



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*

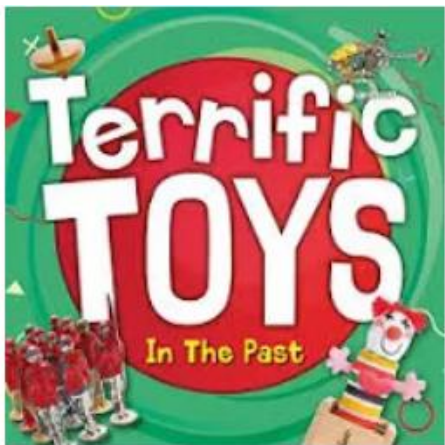
D: *Dignity*

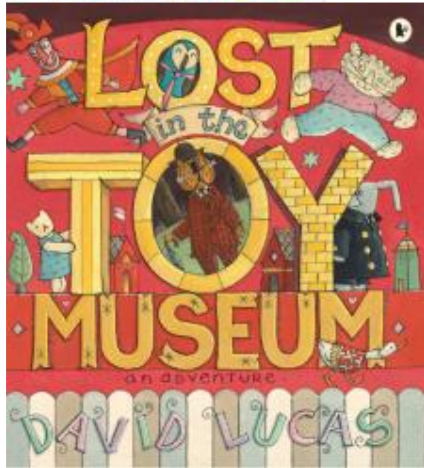
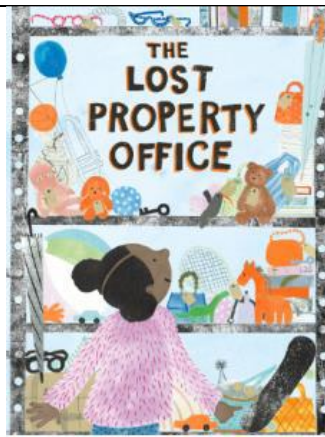


Our ethos also strongly links with the **8 learning behaviours** we focus on in school (and encourage at home), which are:

- *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 	As we approach Christmas, Year 1 will be supporting our History topic of 'Toys' with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts with a similar subject. We will be using the titles of Lost in the Toy Museum by David Lucas, Terrific Toys in the Past and The Lost Property office by Emily Rand to inspire a range of creative writing. The children will be using these texts to explore settings and characters, to write a prediction, create a poster and compose a series of sentences using prepositions and time connectives, such as 'first', 'next', 'then, suddenly' and 'finally'. These will enable the children to build towards writing an account relating to a	Continue to read widely and daily to your children and discuss a range of fiction and non-fiction texts with your child. When reading fiction, think about the characters and their actions, make comparisons and support your child as they begin to answer more open-ended questions such as, "Why do you think he did that? What would you have done?" When reading non-fiction, take note of and explain the purpose of the contents page, of page numbers, labels, captions and the glossary. Refer to the questions on the back inside cover of your child's reading practice book. Support your child's love of reading and engagement with writing by encouraging them to write their own



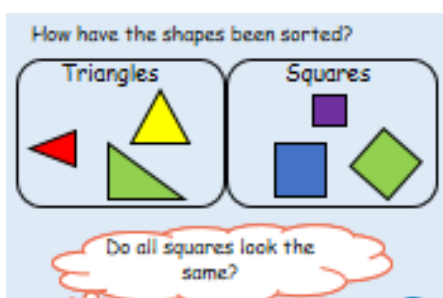
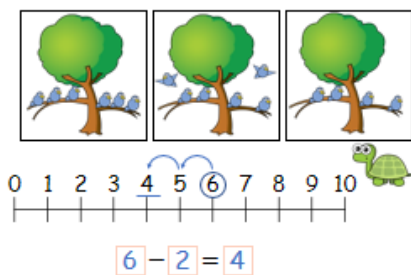
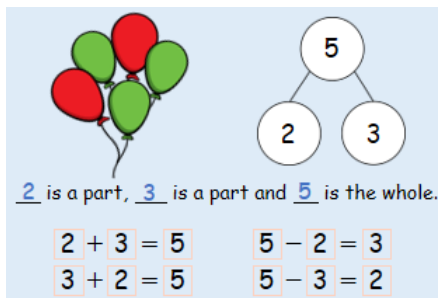
'real-life' experience they have had.

The children will explore a range of new sentence types and conjunctions to learn how to extend and add details to their ideas. Through these texts the children will explore the conjunctions 'and', 'but' and 'because'; as well as a range of prefixes and suffixes. We will be continuing to focus on ensuring the children are using correct punctuation, including finger spaces, full stops and capital letters, but will also be focusing on ensuring they use correct letter formation in their handwriting.

stories. You could encourage them to write letters to loved ones, shopping lists for you, or book reviews for their friends or teacher. Any additional writing helps. Also 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.

Maths

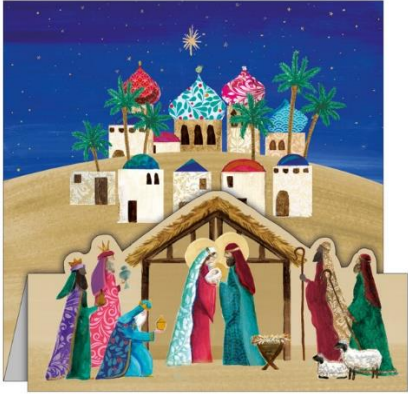


This half term we will continue to explore our understanding of place value as we continue to consolidate addition and subtraction facts within 10 using a variety of manipulatives and models such as, the part-whole model and ten frames. We will use these resources to support us to add two groups together or separate a total into two parts. We will begin to apply the number facts we have learnt to our calculations, including missing number problems. We will continue to ask questions which will help your child to develop their problem solving and reasoning skills. Following this, we will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes and how we can describe the properties of the shapes around us using correct mathematical vocabulary.

Practise adding and subtracting amounts with your child using items from around the home such as pasta, pens etc. Encourage your child to recognise, 'First there were...', 'then we...', 'Now there are...'

Can they explain what has happened or use reasoning to help you if you make a deliberate mistake?

Look at the shapes around you and play games such as 'I spy something with the shape of a cylinder/cone/square/rectangle...' Practise the mental maths homework from your pack for 5 minutes every day so that your child becomes increasingly confident.

RE 	This half term we will begin our R.E. topic of 'Waiting'. The children will think about the importance of waiting as we approach Advent. We will use key Bible stories to support our understanding and think about the different symbols used at Christmas. The children will explore symbols such as the advent wreath and the advent calendar as countdowns for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. We will be re-enacting this special time through our Nativity play.	Help your child to understand that we are all part of the church and of God's family. Talk to your child about their own religious practices and encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings around waiting. What things do they have to wait for? How does it feel to wait? Whilst preparing for Christmas with your children, discuss the importance of each activity and how this helps us to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Help your child prepare for their KS1 Nativity. Read the Wednesday word together and discuss the Gospel and the readings.
Science 	In Science we will be continuing our focus on animals including human as we begin to explore animals, their body parts and different animal groups. Your children will be learning the 6 different animal groups for KS1 (mammal, reptile, bird, fish, amphibian, insect) and their different characteristics. We will use these animals to explore carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and different ways to group animals based upon their body parts. We will then conclude the half term with a focus on the changes that happen to plants, trees, weather and light in Autumn.	Speak to your child about different groups of animals. For example, do they recognise different types of mammals? Are any animals unexpected or confusing to them (e.g. dolphins). What do animals eat? Are these animals carnivores, herbivores or omnivores? Whenever you are outside, explore the different changes now that we are immersed in Autumn. What differences do the children recognise around them? As we move into the season of Winter, talk to your child about the shortening of daylight hours and lengthening of night. Discuss changes in the weather and the local , natural environment.
PSHE (including online safety)	We will continue to look at the 'Zones of regulation', supporting children to think about and recognise their emotions, understanding how all feelings are important. The children will learn that we all have feelings and each feeling should be valued. As a class we will be thinking about times we feel 'happy', 'sad' or 'angry'. We will discuss how to recognise these emotions in	Talk about your child's feelings with them. Show them that you understand their feelings and that their feelings are important to you. Vocalise times when you are feeling 'happy', 'sad' or 'angry' and model to your child how to process this emotion by describing how you are feeling, why you are feeling that way and what you will do next. For example, "My phone broke so I am feeling angry, I will tell you how this makes me feel and then I will

	ourselves and how best to manage them. Through our Ten Ten programme, 'life to the Full', we will learn the story of Jesus welcoming the children. We recognise that we are all part of God's family. We will learn that saying sorry is important and that we can mend friendships. We will know that Jesus cared for others and had expectations of them and how they should act. We will come to understand that we should love other people in the same way God loves us. 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.	count to 10 to calm down before I find out if I can fix it". Talk to your child about friendships, the importance of sharing, caring and understanding other's feelings. Help your child to understand that saying sorry for our actions can mend relationships and make us feel better about ourselves. 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.
History 	Our History topic this half term is 'Toys'. We will be discussing the class' favourite toys and their different features. We will then explore family favourites and begin to compare 'new' toys to 'old' toys to develop our own chronological understanding. During our History topic we will be thinking about toys across different generations, including those used in the Victorian era. The children will use artefacts, pictures and videos to support their learning. They will then compare 'old' and 'newer' versions of the same toys to think about why some of these changes have taken place and how toys are constantly evolving to reflect new technology, health and safety laws and trends in society. The main emphasis will be on using	Do you have any toys or memorabilia from your family history? Photos, artefacts or simply memories and stories that have been passed down? Spend some time with your child talking about what toys you had when you were little and what your child's grandparents played with years ago. Discuss dates, events and what it was like before compared to what it is like now. Did your parents or grandparents have any favourite toys that your child also has? Or if not, how have toys changed today? It would be great if you could share some of your family history with us: comments, photographs, artefacts, etc. to be displayed. Please message your class teacher on Class Dojo if you do.

	and exploring new vocabulary to describe the passing of time.	
Computing	Year 1 will continue to develop their computing skills using a Chromebook. They will learn how to find and save images and create a Christmas card using Google slides. We will continue to talk about how we can keep ourselves safe when online.	If your child has access to a computer or iPad at home, help them to learn how to use the mouse and type using the keyboard. Talk to your child about online safety and the importance of sharing things that make them upset or 'uncomfortable'.
DT 	This half term, and based on the song, 'A Mouse Lived in a Windmill in Old Amsterdam', we will be exploring mechanisms in Design and Technology. The children will begin to identify some features that would appeal to the client (a mouse) and create a suitable design. They will explain how their design appeals to the mouse. They will make stable structures, which will eventually support the turbine, out of card, tape and glue. They will make functioning turbines and axles that are assembled into the main supporting structure. They will then evaluate their work and be able to say what is good about their windmill and what they could do better.	Encourage your child to create structures of their own at home using a variety of 'junk modelling materials' such as kitchen rolls, cereal packets, card and straws. Ask them to explain to you what they are making and how they plan to shape the materials, (e.g. cutting out the shapes they need or parts to size), and how they plan to join the different parts of their creation. Support your child to develop their scissor and joining skills. Once complete, ask your child to evaluate their own work. Were there any aspects they found particularly challenging? Did they achieve what they had set out to do? What went well and what would they change when planning their next creation.
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	Y1 will be learning about rhythms: different types of rhythms, layering multiple rhythms on top of each other and how to read rhythms using music notation and clap them.	

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 * we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spelling Pack	At the beginning of each half term.	Spelling tests are on Tuesday 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 Tuesday mornings.	Complete the Maths homework with your child every day. Please read the instructions carefully before completing the homework.
Reading	New reading books will be handed out on a Friday.	Reading folders need to be brought to school everyday. They will stay in school on a Thursday for books to be changed.	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.

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 Paulette
Miss Graham
Miss Reema