



Term: Spring 1 2026

Year group: Year 2

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

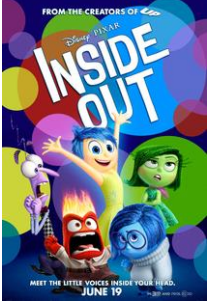
Service	Helping others and the world (Being 'Pilgrims of the Earth'); We are guardians of God's creation. (CST link/s-Stewardship ; Preferential Option for the Poor ; Distributive Justice)
Affection and Appreciation	Showing loving kindness and care; being thankful for each other and the world around 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 be focussing on various giraffe texts including Zeraffa Giraffa by Dianne Hoffmeyer. The children will write character descriptions, letters, a story, a book review and a non- chronological report all about Giraffes. This will be substantiated by daily whole class reading, spelling lessons and reading practice groups following the Little Wandle programme.	Perhaps visit the library, to find books about giraffes and to widen your child's experience of books. This will support your child in all aspects of their writing. Why not visit London Zoo and the giraffe house to learn all about giraffes? What is the most interesting fact you can find out about giraffes? Read every evening at home with your child. Encourage them to use sounding out as their first strategy for reading unfamiliar words and to use prosody and expression. 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 we are adding and subtracting 1s, 10s and learning to use the column method to add and subtract 2-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers, without and with regrouping. We will then begin multiplication. Pupils will learn how objects can be grouped in equal sets and how to represent these groups using repeated addition and multiplication. They	Encourage your child to make equal groups with everyday items, count in 2s, 5s and 10s and talk about "groups of" objects. Practise simple number sentences such as $2 + 2 + 2 = 3 \times 2$ and solve real-life problems like counting pairs or the number of legs on chairs. Encourage your child to use Numbots for five minutes daily (each

	will understand what each part of a multiplication number sentence means and practise calculating answers. Children will also explore the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and use them to solve problems.	child has a log in in their reading record) and complete their Maths homework weekly.
RE 	We will begin the new year with the topic 'Books'. Books at home, school and church. We will look in detail at the Bible and how it is organised as well as designing our own book covers. We will then move on to Thanksgiving where we will explore the Eucharist and Eucharist prayer. We will also learn who celebrates Thanksgiving and the celebrations that are involved.	Please talk to your child about the different books in your home. What is their purpose? When might you choose one type of book over another? Can your child sort books of different categories (e.g. fiction and non-fiction). Talk about and look at the Bible together at home. Can your child identify the Bible's two parts? Read some stories from the Old and New Testaments.
Science 	This half term, our science topic is 'Living things and their habitats'. The children will classify things that are living, dead or have never been alive. They will also study the key features of a microhabitat and learn why animals are suited to them, by drawing, making observations and labelling diagrams. We will spend time exploring outside, to allow the children to 'see' the Science.	Look for microhabitats in the park and when outside. Ask your child what might live there? What makes it suitable?
History	Our History topic this term is 'Why were Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole significant individuals?' First the children will learn when Florence Nightingale was born.	Do some research at home about each of these significant historical figures. Make a fact file or poster to show the class! Why are they similar? Why are they different? Why are

	Where does this sit chronologically? The children will then learn how Florence Nightingale improved nursing and about what makes her a significant individual by looking at historical sources. They will then compare different accounts of her and write their own statement from another person's point of view. This will be done by looking at a variety of sources. What is a source? Why are they helpful to learn about historical events? Are all sources reliable? Then, the children will learn why Mary Seacole is significant and Edith Cavell brave. The children will learn that some historical figures are controversial: they divide opinion. Finally, the children will discuss the similarities and differences between these significant historical figures. As part of enhancing the curriculum, we will be visiting the Florence Nightingale Museum on the 9th of February.	they famous? You could even visit the Mary Seacole Museum.
Computing 	Year 2 will be using an application called 'Puppet Pals' to create moving characters, voiceovers and different backgrounds. Their end product will include a puppet show about Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell.	Practise saving pictures from a website. Practise typing skills and logging in to a computer or device.
PE	Year 2 will be focusing on gymnastics and dance activities to increase their strength,	Practise some skills your child has learnt.

	flexibility, balance, agility, co-ordination and creativity.	
Music 	This half term we will be continuing to learn to play the recorder: adding new notes C, D and E, and learning to read musical notes. We will also learn about the music of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven.	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.
Art 	This half term we will be looking at 'painting and mixed media' in Art. We will start by making colours and then move on to painting with colour, printing with paint, exploring colour mixing and finally, Clarice Cliffe plates.	If you have paints at home, experiment with making colours and colour mixing at home.
PSHE (including online safety) 	Year 2 will continue to focus on different emotions and how to recognise them. We will also be learning what it means to be a good friend. For Online Safety the focus will be on health and wellbeing. Children will be learning to explain simple guidance for using technology in different environments and settings.	Read different stories based on friendship or watch the movie 'Inside out'.

-Upcoming class assemblies and/or Family Learning events and dates:

-Class trips or visits this half term:

-All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary 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 encourage your child to work independently and give them resources to use to help them e.g. pasta, cubes, buttons.
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.		Try to ask your child a variety of question types when they are reading e.g. retrieval, inference, prediction, sequencing and questions about 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 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