



Term: Spring 1 2026
Year group: 1

Information for parents

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. "

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Making a new start

Dear Parents and carers,

A very happy new year to you all! We hope you managed to have a relaxed and restful Christmas break with your families and friends. We wish you and your family a blessed 2026.

As the new year brings resolutions, personal goals and renewed focus, this is a perfect time to remind your child of their targets from Parent/Teacher consultations, which took place in November. Please support your child in achieving these 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

As mentioned in the ***Wednesday Word***, (in reference to the Gospel for Sunday 11th January 2026-***Matthew 3: 13-17 The Baptism of the Lord***):

"January is traditionally the month of beginnings-a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast-The Baptism of the Lord.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community-to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for everyone to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life...

This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2026. If so, how is it going? It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2026 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others? As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God?"

Dear Lord Jesus,
Please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with each other, as we start this New Year
Amen

In school, we will also be helping our children to make 'a new start' by encouraging them to make choices that are aligned with our **Sacred Heart Ethos**.

Our Sacred Heart Ethos is structured using the **SACRED** acronym:

S: Service

A: Affection and Appreciation

C: Consideration and Co-operation

R: Reconciliation

E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

D: Dignity

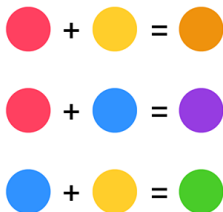
Service	Helping others and the world (Being 'Pilgrims of the Earth'); We are guardians of God's creation. (CST link/s-Stewardship ; Preferential Option for the Poor ; Distributive Justice)
Affection and Appreciation	Showing loving kindness and care; being thankful for each other and the world around 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)
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)

-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 we will continue to develop your child's independence and love of writing with some exciting texts linked to our Geography topic of The Arctic. We will be focusing on stories such as Lost & Found, The Night Iceberg and Penguins to encourage the children to produce interesting fiction and non-fiction work. This half term the children will continue to practise and apply a range of sentence types to their writing as well as develop their ability to write at greater length. The children will think about the purpose and use of a range of punctuation and the importance of adjective choice. The children will also have more responsibility for checking their own work and will have the opportunity to edit it when necessary. Phonics This half term, the children will continue with their daily phonics lessons. We continue to progress through Phase 5 - learning new ways of spelling the sounds they have already learned. The children will learn to recognise these new phoneme-grapheme correspondences, (GPCs) within the texts and reading books we share and will also practise	Encourage your child to practise their weekly spellings every day and try to put the words into context by writing sentences. Continue to read widely and daily to your children and discuss a range of fiction and non-fiction texts with them. 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. Feel free to discuss with your child the book we are focusing on at school and ask them questions about the work they are doing. Continue to support your child's love of reading and engagement with writing by encouraging them to write their own stories. You could encourage them to write letters to loved ones, shopping lists, or book reviews for their friends or teacher. Any additional writing helps. For more information about how we teach phonics and reading in school, visit the Little

	reading and writing these new GPCs in the context of a sentence.	Wandle Letters and sounds website here: https://wpe.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/ Further information can be found on the school website here: https://www.sacredheartshoolbattersea.co.uk/little-wandle-phonics/
Maths 	This half term we will be reviewing and then continuing our work on addition, subtraction and place value; beginning with a focus on teen numbers before building up to 50. The children will be exploring a variety of ways to show the value of these numbers, including breaking the numbers into groups of tens and ones using both concrete and pictorial representations. With our whole school focus on 'Maths Mastery' we will continue to ensure we are applying our understanding of these basic concepts through problem solving and reasoning.	Encourage your child to complete their Maths activities each week. These are mostly focused around recapping taught topics but also involve some exposure to new aspects of the Year 1 curriculum. Continue to support your child's understanding of Place Value through problems and questioning. For example, if they want something from the shop for 50p, how many 10ps do they need? All children should have their Numbots password in their Reading Record to support their Maths work at home.
RE 	In RE we will be learning about our community and the special people we have around us such as family, teachers, doctors, nurses, priests, etc. We will talk about their role in our community and how they can help us. We will be learning about our local church and the people they might see at Mass on Sunday. The children will explore the jobs these 'special people' do at church and how important it is to gather together and feel part of our	Help your child to understand that we are all part of the church family and of God's family. Talk to your child about all the people around us and how they help us. Read the Wednesday word together and discuss the Gospel and the readings.

Science	community. In Science this half term, Year 1 will be focusing on materials. We will explore the different materials everyday items can be made from and why different materials are good for specific jobs. We will focus on the difference between an object and its material and how an object can often be made from a variety of materials. We will explore the different properties of materials and whether materials are natural or man-made. We will conduct experiments with different materials to ascertain which materials are best suited to making an umbrella for a soft toy. We will continue to look at seasons and begin to think about some of the changes that take place as we move from the spring to summer months, such as the lengthening of the day, warmer temperatures and changes taking place in the environment such as plant growth.	Discuss the different materials your child sees around them. Can your child recognise the difference between an object name and the material it is made from? Highlight the different properties which make different materials better for specific jobs. Why would a sponge not be a good choice of material for an umbrella? Discuss with your child why the materials used to make different objects may change depending on the use or user. For example, why do we have metal, plastic and wooden spoons? Talk to your child about the changes we see as we move from Spring to Summer. Do they notice the daylight hours becoming longer? Do they notice they are wearing different clothes to suit the weather and changing temperature?
Geography	Our Geography topic this half term will be 'The Arctic'. Through this focus the children will be touching upon the North and South poles, the Equator and some of the World's regions. The children will be learning to identify and name some of the key land features of the Arctic landscape, as well as how some of the people have adapted to living in this climate. We will be learning about and comparing the seasonal weather patterns in the Arctic to those we have and see in the UK. The children will continue to	Please help your child to understand the difference between weather and climate and look out for seasonal changes as we move from Winter into Spring. Talk to your children about the key landmarks around them. Can they find these landmarks on a map? What other features of an aerial view map do they know? Are there any features of the landscape in England which are different to those they've found out about in the Arctic? Continue to explore different types of maps, atlases and globes

	develop their Geography skills, accurately identifying countries on a globe or world map; the different points of a compass; and also, the landmarks and features on an aerial photograph. They will learn to identify human and physical features of the towns and rural areas within the Arctic region and compare these to the human and physical features of London and the surrounding areas.	with your child where possible. Which countries do they know? Can they find any of these on a map?
Computing 	This half term, the children will be exploring programmable toys such as Beebots. They will programme the Beebot to move around maps or to find 'treasure'. The children will think about the instructional steps they will need the Beebot to complete to achieve their tasks and the importance of being exact or careful whilst inputting their instructions. The children will also continue to use iPads safely to interact with age appropriate software as we explore 'Online Safety'.	If your child has access to a computer at home help them to learn how to use the mouse and type using keyboard. Use computing as a medium for finding out facts and for practising phonics, reading and maths skills using websites such as, http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1 www.oxfordowl.co.uk If you do not have a computer or tablet at home, please take your child to the library where they will be able to access a computer.
PE	This half term Year 1 will be focusing on gymnastics and dance activities to increase their strength, flexibility, balance, agility, co-ordination and creativity.	
Art 	This half term, the children will be learning about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing techniques, and applying these skills in painting and printing. The lessons encourage exploration and confidence in colour use, culminating in creating a painted plate in the style of an artist. This unit enhances pupils'	Encourage your child to draw and be creative, experimenting with different colours and shapes. Ask them to talk about their creations, ask them to talk about their choice of colour and whether they can recall that the primary colours are yellow, blue and red and that these colours can be combined to make

	understanding of colours and their applications in art.	other (secondary) colours – red + blue = purple, yellow + blue = green, red + yellow = orange.
PSHE (including online safety)	This half term we will continue to explore a range of emotions. The children will learn to recognise emotions within themselves. They will be learning that all emotions are acceptable, but that some emotions can make us feel comfortable, whereas others can make us feel uncomfortable. They will begin to think of and learn strategies for managing our emotions and continue to develop empathy and understanding towards one another.	Help your child to recognise a range of emotions. What emotions make them feel comfortable/uncomfortable? Do they recognise feeling happy, calm, relaxed as comfortable feelings? What do they usually do if they feel sad/angry and do they recognise these as uncomfortable feelings. Who do they/can they go to for help if they are experiencing uncomfortable feelings and what strategies can they use to help themselves feel better?

Upcoming class assemblies:

Class Assembly: Wednesday 21st January

Celebration of the Word: Wednesday 4th February

-All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School follow the homework policy.

In year 1 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	Reading folders need to be brought to	Listen to your child read their phonetically decodable book every day and discuss the story or

	out on a Friday.	school everyday. They will stay in school on a Thursday for books to be changed.	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. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE days for Year 1 are Tuesday and Thursday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on these days.

Kind regards,
Miss Lacey
Miss B
Miss Graham
Miss Paulette
Miss Rema