



Information for parents

“Lent is a time for greater generosity- not just with money, but with love, forgiveness, and mercy.” St. Leo the Great

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. We hope that you and your family had a restful and enjoyable week.

Spring is on its way! The Spring bulbs are out and thankfully, the days are gradually becoming lighter and warmer.

Now that we have entered into the period of Lent, it is a perfect time for our children not only to reflect upon their personal goals and their attitude to learning, but also the choices that they make with others at home and at school.

We will continue to **guide** our children in their learning and the choices they make, as they grow and develop, via 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** is 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*



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	Always being honest, listening to others, reflecting on

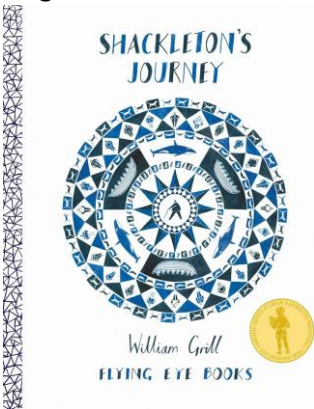
Reconciliation	choices & showing forgiveness and friendship. (CST link/s-Promoting Peace; Participation)
Endeavour and Enjoyment	Always trying our best and finding joy in all that we do, for both ourselves and others. (CST link/s The Common Good)
Dignity	Recognising that everyone is special and unique-valuing and respecting ourselves and others (CST link/s Human Dignity; The Common Good)

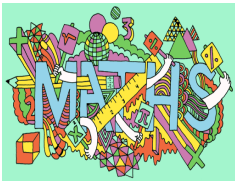
Please also support your child in achieving their academic goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The [8 learning behaviours](#) we focus on at school are:

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

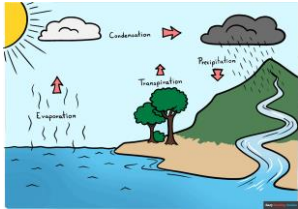
***Dear Lord Jesus,
Please help us to be good friends to our family, our neighbours and all who we meet through our words and actions.
Amen***

-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 	This half-term, our English lessons will be centred around the exciting and adventurous book <i>Shackleton's Journey</i>. Through this engaging story, the children will dive into the incredible tale of Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated expedition to Antarctica. They will have the opportunity to engage with the plot, make predictions about what might happen to the ship, and explore the challenges faced by Shackleton and his crew. As part of our activities, the children will write a letter to Shackleton as if they were applying for a job on his crew. They will write a diary entry as they	Support your child at home with their reading, grammar and spelling homework. Please encourage your child to read out loud as often as possible, thinking about fluency, expression and pace, as well as understanding what they are reading. Quiz your child on their spellings throughout the week to help them embed new learning and to make learning a fun and enjoyable experience. Please do use the online platform Spelling Shed to help with spellings.

	were Shackleton they are Shackleton recounting a part of their journey into the Weddell Sea. This will allow them to practice their creative writing skills while exploring the historical context of the expedition. To conclude this half-term, we will write a newspaper report about the journey of the ship, summarising the key events and reflecting on Shackleton's leadership. This will lead into the children writing an independent newspaper report about a fictional expedition gone wrong. In our Guided Comprehension lessons, we will continue to develop our reading VIPERS skills, (vocabulary, inference, predicting, explaining and summarising). We will keep up with developing our fluency, expression and prosody when reading out loud, thinking how we read to engage an audience. We will engage with a variety of texts and genres, written by a diverse range of authors and poets.	
Maths 	This half-term in mathematics, we will be focusing on multiplication and division. The children will be learning how to multiply numbers by 10 and 100, as well as how to divide numbers by 10 and 100. As part of this, we will also	By the end of Year 4 all children should be secure in their understanding of the four operations, as well as knowing and reciting their times tables and division facts to 12 x 12 with increasing fluency. In order for your child to

	focus on helping the children learn how to multiply efficiently, developing their ability to solve problems with greater speed and accuracy. Furthermore, we will be dedicating time to solidifying the children's times tables knowledge to ensure they are well-prepared for the upcoming multiplication check in June.	progress in maths this year, they must practise their tables and division facts daily. It must not be taken for granted since multiplication underpins so much of the maths curriculum! Rehearse, Rehearse! Rehearse! Please use TTRS and Numbots to support this learning at home.
RE 	Our topic in RE this half-term is Self-Discipline to prepare us for Easter. We will look at Lent and the sacrifices Jesus made and how we need to love others because Jesus first loved us. We will look at how Christians follow Jesus' teaching.	Encourage your child to read the Bible. Bible stories can be a great way for teaching children. They have real meaning for anyone who wants to know God better and to learn how he wants us to behave. Discuss the 7 Sacraments! What are they? What is their significance in our lives? Encourage your child to think of people in need and be thankful for all the wonderful things that happen to us. Try your best to attend Mass each Sunday.
R.S.E 	Children will recognise that people are unique and that our similarities and differences should be celebrated. Pupils will also be given an opportunity to reflect on God's love as the foundation of our self-confidence. We explore the importance of respecting our bodies as a gift from God in very practical ways, such as clothing, food and physical exercise. Children will explore problems and solutions through role-play and discussion. Children will reflect on their bodies as a gift from God that He wants us to look after and respect.	Encourage your child to discuss what they have learnt at school and see if there is something they have learnt at school that you can help them to develop in their home life too.

PSHE (including online safety) 	Talk about feelings: Encourage your child to share their thoughts and emotions. Discuss topics like empathy, kindness, and how to manage difficult emotions. Healthy Relationships: Talk about what makes a good friend and the importance of respect in relationships. Personal Safety: Ensure your child understands the concept of safe and unsafe situations and how to seek help when needed.	Encourage your child to discuss what they have learnt at school and see if there is something they have learnt at school that you can help them to develop in their home life too.
Science 	Our focus in Science this half-term will continue to be on the fascinating topic of Changes of Matter. The children will explore key concepts such as: Evaporation and Condensation: Understanding how water changes from liquid to gas and vice versa. The life and work of Scientist Daniel Fahrenheit: Learning about the scientist who contributed to the temperature scale we use today. The Water Cycle: Exploring the continuous movement of water on, above, and below the Earth's surface	Visit the Science Museum website where interactive resources will make the learning of this fascinating topic a real treat! Discuss your child's science learning. Try out some experiments at home, a truly fun way to learn about digestion.
Geography 	Invaders and settlers In this unit, children head back in time to find out how the towns and cities of the UK first developed. Children will learn about the needs and requirements early settlers had when choosing a place to build a home. They will look at place names around the UK to see how the Anglo-Saxons, Romans and Vikings all left their mark. Through use of digital and	Visit the local library and immerse your child in books, videos, interactive websites, comics and artefacts about the local area and looking deeply into how London became a key settlement. Useful websites: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx72pv4/articles/zrbvjhv BBC – KS2 – Settlements Milestones To know what early settlers needed and to explain why settlements develop in certain

	paper maps, children will investigate land use in different sized settlements and the ways in which settlements are linked together. To finish off the topic and showcase all that the children have learnt, they will be planning and creating their own settlement.	locations. To use maps (including digital) and atlases to identify settlements built by invaders. To compare land use in different settlements. To use maps, including the use of ordinance survey maps and knowledge of the 8 compass points, to identify links between settlements. To create a map of a settlement, consolidating their knowledge by considering human and physical features such as land use, food, water, economic activity/trade links, natural resources (including energy)
Computing 	This term in computing we are going to be using a MicroBit computer and programming it on the Chromebooks to support us with computer science skills. The children will be using trial and error to test their programs and predict what their program can do.	Please ensure you continuously discuss with your child the importance of E-safety (how to stay safe on electronic devices with internet access). Find out what your child hopes to achieve through using ICT. For them to benefit fully it is important to maintain a specific learning focus when using the internet. Help your child to decide what is appropriate for them and to work out what information is unreliable.
PE 	This half term, the students will cover football, completing drills to enhance their skills in passing, dribbling and shooting using invasion games to develop their teamwork skills.	
Music 	This half term we will be learning to play the ukulele: learning to play the chords C, F, G and Amin, and how to strum in straight and syncopated rhythms. We will learn to sing and play a couple of songs, and a little of the history of the ukulele.	

D.T 	This half term we will be focusing on design and technology. We will be following the process of plan, make and evaluate to create a sling shot car. The skills that will be developed are: Designing a shape that reduces air resistance. Testing and improving the designs. Collaborative teamwork.	You can support your child at home by being creative with recycling and practice making some 'junk models' of famous landmarks of your choosing. 
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-Upcoming class assemblies and/or Family Learning events and dates:

Multiplication Test Check meeting – 6th March 2026

-All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School follow the homework policy.
In year 4 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English (May be cross – curricular)	Wednesday	Monday	Your child may need extra time and/or take longer to finish tasks, so encourage them to do their homework in small chunks over the course of the week rather than all in one night. Help your child to organise the things they need for their homework. Develop a good routine of when homework is done. Give your child a break after school to relax before starting. Try to provide a quiet place and time for homework.
Reading Please bring reading books to school every day.	Please read for 15 minutes a day.	Please read for 15 minutes a day.	Encourage your child to read a variety of things, e.g. books, comics, newspapers, signs. If your child is interested in a particular book, but is unable to read it, please read it to or with them. It would also benefit your child to listen to audio books or e-Books. Your child will need to have their reading book and reading record in school every day. Listen to your child read with expression and talk about the books they read to support their comprehension.

			Please sign your child's reading record to say that you have listened to them read. Reading records will be checked every Friday – 4P Thursday – 4O
Maths (Includes daily practise of times tables in preparation for the weekly tests.)	Wednesday	Monday	Practise multiplication and division facts. Y4 children are expected to know timetables to 12 by heart. REVISE, REVISE, REVISE There are many interactive number games and websites your child could access. Please remember to use Times table Rock Stars for 7 minutes 3 times a week.
Weekly spelling tests and times table tests.	Wednesday	Monday/Friday	Spelling tests will take place on a Monday. Please ensure that your child practises their spellings and times tables every day. We will be having a weekly times tables test – check the Maths homework sheet for more information about which times tables we will be testing on which week

-PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child wearing his or her PE kit to school on a Friday. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE for Year 4 is on a Friday .

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

Kind regards,

Mrs Parker, Miss Oladapo, Miss Taylor, Miss Debbie and Mr Martin