



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*

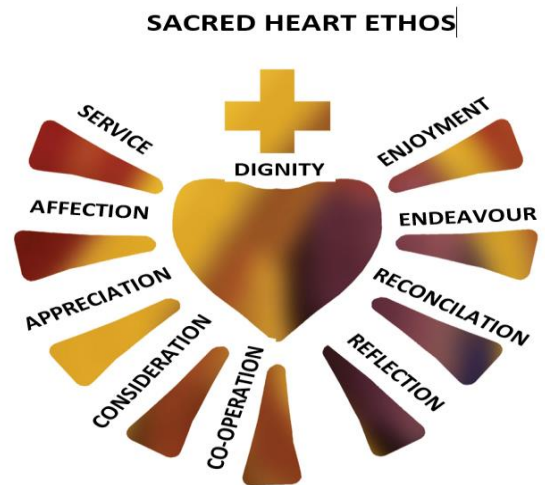
A: *Affection and Appreciation*

C: *Consideration and Co-operation*

R: *Reflection and Reconciliation*

E: *Endeavour and Enjoyment*

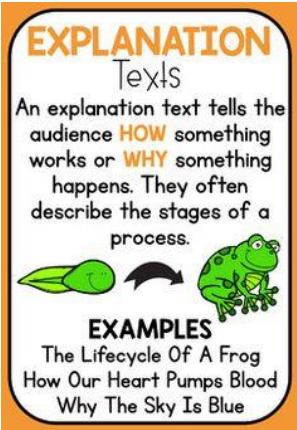
D: *Dignity*



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	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
English 	In English, we will be learning how to write <i>explanation texts</i>. Our focus will be on explaining how animals adapt to their surroundings, linking to our current science topic, <i>Adaptation and Inheritance</i>. Students will explore the different ways animals survive and thrive in their environments and then use this knowledge to plan and write their own explanation pieces. We will be identifying key features of an explanation text first, giving oral explanations (using these language features), and drawing upon a range of stimuli from a variety of sources to deepen our knowledge and understanding.	Support your child at home with their grammar and spelling homework. -Listen to them read daily for at least 20 minutes, encouraging expression as well as intonation. Ask relevant questions about the text that has been read to you to check your child's comprehension. Read to you child too (even in Year 6!). Modelling and then reading together really helps to improve fluency and expression and to help build your child's sight vocabulary and comprehension.

	To support our learning further, we will be continuing to use Alan Peats Exciting Sentence structures resource, to help pupils to write more varied sentences that engage/captivate the reader and to reinforce correct sentence structure, grammar and punctuation use. Within reading, we will be continuing to develop pupils' reading fluency and expression when reading aloud via modelled, choral, echo and paired reading. In Guided Comprehension, we will continue to refine the following skills, based on NC reading domains: word meaning/vocabulary building; fact retrieval, prediction, inference, explanation (via the strategy of Point, Evidence, Explain), summarising and sequencing	Do make a note in your child's Reading Record when you have heard them read. Encourage your child to explain what they have read via the P.E.E method P-Make a point E-Provide the evidence E-Explain your reasoning An easy mnemonic to help pupils to remember the reading skills they need to develop is VIPERS: VOCABULARY INFERENCE PREDICTION EXPLANATION RETRIEVAL SUMMARISING/ SEQUENCING
Maths 	In Maths this half-term, we will focus on Fractions. The children will be building their understanding step by step, starting with equivalent fractions and simplifying, before moving on to equivalent fractions on a number line. They will then learn to compare and order fractions using both the denominator and numerator. As their confidence grows, we will move on to adding and subtracting simple fractions, followed by adding and subtracting any two fractions. Later in the unit, the children will tackle adding and subtracting mixed numbers and apply their knowledge to solve a range of multi-step problems. Particular emphasis will be placed on continuing to strengthen mental calculations strategies, fast recall of multiplication and division tables, place value, written calculations for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, problem solving and mathematical vocabulary.	Continue to engage in the wonderful interactive educational platforms of TTRS, Stop The Clock, and HIT THE BUTTON. Daily practice will impact positively on your child's sense of number and mental calculations as they begin their year 6 maths journey. Rehearse with your children their timetable and associated division facts!

RE



Vocation and Commitment

This term, we will be exploring the **Catholic concept of vocation**—the belief that God has created each person with unique gifts and talents, guiding them toward a specific purpose and way of life. The Bible shares many examples of God’s invitation to humanity to share and spread His love, reminding us that “Through the Sacrament of Baptism, men and women are incorporated into Christ.”

Building on this understanding, we will learn about the **different forms of vocation**, including personal callings from God and the **vocation of the religious community**. We will also explore the **commitments made by priests** and how their dedication reflects a life of service to God and others. Through discussion, reflection, and examples from Scripture, pupils will deepen their understanding of what it means to live out a vocation with faith and commitment.

Set aside a special time each day to read the Bible with your child; start the day thinking about God. Bring your prayer requests before Him and ask for the help you’ll need to face the day. End the day with a prayer with Jesus. Reflect on the events of that day, bringing requests before the Lord related to people the children have encountered or situations that are fresh in their mind. Discuss the Monday Word assembly as a family, and of course try your best to attend Sunday mass particularly as we are approaching **Advent!**

Science



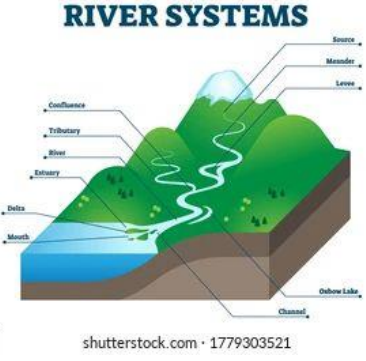
Evolution and Inheritance

This term in our Science curriculum, the children will be exploring the fascinating concepts of **Evolution and Inheritance**. We will journey through time to discover how living things have changed over generations and how traits are passed down from parents to their offspring. As part of our learning, we will also be **exploring fossils**—what they are, how they are formed, and how they provide important evidence for evolution. From the smallest microorganisms to the grandeur of the animal kingdom, the children will develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and the processes that have shaped life on Earth over millions of years.

In London, there are some fantastic places where a child can learn about evolution and inheritance:

1. ****Natural History Museum****: Explore exhibits showcasing the diversity of life on Earth, from fossils of ancient creatures to interactive displays explaining the principles of evolution.
2. ****Grant Museum of Zoology****: Get up close with skeletons, specimens, and interactive displays that illustrate evolutionary concepts and the inheritance of traits among different species.
3. ****Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum****: Delve into the life and work of Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary theory,

		through interactive exhibits, multimedia displays, and engaging activities. 4. **Zoos and Wildlife Parks**: Visit places like ZSL, London Zoo or WWT London Wetland Centre to observe living examples of evolution and inheritance in action, from the adaptation of animals to their environments to the passing down of traits from parent to offspring.
PSHE (including online safety)  	This term we continue with our PSHE syllabus, following the TenTen plus scheme of learning. We will be helping to embed the Christian values with the understanding that their religion is central to 'living in the wider world'. We begin our journey with – 'Calming the Storm'. Our children will explore the theme of resilience in the face of life's challenges, inspired by the biblical story where Jesus calms a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The session encourages children to reflect on their own "storms" or difficult moments, and how they can find calm and strength by developing strategies to cope, building inner resilience, and finding support from others, including faith-based guidance. Online Safety is being aware of the nature of the possible threats that you could encounter whilst engaging in activity through the Internet, these could be security threats, protecting and managing your personal data, online reputation management, and avoiding harmful or illegal content. Through our sessions, children will deepen their knowledge and understanding within the following topics: Managing Online Information	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. All emotions have a place in our lives, but it is our behaviours linked to specific emotions that shape who we are. Online safety - Have a conversation! Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online. What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together? Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share? Ask them if they know where to go for help. Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how

	Online Bullying Online Reputation Privacy and Security	to report or block on the services they use?
Geography 	Rivers This half term, we will be exploring the importance and relevance of the Water Cycle (Hydrologic Cycle) and carrying out an in-depth study of Rivers. Our learning will focus on the River Thames, discovering its rich history and significance. Using maps and atlases, we will locate key rivers around the world, identifying their sources, tributaries, and the seas they flow into. Acting as geographic detectives, we will also investigate the length, size, and features of various rivers. To deepen our understanding, we will study the processes of erosion and deposition to explain how rivers are formed and explore their many functions and roles within the environment. During our residential trip to Sayers Croft, pupils will take part in hands-on, practical fieldwork, applying their classroom learning in a real-world context. We are also looking forward to taking part in a Rivers Workshop with the Thames Explorer Trust, which will further strengthen our understanding through interactive and investigative activities	The internet is full of information, facts, images, and links about rivers of the world. Get engaged and journey with your child on the River Thames (Uber Boat, only £8.00 to Greenwich) or simply visit a local stream, enriching yours and your child's knowledge and understanding about the fabulous, natural features on our very own door steps.
Computing 	This term we will be using Digital Literacy to Program a device using variables (Microbit). We will be -Describing with variables, Using variables in programs, Programming step-counters, and activity pickers.	Remind children about how to stay safe online. Go through rules as a family about acceptable and unacceptable things to do online when playing on games/apps and websites, and communicating with friends on the net. Reinforce appropriate and correct procedures to follow!
DT	Sewing This half term, we will be learning how to plan, design, and ultimately sew our very own pencil cases from scratch! The key skills of: designing, annotating designs, pinning, marking and cutting	Watch the 'Great British Sewing Bee' – BBC I-Player, or simply visit the Best London Museum You've Never Heard Of: The Sewing Machine Museum-

	fabric accurately, making small, neat stitches, tying strong knots, and learning different decorative stitches will all be experienced.	293-312 Balham High Road, SW17 7AA. Open on the first Saturday of the month, 2pm-5pm, admission is free.
PE 	The sports this term are netball and tag rugby with children developing the key skills needed to play in each of these sports; passing and receiving the ball, good balance and footwork, attacking and defending skills. Y6 will continue to develop their positioning within a game and start to develop match play tactics in order to outwit their opponents.	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for netball and tag rugby, such as; throwing and catching using a variety of passes, chest, shoulder, bounce for netball and a two-handed backwards pass for rugby. As well as this, explore the internet to find out about local clubs that you may be able to join or watch!
Music 	This half term we will be learning about late 20th century minimalist music, looking at the works of Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Terry Riley and John Adams, and then making our own minimalist pieces.	Expose your child to the joys of different music types. Explore and listen to the minimalist music of many composers. Ask questions, search for answers. Make your child's musical journey an exciting one!

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: Sayers Croft.

All teachers at Sacred Heart School follow the homework policy.

In Year 6 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English: -Reading -Comprehension -Spellings -Grammar	Friday – 6S/6G Tuesday (SPAG) – 6G	Friday – 6S/6G Tuesday (SPAG) – 6G	Set clear routines for reading time and homework. Read with your child. Listen to them read out loud but also read aloud to your child. The children benefit from hearing texts read with appropriate volume, tone and expression. Practise spellings little and often.
Maths: -Times tables -Arithmetic/Reasoning -Mathletics	Friday	Friday	Practise timetables and division facts daily. Recite your times tables out loud, backwards, written in order and with multiplication and division facts.

Times tables test – Friday (6S)

Spelling test – Friday (6S) Tuesday (6G)

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 6 are Wednesdays.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Tuesday night.

Kind regards,

Class Teachers Miss Smith, Mrs. Garaialde and Mrs. Bradley

Support Staff Mrs Harris and Ms Pat