

17th July 2026

Sacred Heart Herald



Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Word of the Week:

Companion



KEY DATES

Tuesday 1st September
School closed for staff
training

Wednesday 2nd September
School opens for children
Reception - Year 6

Nursery home visits

**Monday 26th October -
Friday 30th October**
Half-term break

**Parents' Calendar
2025-2026**

Goodbye and Good Luck

There have been many occasions over their time at Sacred Heart, for us to be proud of this cohort of Year 6 children. They started their school lives with COVID and lockdown, but have ended it on a high, with some incredible achievements, including the exceptional production this week, their amazing singing in Mass and assembly, as well as some superb SATs results. We are so proud of each one of you and wish you all the best for the next chapter of your lives.

We would also like to thank the many families who are leaving Sacred Heart this year, some of whom have their youngest child leaving after decades of walking in through the gate each morning. You are all an important part of our school family, and you have all left your mark on our school, for which we are very grateful. Just before they leave school today, I will remind the Year 6 children that Sacred Heart will always be somewhere they can come to and find a listening ear, a safe space and a reminder of a childhood well spent.

We hope that they will treasure the memories that they have of their time here, and that they will come back and tell us how they are getting on next term!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Madalena (Year 1) who received an award at the Portuguese Embassy this week. One student per year receives the prize and Madalena was distinguished for her fluency in Portuguese language, regularity and punctuality to attend classes, participation and commitment to all activities proposed by the teacher. Well done, Madalena!

Goodbye and Bon Voyage!

Today we also say goodbye to some wonderful members of staff. Miss Forbes in the school office will be taking a two term sabbatical to travel. We wish her all the best on her adventures and look forward to seeing her back at Sacred Heart after Easter 2027.

We also say a fond farewell and the best of luck to Miss Maxey, Miss Parsons and Miss Sun. Thank you all for everything you have done for our children and our school. We wish you every success and happiness in the future.

House Point Winners

Congratulations to Earth House, who won the House Cup this year based on the number of house points they achieved and also to Air House for winning the Sports Day Cup.

We will be revamping the Houses from September and want to think of some new names. We would like something that either reflects our local area, our school history or something of importance to the children.

Please encourage your child to have a think over the holidays about what names might be good to use. We will start to discuss this with them at the start of the new school year.

Homework

Some parents may already have heard that our approach to homework will be changing from September. We appreciate that, without the full details and context, this may have caused some confusion or concern, and we apologise that formal communication was not shared sooner. Homework has been discussed at two Parents' Forum meetings this year. The parent survey conducted in December showed that, although views were divided, the majority of respondents felt that children were being given too much homework. During the Forum discussions, there was broad support for introducing a more flexible approach.

Evidence suggests that, at primary school level, regular reading and the practice of key skills, such as phonics, spellings and times tables, are the most valuable types of homework. A number of parents also told us that they found online homework or the need to print worksheets difficult to manage.

From September, the required homework for each year group will therefore focus on:

- spellings or phonics activities;
- times tables or other key maths learning; and
- daily reading.

We recognise that some families would like their children to complete additional homework.

Parents of children in Years 1–6 will therefore have the option of purchasing English and maths homework books that support the National Curriculum for their child's year group. Teachers will communicate the relevant pages each week for those children using the books.

There will be no obligation for children to complete this additional work, and children who do not use the books will not be disadvantaged. They are simply intended to provide an optional, structured resource for families who would like something more.

The books will cost £3.50 per book, per term, compared with the usual retail price of £7.25.

Further information about ordering them will be sent to parents in September.

Final Word

As I come to the end of my first year at Sacred Heart, I would like to thank every pupil, parent and member of staff for helping me to feel so welcome as I find my feet. I am really enjoying being part of the Sacred Heart family and look forward to the year ahead and all the exciting opportunities this will bring. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Wednesday 2nd September.

This Week in Year 6

For the final time this year, we are celebrating everything our wonderful Year 6 classes, St Teresa and St Andrew Kim, have achieved before they begin their next exciting chapter.

As they prepare to leave us, they take with them countless happy memories, incredible achievements, and a few tears from all of us who will miss them.

This outstanding group of pupils approached their SATs with determination, resilience, and an exceptional attitude to learning. Their commitment and hard work have been rewarded with results they should be immensely proud of. Congratulations, Year 6—you have truly earned your success!



Of course, Year 6 life has been about far more than tests. They also wowed audiences with their lively and entertaining performance of Grossbusters: The Monster Musical. Packed with fantastic acting, energetic songs, and plenty of laughter, the production was a spectacular success and a memorable showcase of their creativity, confidence, and teamwork.

As our Year 6 pupils move on to their new schools, we wish each and every one of them every happiness and success for the future. Although they will be greatly missed, they will always hold a special place in the hearts of our school community, and we will treasure the joy, kindness, and enthusiasm they brought to us every day.

You have made us incredibly proud. Keep believing in yourselves, embrace every opportunity, and continue to shine wherever your journey takes you.



Message from the Year 6 Parents/Carers

To all the wonderful staff at Sacred Heart,

As our Year 6 children have come to the end of their primary school journey, we wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for everything you have done over the years. Your hardwork, kindness, encouragement, and dedication have helped our children grow in knowledge, confidence and character. You have created a caring and supportive environment where they have been able to learn, thrive, and make lasting memories.

We would also like to thank the PSA for their generous donation towards our yearbooks, and to all parents/carers who have supported our fundraising efforts over the last year (through buying cakes/ice lollies and raffle tickets for our Christmas hampers).

We are grateful for the positive impact you have had on our children's lives. Both parents/carers and the children are lucky to have been part of such an incredible school and special community.

Thank you for all that you do, and we wish everyone at the school continued success and happiness.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

The Year 6 parents/carers



THANK YOU!

*for supporting our Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
with donations and purchases.
Your generosity keeps our pre-loved uniform
sale thriving and makes a real difference.*

Why your donations matter

Kind to the planet — reusing uniform means
less waste and supports recycling.

Kind to our community — your donations
directly help families across our school.

Having a summer clear-out?

It's the perfect moment to pass on outgrown
items. Donations of clean and in good
conditions uniforms are always very welcome.
Please leave them at the school office.

**Stay tuned for new sale events
in September!**

*Wishing everyone a happy
summer holiday!
Enjoy the sunshine
and time together.*

Sacred Heart School • Pre-Loved Uniform Team