



Together, We Learn and Grow in God's Love

Sacred Heart
Catholic Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

NEWSLETTER: 3rd December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

ADVENT 2025

Advent is a time of reflection and anticipation in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming".

The advent season symbolises both the waiting for the birth of Christ and his return. A popular tradition during Advent is the advent wreath made of evergreen to symbolise everlasting life in the midst of winter and a circle to remind us of both God's unending love and the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath has four candles - one is lit each Sunday of the four weeks of Advent. Each candle represents a new focus and time of reflection. The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolises Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

Last Friday, we had an Advent preparation day in school. Children created their class wreaths, made their Advent promises and all took part in some beautiful and reflective Advent activities.

We have also had our beautiful Advent Prayer Stations in school which all children have visited. The prayer stations encourage pupils to use pictures and objects to help think about the Christmas Story. They are interactive, inviting the children to read, listen, reflect and then respond to God's voice. They involve more than just our mind, engaging our body and our emotions as well. The children have had the opportunity to visit the different prayer stations and have spent

quiet time reflecting and spending time in God's presence.

The Advent Prayer Stations have supported children to reflect on how Christmas is not just a time of giving and receiving presents, but for celebrating Jesus' birthday and why he is so special to us.

Every child will also be bringing home the Travelling Crib this Advent. Families will be invited to host Mary, Joseph and the donkey for an evening and then it will be passed on to another family.

In each bag you will find a nativity set, a simple version of the nativity story and a candle. Please record any reflections and email them to office@sacredheartleeds.org.uk – including photographs if you wish to share them and we will collate them on this page of the website. Return the set the next morning in readiness for them to continue their journey.

We do hope you enjoy this special activity with your children in readiness for Christmas and we also wish you a happy, peaceful and holy Advent.

O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people. Amen



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy is part of St Gregory the Great Catholic Academy Trust

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CONFIRMATION

Huge congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last week.

We are so proud of you for taking this important step in your faith journey. It was a joy to see your reverence, maturity and enthusiasm as you renewed your baptismal promises and were anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to Mrs Jones for preparing you so well and to your families and sponsors for the support and encouragement they have given you along the way. Please keep our newly Confirmed children in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith, hope and love.



ADVENT MASS

Fr Butler will be leading a whole school Advent Mass on Thursday 4th December at 1.30pm. Parents/carers are welcome to join us in school to celebrate Mass together.

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th Dec – Whole School Advent Mass. Parents/carers welcome. 1.30pm.

Tues 9th Dec – Christmas Pantomime in school (am)

Tues 9th Dec – Year 3 and 4 Singing Performance with Miss Leather. Parents/carers welcome to attend. 2.30pm.

Wed 10th Dec – Human Rights Assembly led by Year 6. Parents/carers welcomes to attend. 9am.

Thurs 11th Dec – Year 2 Christingle Service. Parents/carers welcome. 2:00pm.

Fri 12th Dec – FOSH Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.00. NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY.

Mon 15th Dec - KS2 Worship Choir Performance – 2:00pm

Tues 16th Dec – Advent Reconciliation Service. 2.15pm. Parents/carers welcome to attend.

Wed 17th Dec – R/Y1 Nativity Performance. 2.15pm

Thurs 18th Dec – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day. Christmas parties pm.

Fri 19th Dec – Carol Service. Parents/carers welcome to attend. 2:15pm.

SAFEGUARDING

A reminder that children should not keep mobile phones on them during the school day. Any child who needs to bring a phone to school must hand it directly to their class teacher as soon as they arrive. Phones will be stored safely and returned at the end of the day.

This is an important safeguarding measure to ensure all pupils are kept safe, and to prevent any misuse of devices in school. Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe.

EYFS AND KS1 NATIVITY

The children in Reception and Year 1 have been practising their retelling of the Christmas miracle which took place in Bethlehem. They would like to share their hard work and efforts with their parents/relatives. The R/Y1 performance is at 2:15pm on Wednesday 17th December. Our Year 2 children will be leading a Christingle Service. The children have been working hard in their RE and worship sessions to prepare the readings, songs and explanations of the Christingle symbols. The Year 2 performance is at 2:15pm on Thursday 11th December.

We really hope as many of our families as possible will be able to join us; we promise to make it a very special occasion.

CAROL SERVICE

One of the most poignant parts of our Christmas celebrations, the school Carol Service, will take

place at 2.15pm on Friday 19th December in the school hall. We would love as many of our families as possible to join us as it will be a lovely occasion.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our class Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 18th December. The children will have an opportunity to participate in a range of different Christmas activities. Children may wear their own clothes for their Christmas party. Christmas dinner in school will also be on this day.

WORSHIP CHOIR PERFORMANCE

The children and Mr Prowse have been working hard in their Worship Choir after school club preparing a Worship Choir performance. I know they can't wait to show you what they have been working on. This will be on Monday 15th December at 2:00pm. All welcome.

PARLIAMENT WEEK

Last week we celebrated Parliament Week across school with a range of exciting activities helping our children learn about democracy, leadership and having a voice. The week ended with our special Parliament Day on Thursday, where children who wished to stand for Prime Minister confidently presented their manifestos to the whole school. Every pupil and adult then took part in a real ballot, casting their vote in our polling station.

We are delighted to announce that Zoey was elected as our new Sacred Heart Prime Minister. A huge congratulations to her: a well-deserved win! Zoey has already shown great leadership qualities and is looking forward to taking on key roles such as sharing pupil voice with leaders, supporting school events, feeding back ideas from her peers and helping shape future projects across the school.

We are incredibly proud of all the candidates for their effort, courage and thoughtful manifestos.

Thank you to Mr Macfarlane for organising such an inspiring week of democracy in action.



BAUBLE COMPETITION & NATIVITY DISPLAYS

Our Bauble Competition is now in full swing, and we've already had some amazing entries from the children. The creativity and sparkle in the designs have been wonderful to see! Baubles will continue to be collected in classes, and Pupil Parliament will help judge the competition. Winners will be announced on Friday 12th December.

Alongside this, children are also invited to bring in a Nativity scene to be displayed in the hall. These won't be judged – it's simply a lovely opportunity to share the story of Christmas in a creative and meaningful way.

We can't wait to see even more fantastic baubles and beautiful nativity scenes over the next week!



POET VISIT

We recently entered a competition to bring a poet to our school through the Young Poet Laureate programme and we were thrilled to welcome Jamie Scrutton, who performed his fantastic poems and shared some of his brilliant

animations with our Key Stage children. Now we're excited to announce that Sacred Heart is officially taking part in the Young Poet Laureate competition! The children are feeling inspired... so watch this space for more! See the web site for more

information: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-writers/young-poet-laureate/>

D:SIDE WORKSHOPS – MEDICINE & DRUGS EDUCATION

This week, Dave from d:side visited school and delivered engaging medicine and drugs education workshops to all classes. The sessions were informative, age-appropriate and helped children understand how to keep themselves safe, make sensible choices and know who to talk to if they are ever worried.

Thank you to Dave for supporting our curriculum and helping our children learn these important life skills.

DOJO POINTS

Children are now earning Dojo points as part of their house teams. Points will be collected each week and totalled up, helping to promote teamwork, positive behaviour and a strong sense of belonging across school.

At the end of each term, the team with the highest total will receive a special prize, with our first termly award beginning at Easter.

We can't wait to see which team comes out on top!

FOSH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre this year will be on Friday 12th December from 3:30-5:00. Thank you to FOSH for all your hard work organising the wonderful events in school.



ATTENDANCE THIS HALF TERM

Reception: 94%

Year 1: 84%

Year 2: 93%

Year 3: 95%

Year 4: 95%

Year 5: 97%

Year 6: 96%

Overall: 94.43%

Government Target: 95%

School Target 97%

Congratulations to YEAR 5 who are our ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS so far this half term.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Thank you, as always, for your fantastic support.

God bless
Mrs Nichol