



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 behaviors'.

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.

Teaching and Learning in the Nursery Classes
Autumn 1 – Me, Myself, My Family

Early Years Foundation Stage Prime Areas for learning



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

I will be learning about myself as a unique individual and as a member of the nursery. I will be learning how to share and take turns and how to do things for myself. I will be thinking about how I can help my friends and the new children joining our Nursery class. I will be learning about nursery rules and routines and thinking about my own and others' feelings. I will be celebrating my own and others' achievements and learning how to explore and enjoy the nursery environment. I will recognise that I am special and even though we are all different we are all special in our own way.

Language and Communication

I will be learning new nursery rhymes and songs and a range of topical vocabulary. I will be listening to a wide range of stories and have opportunities to read and enjoy books myself. I will be using language to initiate conversations and to develop relationships with my peers and teachers. I will begin to talk about and celebrate my achievements and experiences on an individual basis and with my group. I will begin to learn the names of the adults and children in the setting.

Physical Development

I will be developing my independence: learning how to hang up my own coat and put my bag in the box, take myself to the toilet and dress/undress myself. I will begin to develop my control over implements such as scissors, paintbrushes, pencils and blocks. I will explore the outdoor area and learn to use the climbing equipment safely and effectively, developing my coordination and balance. I will develop my physical strength through riding tricycles and pushing and pulling objects.

Religious Education

I will learn that I am special and unique. I will know that God loves me and knows my name. I will understand what welcome means and that we are welcomed into God's family. I will recognise a baptism and look at some of the symbols used during baptism.



Early Years Foundation Stage Specific Learning Areas

Mathematics

I will learn a variety of number rhymes and songs and begin to show an interest in counting and numbers. I will begin to use numerals in play and represent numbers using my fingers. I will begin to discover the properties of shape and develop an awareness of pattern. I will be learning to sort objects looking at colour and shape. I will sing the days of the week and months of the year songs. I will know how old I am and the month I was born.



Literacy

I will begin to learn how to handle books carefully and talk about what I can see. I will listen to stories repeating words and phrases from the story. I will be bringing home library books each week and will ask you to read and share it with me. I will have opportunities to enjoy writing and drawing experiences, I will begin to communicate by making marks using a variety of media. I will be able to recognise familiar words such as my own name.



Understanding the World

I will be thinking about my family and name members of my family. I will begin to learn the nursery routine and begin to explore the nursery environment and show an interest in why things happen. I will begin to learn about technology in the environment and the use of ICT and learn to build using a variety of construction materials.



Expressive Arts and Design

I will begin to access and learn how to replace a range of equipment such as dressing up clothes in the role play area. I will learn to use props to recreate my experiences and develop my role-play. I will begin to learn the names of simple percussion instruments and enjoy using them in musical expression. I will join in ring games and musical activities. I will use my senses to explore a range of media such as, cornflower, play dough and paint.



PE is an essential part of the curriculum and takes place with our specialist teacher Miss Ormonde. This term, the children will be having PE on a Friday. They will be working on their fundamental movement skills, running, jumping and throwing. Learning about spatial awareness and working in teams.

- To help your child at home, you can ask them to show you some of the activities they've been practising as well as working on basic movement and climbing skills.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Wednesday evening.

Foundation Stage Uniform (Nursery and Reception)

- Navy blue jogging bottoms with an elastic waist (no belts)
- White polo shirt
- Navy blue school sweatshirt with logo.
- White or navy socks
- Black or white trainers with a Velcro fastening
- Navy blue school coat or dark coloured coat
- Navy blue school book bag – no other bags please. You may attach one small keyring to help your child recognise their bag.
- Grey shorts (boys – Summer term only)
- Blue and white checked dress (Girls - summer term only)

The Foundation Stage uniform is comfortable, practical and appropriate for young children who spend a great deal of time running around, climbing and playing on the carpet as well as at tables both indoors and outdoors.



These are the trainers we need to wear.



This is our school uniform for boys and girls.

This half term in nursery we will learn about ourselves and our families. Please talk to your child about and name members of their family. Encourage your child to become independent when arriving at nursery by finding their peg to hang their coat up and putting their book bag into the box. Also encourage your child to find their own name on the hot air balloon and stick it in the sky to show they are present in school before they begin to play.

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

Week Beginning	Literacy	Maths	Other
Week2 8/9/25	'Starting School' stories	Number songs and activities in small groups.	
Week 3 15/9/25	'So Much' Trish Cooke Talking about our families	Recite numbers in orders	Please bring in a photo of your child's family. Write the family members' names on the back.
Week 4 22/9/25	'So Much' Trish Cooke Retelling the story	Every day number language	
Week 5 29/9/25	'Owl Babies' Martin Waddell Self-portraits and name writing	Having some understanding of 1 2 and 3	Learn to Love to Read workshop – see letter sent out for more details.
Week 6 6/10/25	'Owl Babies' Martin Waddell Creating owl collages	Making comparisons more/less	
Week 7 13/10/25	'Owl Babies' Martin Waddell	Observe and begin to use positional language	
Week 8 20/10/25	All About Me Non-Fiction texts about families.	Months of the year – when was I born?	Half term 27 th -31 st October

BAGS: Please ensure your child has a bag containing a full set of clearly named clothes (pants, socks, T shirt, sweatshirt, trousers) in a draw string or plastic bag on their peg so that they can change and be comfortable should they have an 'accident' at school. Children will need a book bag daily for letters and pictures. No backpacks will be allowed due to limited space.

LIBRARY BOOKS: Share your child's library book with him or her each week; demonstrate how to turn pages carefully, encourage him or her to look at the pages from left to right and to talk about the pictures. Please help us by returning library books each **Monday** to be changed.

WINTER CLOTHES: All children must come to school with a coat. Most children enjoy spending time outside so please dress appropriately; hats, gloves, scarf. ***All items must be named clearly in particular your child's coat.***

WATER BOTTLES: Please make sure that your child brings their own water bottle to Nursery each day – clearly labelled with their name.

Class teachers are in the playground at the start and end of the day and quick messages can be passed on then. However, if parents have an issue that needs greater time please email via the office using admin@sacredheart-battersea.wandsworth.sch.uk and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.
Mrs Williams