



Autumn Term Newsletter 2023

Year 6

“I have called you by name” Isaiah 43:1

Welcome: Mrs. Julien and I would like to say welcome back. We hope that everyone has had a lovely break and is ready for the new school year. I am really pleased to be your teacher again this year and I know that, together, will make this a memorable last year at Sacred Heart. We are going to begin this term with some transition days with local high schools, a retreat day and Bikeability sessions (more information to follow). In Year 6, P.E. will be on Friday so children will need to come in appropriate school P.E. kit. Children should bring their reading book and reading diary into school each day so that books can be changed as and when necessary. Please encourage your child to read at least 5 times per week and record this in their record. An adult needs to sign the record at least once per week. Please continue to practice weekly spellings ready for the spelling test on Monday and practice times tables and related division facts on TT Rock Stars.

Religious Education: The themes for this term are:

- Family: Loving where children will learn about the love and care of people and that God's love is unconditional and never ending;
- Belonging: Vocation and Commitment where children will know and understand commitment in life and the vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

RSE: The main theme is 'The wonder of God's love in creating new life'.

Mathematics: The children will learn how to:

- Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000, determine the value of each digit and to round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy;
- Use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across zero;
- Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, using estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a real-life problem, an appropriate degree of accuracy;
- Add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions and identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers.

Reading: The children will be studying:

Skellig by David Almond, giving a summary of the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, discussing and evaluating how authors use figurative language, considering the impact on the reader and discovering what we can infer about a character's feeling from their behaviour;

No Ballet Shoes in Syria by Catherine Bruton, identifying how language contributes to meaning, identifying statements of fact and opinion and making comparisons within and across books.

Writing: The children will be learning to apply the features of persuasive writing to their own work, drafting and writing narratives by describing setting, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action. The children will also be writing a character reference, looking at newspaper reports and reading poetry about the refugee crisis.

Spelling: The children will be developing strategies for learning words: words ending '-able' and '-ible', adding suffixes, beginning with vowels, to words ending in '-fer', homophones ('ce'/'se'), endings spelt '-cious' or '-tious' and revising/learning words from Y5/6 statutory word lists.

Grammar: The children will be learning how to identify grammatical features used in formal persuasive writing and how to use a variety of sentence openers. They will also learn how to use a range of DADWAVER sentences and where and when to use ellipsis.

How you can help at home: As a family, discuss the importance of unconditional love in your lives. Looking for the use of larger numbers in real life e.g. house prices and asking them to 'read it, write it, round it'. Practising words from the Y6 spelling list, helping them to access and complete any homework set via Google Classrooms as well as hearing them read at home as often as possible.

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Science: The themes for Autumn are:

- Lifestyle Choices and the children will identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood and recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.
- Adaptation and the children will be focussing on explaining how adaptations help animals and plants to survive, what fossils can tell us, describing the process of genetic modification and the process of natural selection.

Computing: The themes are:

- Quizzing - the children will be learning how to set up different quizzes using 2Quiz on Purple Mash and creating a Quiz Show based on an area of learning in the curriculum.
- Networks – the children will learn about the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet and how we access the internet in school. They will research Tim Berners-Lee.

History: The theme is the Local History and the children will be focussing on how healthy were the people of Atherton, what was the best and worst of times and what can they learn from our past.

Geography: The theme is Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes and the children will be focussing on the location of major mountain ranges in the world, how volcanoes are formed and how earthquakes happen. They will also explore what life is like living near a volcano.

Art: The theme is #selfie and the children will study a range of portraits and self-portraits, looking at the materials and techniques used, developing drawing techniques including using different grades of pencil, proportion and drawing techniques including continuous line portraits and create an autobiographical montage which portrays who they are.

Music: The theme is The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky, and we will be focussing on listening and reflecting on a piece of orchestral music, creating rhythmic ostinatos and structuring them into a piece, performing a waltz as an ensemble and playing accompaniments from simple staff notation

French: The children will explore the following content, topics and language through songs, games, native speaker clips and independent tasks:

- Revisiting me / Telling the time / Everyday life
- Homes and houses

PSHE: The themes are:

- Amelia Earhart and the children will develop skills of friendship; teamwork; honesty; helpfulness; responsibility; determination; self-discipline and humour.
- Money Matters and the children will learn about tax, banks and entrepreneurship.

PE / Sports: The themes are:

- Hockey and the children will learning the basic rules and exploring ways to move the ball with a hockey stick, how to control and turn quickly under pressure, different passing techniques and how to strike a ball on the move and thinking about the position of play and how to use the space on a hockey pitch.
- Dance and Gymnastics and the children will be following and creating a sequence of moves to a chosen piece of music, creating a freestyle element to the dance, which is suitable to the music chosen, including a range of balances in their routines and smoothly move from one to balance to another.

How you can help at home (in relation to the above subjects): Encourage your child to take part in exercise and activities e.g. dancing, playing games with friends or siblings, riding their bike etc. and ask them to discuss the effect of exercise on their breathing, heart rate and body temperature. Encourage them to talk to older relatives and find out what they remember about Atherton and any changes they have seen. Explore the activities from the National Portrait Gallery on <https://www.npg.org.uk/learning/families/>

Thank you

Mrs Woodward and Mrs Julien

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