earth and cry of the poor. We are a single family living in a common home.”***



We remember Pope Francis in our prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen*

The Wednesday Word for Wednesday 30th April is **'Witness'**. It states, (in reference to the **Gospel of Sunday 4th May 2025-John 21:1-19**):

*"Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before the crucifixion. But now Jesus gives Peter the chance to say he loves him three times-preparing Peter to lead the Church. From this point onwards, St Peter's life witnessed to the truth about Jesus. **Ask your child what the word 'witness' means to them. Who has recently brought the message of Jesus to your child? Who does your child know to be a great witness for Jesus?**"*

St Peter gave witness to what Jesus did and who Jesus really was. Because of his witness, many people came to know and follow Jesus. Through our words, actions and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can be God's witnesses, through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Choose a special way to be Jesus' witnesses-sharing and showing God's love to everyone you meet in this coming week."

As we journey through the Easter period (culminating with the feast of Pentecost), we continue to reflect upon what we can all do to **guide** our children to live out Jesus' teachings and be his witnesses. By encouraging our children to embrace their gifts and talents, make the right choices, be the peacemakers and treat others with love, patience and kindness, we are guiding them to stay close to Jesus.

This guidance is supported by our **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*



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 with our daily phonics lessons and will be revising all GPCs, (letter-sound correspondences) the children have learned so far this year. Each day the children will apply learned GPCs to their spellings, reading and writing. We will continue with our three reading practice sessions each week, focusing on decoding, (sounding words out and blending), prosody, (reading with expression and intonation, taking note of punctuation) and comprehension. To support our Geography work this half term, all of our texts will be focused on different localities around the UK. We will use the texts Katie Morag and the two Grandmothers, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch and Coming to England to inspire fictional recounts, diary writing, to create a poster and write instructions. The children will be expected to begin to independently include a mixture of taught writing conventions in their work, as well as begin to independently edit their writing, ensuring they have checked their spellings and it is correctly punctuated. We will continue to explore different sentence types and begin to include plurals, pre-fixes and suffixes in our writing.</p>	<p>Spend time reading with your child, encouraging them to use their phonics when attempting new words. Practise reading the sounds, (GPCs) on the inside cover of their reading practice book. Encourage your child to read their reading practice book every day and refer to the questions on the inside back cover. Focus on any new vocabulary and ensure your child knows what the words mean.</p> <p>Read additional books to your child every day to continue to develop their sense of 'reading for pleasure'. Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary and demonstrate how we can use intonation, expression, tone and volume in our voices to, 'bring the stories alive'.</p> <p>Encourage your child to practise the weekly spellings every day and try to put the words into context by writing sentences.</p> <p>Whilst completing homework, encourage your child to write the letters carefully, using the correct pencil grip and the correct letter orientation. Encourage your children to use correct language when speaking in the past tense, for example 'went', not 'goed', ran, not 'ranned' as this will help them with their written work.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>This term we will begin to think about multiplication and division. The children will learn to count in groups of 2, 5 and 10 and begin to represent these groups in arrays. They will begin to learn to share quantities into equal groups and will begin to learn about fractions. We will then move onto learning about positional language. The children will be exploring terms such as a quarter, a half and whole, as well as, forwards, backwards, next to, above, below, in front of, left and right in order to describe objects and movement.</p>	<p>Help your children to develop fluency with numbers by practising their number bonds to 10 and 20, practice the skills of halving and doubling numbers in 'their head' and breaking a number down into tens and ones. Please ensure your child completes their maths homework each week which will recap a variety of taught maths concepts. This will help them to consolidate their understanding of these mathematical operations. Encourage your child to practise their maths skills using Numbots. Your child's login details can be found on the inside front cover of their reading record.</p>
<p>RE</p>	<p>Our RE topic this half term is 'Holidays and Holy Days'. The children will learn the difference between a holiday and a holy</p>	<p>When you take your child to church help them to listen carefully during the Mass and discuss with them when and why</p>

	day. Through this topic the children will be exploring what these terms mean to them and the idea of 'good news' before leading us into the time of Pentecost. The children will learn that Pentecost is a Holy day – the feast of the Holy Spirit. They will learn about Pentecost, of its 'Good News' and the beginning of the church.	they hear reference to the Holy Spirit. What does this mean? Why do we sometimes respond with 'and with your spirit'? Read your child stories of Jesus and the story of Pentecost. Help your child to learn the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.
Science	This half term 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 visit Falcon Park to collect data and classify the plants and trees around us, including the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.	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.
PSHE (includes online safety)/RSE	This half term we will be looking at The Holy Trinity and discussing the idea of God as 'three in one'. We will talk about how this demonstrates God's love for us as well as how we can show love for others. The children will also explore the individual's relationship with the wider world. They will explore how human beings are called to love others in the wider community by God through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good.	Talk to your children about how they can help others in the community and how they can take care of their planet. What steps can we take to protect the people, animals and the planet? What will happen if we don't look after the things around us?
Geography	This half term we are expanding our understanding of where we live with our topic 'Our Country'. The children will be thinking about where they live within the country of England, where they live within the United Kingdom, and where they live in the World. The children will be exploring all countries which make up the United Kingdom, as well as our surrounding seas. We will explore each country's geographical features and capital cities. Finally, we will focus on our city of London to explore the rural and urban features and the key landmarks.	Talk to your child about where they live. How do they know they live in a city? Discuss our city's main features and landmarks. How does our city contrast to other parts of England or the United Kingdom? Discuss the main cities and flags of the United Kingdom. Can the children find these countries and cities on a map?
Computing	This half term, the children will continue to use technology purposefully to create, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. They will recognise common uses of information technology beyond school and continue to learn how to use technology safely and respectfully, and identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns.	
Art	In Art this half term the children will be exploring sculpture through making 3D creations. The children will use paper to create their own 3D drawings and sculptures. The children will look at the	Talk to your child about other works of Art around them. What do they think about it? How does it make them feel? What do they think about the colours or media?

	work of Samantha Stevens, 'Other' and images of 'The Tree of Life' from a variety of cultures to support them to design and create their own 3D pictures. Following this with the work of <i>Louise Bourgeois 'Maman' to inspire their sculpture. The children will finally be supported to evaluate their work and the effect it has upon them as an artist and also the viewer.</i>	If possible find opportunities for your children to explore sculpture by creating at home. Are there any particular medias they prefer to use?
PE	KS1 - Developing the basic fundamental skills, Agility, Balance and Co-ordination and learning to apply these within well-known sports. The focus this term is tennis and cricket so the children will be developing their footwork, hand-eye co-ordination and their ability to strike a ball. Summer 1 - The Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative will deliver tennis lessons to Y1.	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for dodging, by playing 'tag' with your child, or practice their throwing and catching skills.
Music	This term, Year 1 will be supported by Wandsworth's Music Department to provide lessons and establish excellent singing practice. The programme encourages high quality singing to promote accuracy of pitch and tone and listening skills. The programme will culminate with an opportunity for the children to perform to others in a spectacular show called, 'The Little Pirate'.	

Where possible we like to take the children out of school, or invite visitors in to speak to the children to enrich their learning. This half term we are visiting

All teachers at Sacred Heart 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'.
Maths Pack	At the beginning of each term.	Maths tests are on Wednesday mornings.	Complete the Maths homework with your child every day. Please read the instructions carefully before completing the homework.
Reading	Little Wandle reading practice books handed out on Friday	Books are collected in on Wednesday	Read with your child every day. Encourage them to use phonics as their first route to reading words. Ask your child questions about their books, which can be found on the inside back cover. Read your child's 'sharing book' to them, demonstrating how to use expression, discussing any new vocabulary and the key events.
Reading Comprehension	Weekly	Comprehension packs will be taken in every Wednesday.	Complete the Comprehension homework with your child every week. Please encourage your child to highlight the part of the text which contains the clue before answering a question.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please remember that the school rule is that if your child is unable to participate in PE owing to sickness, then they are not well enough to come to school.

PE days for Year 1 are Wednesday and Thursday. Children may wear their P.E. kit to school on these days.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on these days.

Kind regards,
Mrs Walsh
Miss Lacey
Miss Graham