



Term: Autumn 1 2025
Year Group: Reception

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 learning
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 Reception Class

Early Years Foundation Stage Prime Areas for learning



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

I will be learning about making new friends and meeting my new teachers. I will remember the things that I like to do at home with my family as well as the things I enjoy learning at school. I will be learning my class rules and my new routines. I will be talking about my family and the favourite things I like to do at home and at school.

Language and Communication

I will begin to develop my communication skills, using a variety of words and forms of expression, and I will try to use full sentences when communicating with others. I will begin to relate my own experiences to others in my group. I will ask questions and give explanations, responding appropriately to the questions of others. I will be learning a range of new songs. I will begin to engage in story times.



Physical Development

I will continue to develop my spatial awareness and hand to eye coordination through a range of activities indoors, outdoors and during P.E sessions. I will be learning about the effects of physical activity on my body and consider what I need to do to keep my body healthy. I will learn to use a range of tools and know how to use them safely. I will begin to think about which foods I like and how to make healthy choices. In PE with Miss Ormonde, they will be working on their fundamental movement skills, running, jumping and throwing. Learning about spatial awareness and working in teams.

Religious Education

I will be learning about myself as a baby and myself now. I will learn that we are all special and that my name is important. I will learn that God knows and loves each person. I will be learning my daily prayers and begin to learn the Our Father and Hail Mary. I will be learning how to be quiet and respectful during prayer times, to place my hands together in prayer and know the sign of the cross.

Please ensure you arrive for school on time and that your child wears the correct Foundation Stage uniform – all children to wear blue jogging bottoms and not grey trousers.

Remember to label everything to avoid confusion.

Make sure your child does not wear any jewellery or fancy hair bands to school.

Early Years Foundation Stage Specific Learning Areas

Literacy

Reading - I will listen to and respond to a range of Julia Donaldson stories related to our topic and I will learn to recall and retell a story. I will be learning about the author Julia Donaldson and her stories; exploring them through role play, art, music and literacy.

Writing - I will begin to learn about phonics and how we use letters and sounds to make words and sentences. I will continue to practise writing my name and develop my writing through focused and independent activities.



Mathematics

I can make comparisons between objects relating to size. I can say one number for each item in order, 1, 2, 3. I know that the last number reached when counting a small set of numbers tells you how many in total. I can link numerals and amounts. I can solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 3. I can compare quantities using 'more than', 'fewer than'. I can count objects, actions and sounds. I can compare numbers.



Expressive Arts and Design

I will role-play my own experiences in the home corner and begin to retell stories through drama. I will learn to use a range of musical instruments and begin to make up my own songs. I will learn a range of painting techniques and will represent my ideas using a variety of materials which I will access independently. I will use resources to create artwork stimulated by the Julia Donaldson texts.

Understanding the World

I will look at pictures of homes and our school. I will name and describe people that we know in school and at home. I can begin to use words to describe what I can see, hear and feel when outside and inside. I will think about my own home and talk about where I live, what my home looks like and what I like to do at home with my family. I will begin to learn how homes are constructed, plan and build my own constructions. I will think about the things I like to do in school and think about what I would like to learn next.



Please note that we spend much of our day in the outdoor learning environment so your child will need to wear a coat that they can easily put on and take off by themselves.

Please find below a breakdown of what the children will be learning each week.

Week Beginning	Literacy	Maths	Other
Week 1 2/9/25	Settling-in week.		
Week 2 8/9/25	Text: The Smartest Giant in Town. Recognising rhymes. Starting to recognise and write names. Phonics: s, a, t, p	Number games and activities in small groups.	
Week 3 15/9/25	Text: The Smartest Giant in Town. Recognising rhymes, singing rhymes and playing rhyming games. Starting to recognise and write names. Phonics: i, n, m, d	Number games and activities in small groups. Positional language – where do things belong?	
Week 4 22/9/25	Text: The Gruffalo Joining in with rhymes. Retell the story. Joining in with the repeated refrains. Phonics: g, o, c, k	Match and sort objects. Compare amounts.	
Week 5 29/9/25	Text: The Gruffalo Talk about the characters. Draw a story map together. Sequencing pictures from the story. Phonics: ck, e, u, r	Compare size, mass and capacity.	Learn to Love to Read workshop – see letter sent out for more details.
Week 6 6/10/25	Text: A Squash and a Squeeze Learning about the beginning, middle and end of a story. Looking at labelling and simple sentence structure – colourful semantics. Making up an alternative ending. Phonics: h, b, f, l	Making simple patterns.	Learn to Love to Read workshop – see letter sent out for more details.
Week 7 13/10/25	Text: A Squash and a Squeeze Talking about the characters. Describing the characters. Looking at simple sentence structure – colourful semantics. Phonics: review of sounds so far.	Representing 1, 2, 3 Comparing 1, 2, 3 Composition of 1, 2, 3 All through games and exploration in the environment around them.	Learn to Love to Read workshop – see letter sent out for more details.
Week 8 20/10/25	One mole digging a hole Linking to simple rhyming patterns. Can children think of their own animal doing something which rhymes?	Looking at number recognition. 1-1 counting. Looking at numbers 1, 2, 3 and beyond.	Learn to Love to Read workshop – see letter sent out for more details.

Homework in/out	Tuesday	Friday
What?	Maths homework handed in.	Phonics homework handed in.
	Phonics homework handed out.	Maths homework handed out.
		'Reading for fun' book (to be changed)
During Autumn 1, your child will also come home with a 'Foundations for Phonics' (no words) reading book – this will happen for the first few weeks. All children would have looked at the book 3 times in school and we encourage you to look through the book with your child, ask them questions and allow them to point things out and talk about the book. Some of your children may begin to bring home Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics books containing short CVC words/sentences after week 6 of Autumn 1. *All Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics books are sent home on a Thursday and need to be returned to school on a Monday*		

Your child will need to bring their book bag everyday with their name written on the label. Please ensure your child brings his or her reading book to school every day. You may find it useful to attach a small, sensible key ring to your child's bag that will help them to identify it quickly.

We can only give milk to the children who have been registered. If you would like your child to have milk each day please visit the school office for details on how to register

PE is an essential part of the curriculum and takes place with our specialist teachers. This term, the children will be having PE on Wednesday. The children 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 Tuesday 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.

LET'S SING, READ, CHAT AND PLAY TOGETHER!



Free sessions for parents and their children aged 2 to 4 years



Free books and other gifts every week

Where: Sacred Heart Primary School

When: 9.00-9.40am

Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd October

Please sign up:

by clicking here <https://bit.ly/46syqCb>

or email sally@l2l2r.org

or message or call 07859883798

or scan here

