

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Friday, 12th January, 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this first newsletter of this term and of the calendar year finds you well. I also hope you all had a lovely break over the Christmas period and that you avoided any of the illnesses which seemed prevalent in the lead up to Christmas. For the first time in 25 years of working within schools, I have not seen a Nativity play nor celebrated mass with children in the lead up to Christmas. I believe both were wonderful experiences and the children were, as always, amazing. Apologies for not being there this year.

This term sees the dawn of several new initiatives within school. The new English curriculum (Y1 – Y6) has started – Pathways to Reading and Writing along with a new spelling programme for our KS2 children – Supersonic Spelling Stars. The new spelling programme is an extension to our phonics programme in KS1. This now provides greater consistency for children as they progress throughout school. The children appear to be enjoying the new level of challenge provided by all three of these new programmes.

The other change, affecting Key Stage 2 is, as previously shared, the children will now be taught the foundation subjects by their class teacher rather than the designated subject lead. This is to support the needs of all our pupils within school. As with all changes, we will continue to monitor the impact it has on our children and the quality of education they are receiving.

I will soon be reviewing our Home Learning policy, as changes have been made and this needs to be reflected in the policy. Please note, where home learning requires a hard-copy of something, it is your child's responsibility to ask for this if they have been absent from school (illness, appointment etc...).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.
Mr McDermott

London Trip Parent Meetings:

There will be parent information meetings for the upcoming London trip for Year 4 next week. If your son or daughter is attending the trip, please attend the meeting on Wednesday at 3.45pm or Thursday at 8.30am. Miss Ditchfield will be giving confirmed details of the trip, including packing lists/what the children need to bring with them.

Deputy Headteacher Advert:

The closing date for our Deputy Headteacher vacancy is on Wednesday at 6.00pm.

<https://www.greater.jobs/search-and-apply/job-details/WG-86646/>

Please share with anyone who you think may be interested.

Attendance Meeting:

At the start of every term, schools are tasked with sharing the Education Penalty Notice Letter (EPNs). This has been shared via ParentMail earlier today. This is a part of the Attendance procedures for all schools.

We have our next attendance meeting with our lead attendance officer from Wigan Council next week. At this meeting we will be discussing the current full school attendance which is 92.93% (in line with national figures but below national expectations). They will be looking at individual cases where pupil attendance is a cause for concern and exploring the reasons for these high absences.

Online Safety: Artificial Intelligence

This week, school was alerted to an incident that occurred with a young person in an AI online chat room. They were exposed to inappropriate material of a sexual nature. This was via a website called chatfai.com. Accompanying this newsletter is a parent's guide to artificial intelligence from National Online Safety. We hope you find the guide useful.

As adults, our role is to help our children to embrace and not fear new technologies while monitoring their use and supporting them when they are faced with inappropriate material.