



Term: Spring 1 2026
Year group: 5

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

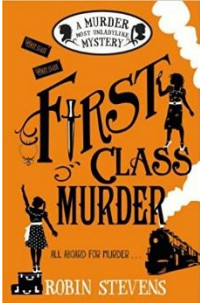
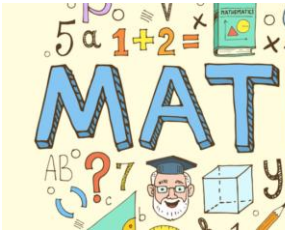
R: Reconciliation

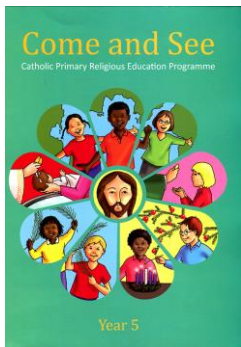
E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

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 	We are studying 'First Class Murder' by Robin Stevens. We will be writing a persuasive argument on who we think committed the murder. We will learn how to include evidence and statistics in our writing as well as learning persuasive techniques such as the power of three, emotive language and rhetorical questions. In guided comprehension, we will be focusing on a number of texts: poems, short stories, scripts and non-chronological reports. We will be following the VIPER skills (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise) to show a firm understanding of what has been read.	Read with your child daily at home. Children should read for at least 15 minutes per evening. To deepen their understanding of the text, ask the children questions about what they have read. Learn spellings and encourage your child to use those spelling in context. Use Spelling Shed. Help your child to ensure that they use the correct homophones in their writing - their/there/they're, wear/where/ were, your/you're, to/too/two. Encourage your child to use the PEE (point, evidence, explain) method when answering comprehension questions with big marks available. Ensure your child is reading the text thoroughly and using information in the text to support their answers. Ask some VIPERS questions to your child at home when they are reading. This is great practice for guided comprehension.
Maths 	Negative numbers: This unit of maths introduces negative numbers in a range of contexts. Pupils will learn to read and write negative numbers, considering their position relative to zero on a number line. They will interpret negative and positive sets of numbers in different contexts including temperature, coordinate grids and graphs. Having explored negative	Daily practice of your child's Times Tables can only impact positively on their learning, as well as preparing them for their weekly tests. Continue to engage in the wonderful interactive educational platforms of, TTRS, HIT THE BUTTON, and 'STOP THE CLOCK'. Daily practice will impact positively on your child's sense of number and mental

	numbers, pupils will later expand their place value understanding to include numbers with up to 8 digits.	calculations as they begin their year 6 maths journey.
RE 	Mission This half term, the children will learn about Jesus' mission and how he shared the Good News through his words and actions. They will explore stories from the Gospels that show how Jesus cared for others, welcomed everyone and taught about God's love. The children will also learn that Jesus' mission continues today through the Church, including the work of dioceses. They will reflect on how people live out Jesus' message through service, prayer and kindness, and think about how they can do the same in their own lives. Memorial Sacrifice The children will learn about the Jewish festival of Passover and how it helps us understand the Last Supper. They will explore what happened at the Last Supper and why it is important for Christians. Through this topic, they will understand that the Eucharist remembers Jesus' life, death and resurrection and brings the Christian community together. The children will reflect on the meaning of remembrance and thanksgiving, and how the Eucharist helps Christians live by Jesus' teachings.	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!
Science 	This term, pupils will be studying Materials. This term, pupils will study Materials in line with the National Curriculum. They will learn to compare and classify materials according to their physical properties, including whether they are thermal or electrical conductors or insulators. Pupils will investigate the solubility of materials in liquids and learn how solutions are formed. They will also explore methods for separating mixtures and solutions, including filtering, sieving and evaporation,	Science "happens" all around us every day, and you have endless opportunities to invite your child into the wonders of science. Without expensive chemistry sets, equipment or kits, your child can be introduced easily to the natural world and encouraged to observe what goes on in that world. There is truly a wealth of information online about the topic of light. Together with your child, you may also want to visit the

	and will learn how to recover substances from solutions.	Science Museum, which has a wealth of interactive hands-on resources that will engage, inspire and quench your child's thirst for knowledge. https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
Geography 	This half term, pupils will study South America. They will develop their locational knowledge by identifying the countries of South America and their position within the world. Pupils will explore the continent's range of climates and compare these with climates found in the United Kingdom. They will study key physical features, including South America's largest mountain range, and examine similarities and differences in human geography between South America and the UK. Pupils will also learn about the main economic activities and industries found across the continent.	You can support your child's learning by encouraging them to carry out their own research into South America. Talking together about the continent and its contribution to the world — including its culture, food and important historical events — will help to deepen their understanding. You may also wish to discuss similarities and differences between daily life in South America and the UK, helping your child to make meaningful comparisons and develop their geographical awareness.
Computing 	SWIFT is an Apple app for iPad and Mac that makes learning and experimenting with Apple's Swift programming language fun and interactive through puzzles and app-building challenges. This term in computing, we will focus on coding using the Swift Playgrounds app on our iPad devices. The children will learn several key concepts, including Commands, Functions, For Loops (Efficient Coding), Variables (Storing Information), Conditional Code (Boolean Logic), and Sharing Their Code. At the end of each session, the children will take a screenshot of their code and use the Mark-up tool with their Apple Pencils to annotate what they have learned. In the final session of this section, the children will compile their screenshots into a Keynote presentation to share their work.	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!

		a deeper understanding of music.
Art 	This term, pupils will study Drawing: I Need Space. They will explore the purpose and impact of imagery and learn to make thoughtful decisions throughout the creative process. Pupils will develop their drawn ideas through techniques such as printmaking, experimenting and refining their work in sketchbooks. They will also apply their understanding of drawing processes to revisit, evaluate, and improve their ideas, developing both skill and creativity in their artwork.	You can support your child's learning in art by encouraging them to explore drawing and creativity at home. Provide opportunities for them to experiment with different materials and techniques, such as sketching, shading, or simple printmaking. Encourage them to reflect on their work, think about their creative choices, and consider how they might improve or develop their ideas further. Discussing images from books, magazines, or online sources and talking about the effects they create can also help your child develop a deeper understanding of how artists communicate ideas through their work.
PSHE (including online safety) 	This term, pupils will explore the theme "Sharing Isn't Always Caring". Through discussions and activities, they will consider how our actions and choices affect others, and how intentions and consequences play a role in relationships. Pupils will reflect on the difference between helpful and unhelpful ways of sharing, learning to make thoughtful, responsible decisions that show respect, kindness and consideration for others. Online Safety Building on the NSPCC resources introduced in Lower Key Stage 2, this session will help pupils understand the digital world as a space where they need to take careful steps to stay safe, just as they do in the real world. Pupils will learn to make safe and responsible choices about the content they share, including photos, passwords, and other personal information. They will explore the potential risks and	You can support your child's learning by discussing everyday situations where sharing and helping others is involved. Encourage them to think about the consequences of their actions and to consider whether what they are sharing or doing is truly helpful and kind. Talking together about examples from home, school, or stories they read can help your child understand the difference between actions that support others and those that might unintentionally cause harm. Reinforcing the values of respect, responsibility and empathy will help your child apply these lessons in their relationships. You can help your child stay safe online by having regular,

	consequences of sharing inappropriate content and work together to create personal rules for staying safe online. The session will also extend learning from the NSPCC Share Aware programme, focusing on cyberbullying. Pupils will learn about safe online communication, the impact of cyberbullying, and what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. They will also be taught how to report inappropriate messages or material and understand where to go for help and support if they encounter concerns online.	open conversations about the websites, apps, and games they use. Encourage them to think carefully before sharing personal information, photos, or passwords, and discuss why some content may not be appropriate to share. Talk about safe ways to communicate with friends online and explain what cyberbullying is, including how it can affect others. Reinforce the importance of reporting anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, and remind them that they can always seek help from a trusted adult. Setting clear rules around screen time, privacy settings, and online behaviour at home can also support your child in making responsible choices in the digital world.
--	--	---

-All teachers at Sacred Heart R.C Primary School follow the homework policy.
In year 5 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English • SPAG • Spellings • Comprehension	Friday	Thursday	Complete a little homework each day. Spellings need to be practised daily. Spelling Shed three times a week for 10 minutes. Spelling test is on a Wednesday.
Maths • TTRS • Maths homework • Times tables	Friday	Thursday	Practice timetables daily. TTRS for five minutes a day.
Reading • Accelerated Reader quizzes	Daily		Read with your child daily. Check their understanding of the text by asking them questions about what they have just read.

-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 5 = MONDAY.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Sunday evening

Kind regards, Miss Leaning, Mr Thomas Class Teachers
Miss Keisha, and Miss Krystal Support Staff