



Term: Autumn 1 2025
Year Group: Year 1

Information to Parents

A prayer for our children as they embark on a new academic year

*Dear Lord,
Open my eyes to see new friends.
Open my ears to hear my teacher.
Open my mind to learn new things.
Open my hands to help others.
Open my mouth to speak kind words.
Open my heart to love like You.
I know You are always with me when I'm at school.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Dear Parents and carers,

We extend a very warm welcome to all families as we begin the 2025/2026 academic year at Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School, Battersea. We hope that you managed to have a relaxing summer, spending quality time with friends and family.

As we commence the new academic year, we are prompted to reflect on our Federation's Mission Statement, which is based on the parable of '**The Mustard Seed and Yeast**' (**Matthew 13.31**)

"A man took a grain of mustard seed, and sowed it in his field. Indeed, the seed is smaller than all seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches."

At the heart of both the reading and the parable, is the notion of 'growth', that wonderful things can come from the smallest or humblest of beginnings and that each and every one of our children have God given talents that require nurturing and celebrating. In turn, these gifts from God can inspire and motivate others to succeed and to reach their full potential.

This academic year we will continue to guide our children in their learning and the choices that they make, via our **Sacred Heart Ethos**, which was 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** uses the **SACRED** acronym:

S: Service

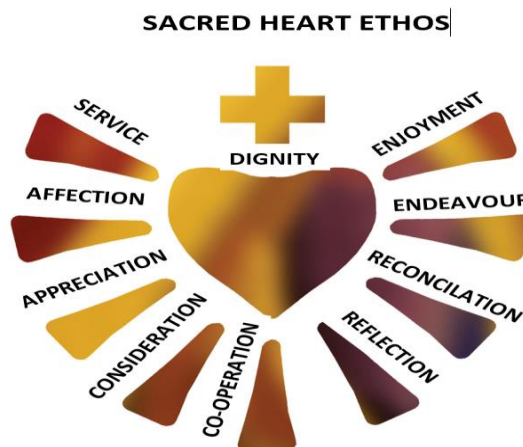
A: Affection and Appreciation

C: Consideration and Co-operation

R: Reflection and Reconciliation

E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

D: Dignity



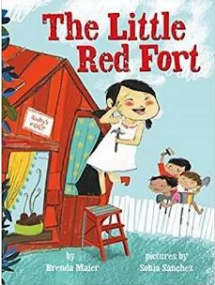
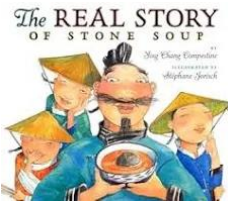
Service	Helping others and the world (Being 'Pilgrims of the Earth'); We are guardians of God's creation. (CST link/s-Stewardship ; Preferential Option for the Poor ; Distributive Justice)
Affection and Appreciation	Showing loving kindness and care; being thankful for each other and the world around 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)

Please also support your child in achieving their academic 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 learnin
Improving Using your imagination Concentrating**

We very much look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead at Sacred Heart, Battersea, working closely together with our wider school community, our parish and our partner school, St Mary's.

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
English   	The children will revise learned letter sounds and begin to learn new ways of spelling the sounds they have learned. They will learn to read longer words and learn new tricky words. The children will learn to apply their phonic knowledge to all reading activities and continue to read three times a week, focusing on decoding, prosody, (taking note of punctuation and reading with appropriate expression) and their comprehension skills. We will be focusing on recognising and explaining the differences between 'Traditional Tales' and alternative versions of the stories. Our focus texts will include 'The Little Red Fort', 'The Magic Paintbrush' and 'The REAL STORY OF STONE SOUP'. We will explore these stories through role play and begin to write character descriptions, instructions and letters, focusing on ensuring we use capital letters and full stops correctly and include adjectives. We will begin to introduce capital letters for proper nouns and other forms of punctuation such as exclamation and question marks. Through their work we will expect the children to develop a deeper understanding of how stories are written and how we can use rich language to engage and interest the reader. We will continue to have high expectations in all aspects, including speaking	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. Read additional books <u>to</u> your child to continue to develop their sense of 'reading for pleasure'. Revisit and discuss traditional tales with your children. Which are their favourite stories? Who are their favourite characters? Do they think there is a message in the traditional tale? Encourage your child to compare the characters – how are they similar and how are they different? This will support the comparisons they are making in class. Visit the library to widen their experience of books and discuss any new vocabulary they encounter. Encourage your child to practise their spellings each week and to make up and write sentences with these words in them so that they can then read and understand them in context.

	and listening, reading, handwriting, phonics and presentation.	
Maths	This half term children we will be focusing on number, on place value and begin to find different ways to add and subtract numbers. We will be continuing to learn to read and write numbers from 1 – 20 as numbers and words. We will count forwards and backwards to 10 and beyond before counting objects with accuracy and revising the number line. The children will be identifying one more and one less than a number, understand ordinal numbers e.g. first, second and third and begin to recognise the place value of numbers beyond 20.	Practise counting, reading and writing numbers to 10 and beyond. Recall the place value of numbers e.g. which numbers come between 7 and 9? Use mathematical vocabulary to describe the order of numbers, first, second, third, fourth and so on. The children will shortly be given their 'Numbots' login details, which you will be able to find on the inside cover of their reading diary. Please encourage your child to explore Numbots as this is a fun and interactive tool for consolidating your child's learning.
RE	Our RE topic this half term will be 'Families' which focuses on the idea that everyone belongs to the family of God. The key questions we will explore are Who loves me? Who are my family? How do families show love and care? Following this we will begin to explore the concept of 'Belonging'. We will begin to think about the different groups we belong to – our family, our school, our Church, and to God's family.	Talk to your child about their immediate and extended family. Help your child to think of ways they can love and care for them and how others love and care for them. Help them to understand that we are all part of the church family and of God's family.
Science	We will be learning about human and animal bodies and consider similarities and differences between them. We will engage in a variety of activities including, drawing and labelling the body and using their senses to carry out an investigation.	Talk about the parts of the body and what we do with each part. Encourage your child to use their senses to describe the things they see, hear, smell and touch. Play games such as "I spy", "I can smell something..." Encourage your child to identify the different types of

	We will investigate how tall and wide our bodies are and what the various parts do. Finally, we will reflect upon the seasons as they begin to change, focusing on the weather patterns, temperature and the fact that some animals will hibernate during colder weather.	weather we experience in the UK and in other countries particularly if you travel abroad. Ask your child if they have begun to notice the day length shorten.
PSHE/Online Safety	Our PATHS and Life to the Full programmes are designed to facilitate the development of self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem-solving skills. The programme consists of a variety of lessons. This term we will be establishing and reinforcing basic classroom rules and establishing an environment which builds self-esteem. The children will use the stories within the programme to reflect upon the different feelings they may be having now they are in Year 1, and the importance of friendship and how to be a good friend, remembering we are all created by and loved by God. In our Online Safety lessons, we will be mirroring our work on emotions as we explore; recognising that there may be people online who could make me feel sad, embarrassed or upset and what we can do if something happens that makes me feel sad, worried, uncomfortable or frightened I can give examples of when and how to speak to an adult I can trust and how they can help.	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. Model for your child positive behaviours, when dealing with different emotions. Talk to your child about the importance of being safe online and let them know that you are someone safe they can come to if they were every upset or uncomfortable whilst using technology.

Geography	This half term we will be learning where our school is and about the surrounding area. We will use aerial photographs and maps to locate our school in the local area, to recognise familiar places and conduct fieldwork using our senses to observe the school environment. We will create a simple map using basic symbols in a key and develop an understanding of the route we take to school. We will learn the four points of the compass and name map symbols. We will discuss weather symbols and use a class chart to record the daily weather.	Talk to your child about the features of their local area and discuss the route you take from your home to school every day. Talk to your child about the local landmarks you may travel pass on your way to school. Talk to your child about their home address, their door number and the road in which they live.
Art/D.T	This term in Art, the children will be exploring 'Making Marks'. We will initially explore the work of artist Bridget Riley to think about all of the different types of lines we can use to create effect (e.g. straight, diagonal, hatched, wavy etc.). From this, the children will use their understanding to create their own under the sea picture inspired by the work of Zaria Forman, to different types of music. The children will be thinking about what they hear and which form of line best expresses this. Following this, the children will look at the work of Kandinsky to explore shape and colour. The children will use 2D shapes to create their own pictures before colouring these with a variety of media. The children will be thinking about the various effects, different materials (crayons, pencil, felt tips, paint) create and how they want to reflect the range of this within their work. We conclude the unit with some observational drawing of vegetables, bringing together	Whilst drawing with your child, talk to them about their use of colour or shape. Why have they chosen to use those colours or lines, why those choices of size or use of area? Provide opportunities for your child to develop their fine motor skills and personal style in creativity. Which media do they prefer to use? Is there a time in which pencil is better than felt tip? Do they understand the importance of colour and media choice? Whilst looking at Artwork, speak to your child about the colours and lines they see. Are there any line types that they recognise? Why do they think the artist has used cross hatching? Why has the artist used a pale colour for their painting?

	their understanding of line, shape and area, and colour.	
Computing	Children will begin exploring how technology can be useful in their everyday lives. They will practice using a keyboard and mouse to build confidence with computers and start to recognize the different parts that make up a computer. They will also learn about using technology safely and responsibly, including what to do and who to talk to if they ever come across something online that makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.	Use computing as a medium for finding out facts and for practising reading and maths skills using websites such as, http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1 www.oxfordowl.co.uk
PE	Developing the basic fundamental skills, Agility, Balance and Co-ordination and learning to apply these within well known sports. The focus this term is netball and tag rugby so the children will be developing their footwork & dodging skills, as well as good passing and receiving techniques.	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 half term we will be exploring ways of describing music in words and movement, starting to develop controlled use of voices through singing, following directions (loud, quiet, fast, slow, high, low), and moving in time to the beat.	

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:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Handed out</u>	<u>Due in on</u>	<u>How you can help</u>
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 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.
<i>Homework packs will be collected in on Wednesdays and returned Thursdays.</i>			
Reading	Reading books are changed once a week. 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 chosen by your child, which you can read to them and will help them to develop their sense of, 'reading for pleasure'. 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 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, modelling the correct use of expression and exploring the meaning of any unfamiliar vocabulary.	
<i>Reading folders will be collected in on Thursdays and returned on Fridays.</i>			

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. 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 Tuesday and Thursday.

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

Kind regards,
Miss B
Miss Lacey
Miss Graham
Miss Paulette