

24th October 2025

# Sacred Heart Herald



Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Word of the Week: Prayer



## KEY DATES

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Year 5 trip to the  
Science Museum

### Thursday 6th November

9am - All Saints' Mass  
everyone welcome

6pm - How to apply for a  
Reception place session  
for parents - followed by  
at tour of the school at  
7pm

Dear parents and carers

#### **End of Half Term**

As this very long half term draws to a close, I would like to thank all families for their warm welcome to me this term.

For those of you able to have some time off, I would like to wish you a happy and restful half term break.

Sarah Norville

#### **Smart Phones**

Following on from the discussion at the Parents' Forum, a survey has been sent to Year 6 parents about the use of smartphones. Once we have the results of this survey, we will share our decisions on this with the wider school community. In the meantime, we urge all parents to look at the Smartphone-Free Childhood resources. Some of the statistics are truly shocking:

90% of girls and 50% of boys have been sent unsolicited explicit content on a smartphone.

1 in 4 children have smartphone addiction, using it to the detriment of other activities.

Children at smartphone-free schools get GCSE results that are 1-2 grades higher than schools that allow smartphones.

Among children aged 8-17 who are bullied, 8 in 10 experience it through a device.

Online imagery of primary school aged children being coached to perform sexual acts has soared by 1000%

You are more likely to win the Euro Millions 3 times than for your child to be abducted on the street

[www.smartphonefreechildhood.org](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org)

The decision for the school to ban smart phones is only one step in solving these problems. We have experienced a range of behaviour issues in school that stem from children having access to WhatsApp and similar apps on devices outside of school. In order support the school, we would strongly urge parents to not allow their child to have a smartphone.

We hope to arrange information sessions for parents in the near future to help fully inform them of the concerns we have around this topic.

---

### **Autumn Fest**

A HUGE thank you to our incredible PSA for the wonderful Autumn Fest and Movies and Munchies on Thursday. It was lovely to see the children having fun. The Autumn Fest was a new event and was a great way to start the half term holiday. Thank you to everyone who organised, ran stalls and came along to spend their money!

---

### **Applying for Reception 2026**

We will be holding an information session for parents on Thursday 6th November at 6pm to explain the process of applying for a Reception place in 2026. All our current Nursery parents are welcome to attend, but we are also welcoming any parents from outside the Sacred Heart community who may want to hear about the process of applying, key dates as well as a question and answer session.

Nursery parents – please sign up here <https://forms.gle/ZDpMMdNdhrSuJwmRA> so that we have an idea of numbers. Any external families are encouraged to book using this link too.

---

### **Applying for Secondary School 2026**

A reminder to all Year 6 parent/carers that the closing date for secondary school applications is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Please make sure that you have **completed and submitted** the online application form and also returned any supplementary forms to the school concerned.

# From The PSA

## ★ PSA Update – Thank You and What’s Next!

What a fantastic end to the half term! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our activities and helped make Autumn Fest such a joyful celebration. It was wonderful to see so many children (and parents!) enjoying the day.

We’d love to capture your ideas while they’re still fresh – if you have any thoughts on how we can make next year’s Autumn Fest even better, please get in touch!

An extra special thank you goes to all our incredible volunteers – the face and nail painters, temporary tattoo artists, bakers, photographers, event stylists, baristas, and stall holders. You brought energy, colour, and creativity to the day! One of the things we’re really enjoying as a committee is stepping outside our comfort zones and learning new skills together – it’s been brilliant to see that same spirit across our whole community.

## 📅 Join Us – Next PSA Meeting

All parents are warmly invited to join our next PSA meeting on Wednesday 5th November, where we’ll be launching plans for our Christmas Fair (Thursday 12th December) and Ladies’ Wreath-Making Night (Saturday 7th December). It’s also a great chance to share feedback on our recent events, activities, and communications since we began as a new committee in September – we’d love to hear your thoughts!

Topic: PSA Get Together; Festive Fun

Time: Nov 5, 2025, 8:00 PM (London)

Zoom: [Join Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 891 4175 3855

Passcode: PhM7U3



## 🛒 Easyfundraising – Shop Online, Raise Free Funds!

As we look ahead to Christmas shopping, please sign up for [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) and install the plug-in. Every time you shop online through retailers like Tesco, John Lewis, M&S, Ocado, Waitrose and many others, a small percentage of what you spend is donated to the PSA at no extra cost to you. It’s an easy way to raise funds while doing your normal seasonal shopping – every click counts!

## 🏢 Matched Fundraising – Double the Difference!

Many employers match the funds raised by their employees for charities and schools.

If you work for one of the companies below, we have a letter ready for you to send to your employer – this could double what we raise! Please contact the PSA or the school office for a copy.

## 🏢 Companies That Offer Matched Giving

Generous matching schemes include:

Abbey (£700 per year) • Alliance & Leicester (£250 per event / £1000 annual; £25 for employees’ children, twice yearly) • Arla Foods • Argos • Asda • Barclays (£750 x3 per year) • Boots (£500) • BP • Bradford & Bingley (£250) • British Gas (£150) • BT (Community Champions Award) • Cable & Wireless (£1000) • Camelot • Carlsberg Tetley / GIST (Double fundraising) • Co-operative Bank (Community Award Fund) • HBOS / Halifax / Bank of Scotland (£500) • HSBC (£500) • Northern Rock (£2 for £1) • Kellogg’s • KPMG • Littlewoods • Legal & General (£750) • Lloyds TSB • Marks & Spencer • N Power • National Grid • Norwich Union • O2 (£350) • Price Waterhouse • RBS Group (Churchill Community Cashback Awards £100–£1000 including Direct Line, NatWest, The One Account & Ulster Bank) • Sainsbury’s • Stagecoach • Tesco • The Royal Bank of Scotland • United Utilities (£200 per application) • W H Smith (£500; PTA volunteer grant £250 for 4+ hours/month) • Yorkshire Bank • B&Q

Even small matched donations make a huge difference to what we can do for our school community – please check whether your workplace takes part!

Thank you again for your enthusiasm, creativity, and support – you’ve helped us start the school year with such warmth and community spirit.

We can’t wait to see you at the next meeting and to get festive together this Christmas season!

Warm regards,  
Your PSA Committee