



Information for parents

*“Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm,
look forward to the future with confidence.”*

Pope Saint John Paul II

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after the half term break. We do hope families are feeling rested and refreshed and **enthusiastic** about the busy half term ahead, which is already packed full of events, including Parent/Teacher Consultations, Remembrance Day services, Year 6 School Journey to Sayers Croft, class assemblies, sporting events and much more. Then of course, over the holy period of December, we will begin Advent preparations in the lead up to Christmas.

And on that note, as the season of Advent approaches, please encourage your children to reflect on the message from Sunday 9th November's Gospel, taken from John 2: 13-22, which emphasises that **enthusiasm** is one of life's most important ingredients. As it states in **The Wednesday Word**:

“The word ‘enthusiasm’ comes from the Greek word ‘entheos’ which means ‘God-filled’. Life really is joyful when we are enthusiastic about the right things. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a protest that things had gone seriously wrong with how they were relating to God; something needed to change. Right here-right now-we can begin or renew our relationship with God and be filled with fresh enthusiasm for life...

Enthusiasm is an attractive quality. As we become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives, we become happier and more filled with energy and enthusiasm. God wants us to pray: to ask him to fill us with enthusiasm for the right, good and lasting things in life.”

*Dear Lord Jesus,
Please fill us with enthusiasm to love you, to serve you, and to help
others to know you too.
Amen*

Our children are supported in their spiritual, educational and emotional growth 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 and Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles.

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*

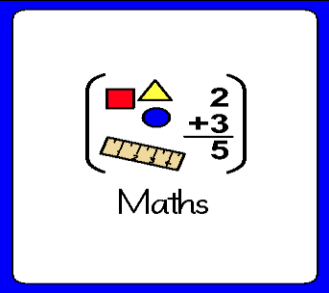
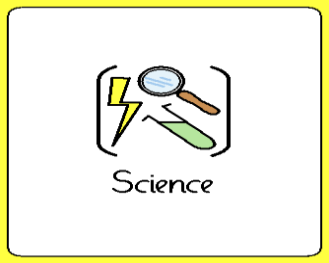


Our ethos also strongly links with the **8 learning behaviours** we focus on in school (and encourage at home), which are:

- *Being curious*
- *Having a go (perseverance)*
- *Co-operating*
- *Enjoying learning*
- *Improving*
- *Using your imagination*
- *Concentrating*
- *Not giving up (resilience)*

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

Subject	Learning
[ABC] English	Our focus topic for this half term we will be looking at the story 'The Train ride'. We will use this as our theme throughout all our learning to map language. This will include sensory stories and interactive story activities to engage all learners. For those that are ready will be retelling stories, identifying vocabulary and working on our transcription and mark making skills. We will continue developing our join attention and concentration skills. This is through a range of intervention including Attention Autism. We are working to develop our communication skills through intensive interaction sessions. We are developing our phonetic awareness through phonics lessons and nursery rhymes. All learning will be bespoke to each child's developmental level.
	This half term our topic will be 'classification' and 'matching'. This will focus on how we group certain items together. Whether it is size, colour or type. This will be through listening and practical activities. We will continue to expand on our understanding of number. We will be looking at numbers within 10 and we will be counting and applying understanding of

 Maths	quantities in real-life situations. For those that are ready will be also move onto addition and subtraction. All teaching will take place through practical activities and documented learning, pitched at each child's individual learning level. We will additionally use a TEACCH structure to explore our understanding in maths, phonics and English. This will help children gain independence in their learning and the value of accomplishing a task.
 Science	This half term we will continue our topic will be 'Materials'. We will be looking at materials in the world and why materials are fit for purpose. This language will include 'wood, metal, plastic' and using 'soft, hard and strong'. We will also be looking at seasons with a focus on Autumn. All science learning will be taught through practical activities, stories and the use of our communication app. This theme will also be reflected throughout our continuous provision and art lessons.
 Computing	We will continue to explore apps that help improve the children's Fine Motor and Communication skills. For those that are reading we will also enjoy interactive phonics games and early typing skills.
 PSHE	All of Hilary House will be learning to manage their emotions using the Zone of Regulations. This half term will be focusing on labelling our feelings and that all feelings are valid.
 PE	Will be using a variety of different apparatus to help aid co-ordination and balance. Children will be introduced to equipment such as ribbons, balls, racquets, tags, and smaller items to help with fine motor skills.
 Music	This half term we will be singing songs with actions, clapping in time and following a beat on an instrument. Additionally, we have singing sessions throughout the day. We will also be learning Christmas songs with Makaton actions.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches.

PE days for Blue Class are **Friday**.

Kind regards,

Miss Coombs, Miss Kelly, Miss Flora, Miss Judith, and Miss Nikki.