



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*

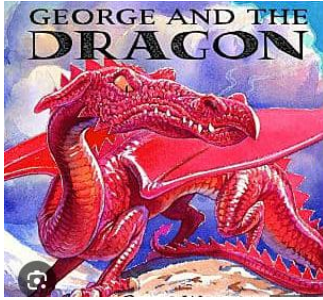
D: *Dignity*



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 	The texts we will focus on this term will be <i>George and the Dragon</i> by Chris Wormell. The children will begin by reading various dragon-related texts to explore their interest in fantasy. They will study the front cover and blurb, making educated predictions about the story and explain their reasoning. They will then use visualisation techniques to explore the text more deeply, add extra detail to the story and even give advice to the dragon! This will be substantiated by daily phonics and reading practice groups following the Little Wandle programme.	To support their English at home: • Talk to your child about the stories. If you have other dragon stories at home, read and talk about them together – some dragon stories can be found online. • Read every evening at home with your child. Encourage them to show their fluency, prosody and comprehension skills that they have practised in school that week. • 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 read and understand them in context.
Maths	This half term, our focus is on addition and subtraction. They will begin by learning how to fluently add and subtract within 10. They will recognise that consecutive numbers have a difference of one and use this to solve the subtraction equations. The children will understand that subtracting a number from itself gives a difference of zero and that memorised doubles and halves can be used to calculate near-doubles and near-halves efficiently. Later in the half term, the children will apply their understanding of number facts within ten to work with two-digit numbers. They will use known facts and number bonds to ten to support the addition and subtraction of single-digit numbers to and from two-digit numbers, particularly when the total or difference bridges a multiple of ten.	You can support your child's maths learning in a variety of ways: • Encourage to identify doubles and halves in everyday contexts (e.g. can you split this bunch of bananas in half?) • Play recall games involving one more and one less or halving and doubling numbers. • Use real-life situations to explore addition and subtraction, for example when shopping (e.g. 'This apple costs 30p and this banana costs 25p, how much is that altogether?') or during cooking (e.g. 'we had 6 eggs and have used 2, how many do we have left?')
RE	This half term, the children will be learning about Judaism, focusing particularly on the special day of rest known as Shabbat. They will explore how Jewish people prepare for Shabbat, the routines and rituals that take place, and what happens as Shabbat comes to an end. They will understand the meaning behind its symbols, and discover why this day is such an important time for rest, reflection, and family. Through this, they will develop their understanding of other faiths, while reflecting on shared values such as community and gratitude, closely linking to our Christian ethos.	To help your child deepen their understanding you could talk about what makes Sunday special for Christians and Shabbat special for Jewish people, drawing on why resting is important.
Science	This half term, our science topic is 'Animals Including Humans'. The children will learn to order the stages of the human life cycle and describe the key changes humans go through from a baby to old age. They will understand the basic things humans need to survive, the importance of exercise, eating right and hygiene for humans. Finally, they will learn what foods are in the 'Eat Well Guide'.	Please talk to your child about the importance of exercise and eating well. You can also discuss ways in which we keep healthy e.g. washing our hands etc.

PSHE (including online safety)	This half term our module is 'Let the Children Come'. Over five sessions, the children will hear and experience the Gospel of Jesus welcoming little children to Him in spite of others telling them to stay away. The story will be repeated in various ways, and through times of discussion, imaginative reflection and creative response, children will learn that they are created by God out of love and for love. These sessions contain teaching and time for spiritual development and emotional learning which underpins the entire Life to the Full programme.	Discuss how we can make people feel welcome. Think about words and action. Encourage your child to reflect on their day. What are they proud of? What can they do better tomorrow?
Geography	This half term our Geography topic is 'What is it like in Kenya?' The children will be able to locate Kenya and England on a world map as well as locate the seven continents. They will recall the location of Kenya and England and name the capital city of each country. Then they will identify geographical features in Kenya's national parks comparing them to UK national parks. They will then learn about the people of Kenya and identify similarities and differences between an urban and rural area of Kenya. Finally, the children will compare a small area of Nairobi with Battersea.	Talk to your child about the different continents and climates. Listen to the continent's song at home. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6DSMZ8b3LE&vl=en Why are some countries warmer than others? What are the differences and similarities between Kenya and England? Can your child identify some geographical features in your local area?
Computing	This half term the children will be using the app 'Pic Collage' to design and make their own collages based on our Geography unit of work. They will learn how to search for and save photos to an album, about the different functions of the app and then create their own collage incorporating saved online images, photos of their own work, stickers and text. Finally, the children will learn how to save their own work and upload it to their Google Classroom profile.	Try downloading the app and practise making 'Pic Collages' at home. Perhaps 'Things I love' or 'All about...' Get creative!
Art/DT	This half term the children will be making 'Baby Bear's chair'. They will be explore the features of structures, learn that the shape of a structure affects it's strength, make a chair according to design criteria and finally test that their chair can hold baby bear!	Try a paper engineering challenge! https://thehomeschoolscientist.com/paper-structures-engineering-challenge/

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: Continue to practice the skills needed for dodging, by playing 'tag' with your child, or practice their throwing and catching skills.
Music	This half term we will be starting to learn the recorder - learning the to play the notes B, A and G, reading notes and rhythms including crotchets and quavers, and playing some simple children's tunes.	You can support your child at home by: - Helping your child identify the notes B, A, and G, and practising playing them slowly and clearly (if you have a recorder) - Clapping or tapping out rhythms together to reinforce crotchets and quavers.

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 taking part in a 'SPIN: Rhymes, Rhythms & Raps' performance joined by poet Zohab Zee Khan, storyteller Pomme and Joseph Coelho.

All teachers at Sacred Heart School follow the homework policy.

In Year 2 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Friday	Friday	Practise each spelling every evening and ask them to use it in a sentence orally. Spellings tested on Friday.
Maths	Friday	Friday	Please help your child with the weekly Maths activity – give them counters or beads to help them add and take-away if needed.
English	Friday	Friday	Please read the passage together with your child – if it is a little tricky read it to them and help them to find answers in the text by underlining or highlighting what is important.
Reading	Your child will need to have their reading book and reading record book in school every day. Please check your child's reading record book for changing day. Please sign to say you have read with your child and questioned them about what is happening in the text.		

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 2 are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Monday and Wednesday evening.

Kind regards,
Mrs Cook
Miss Creasey
Miss Chloe
Miss Rema