



Governor Newsletter



Welcome to Your Governor Newsletter

It's been a busy and successful year for Sacred Heart and one which we hope your children have found inspiring and rewarding in terms of all their achievements. Please take a few moments to read through some of the important things that have been happening at school since September.

SATs Results

The Governors are delighted to publish Sacred Heart's SATs results, which have proved testament to the hard work of the children and the support and skills of Mr Davis and our teaching staff. Our Key Stage 2 results are significantly above the National Average and we understand that these results are among the best in Henley. We are equally proud of our Year 2 children and their teaching team who provided a calm and positive environment for the children to complete their tests. We will be notified of the Key Stage 1 National Averages in the Autumn Term.

This year, the school adopted a new assessment system in-line with the new National Curriculum. This curriculum is more challenging in every year group with many expectations often two years ahead of the previous curriculum and some of which were previously part of the secondary school curriculum. Our pupils progressed well against these new curriculum standards and should be rightly proud.

The tables below show the number of children who achieved 100% in their SATs test papers. You may have seen the term "Combined Score" referred to in the national media. This is the measure that shows how many children achieved 100% in their Reading, Writing and Maths papers. 75% of Sacred Heart pupils achieved their Combined Score - more than 20% above the national average.

KEY STAGE 1	READING	WRITING	MATHS	SPAG
Sacred Heart	65%	74%	70%	N/A
National Average	TBC	TBC	TBC	N/A

KEY STAGE 2	READING	WRITING	MATHS	SPAG	Combined Score
Sacred Heart	79%	83%	88%	83%	75%
National Average	66%	74%	72%	70%	53%



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Our Vision

Working closely with the School Council, we have re-defined our school vision (below), which we now believe reflects the school's strengths and distinctive nature.

“At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School we develop confident, well-rounded children with character and aspiration. We have a strong Catholic ethos that shapes moral values using Christ as the example. We do this in a caring, friendly environment where teachers inspire curiosity and achievement so that every child realises their full potential.”

Governing Body

September saw us say farewell to our Chair, Morag Stewart. We are very grateful to Morag for the endless hours she gave to the role. We are pleased to formally announce that, Paddy Fitzpatrick and Kirsty Grant have stepped up to Co-Chair the Governing Body, with David Connolly taking on the Vice Chair role. September also saw us re-constitute as a Governing Body, providing the capacity for us to expand the number of Governors at the school. We're recruiting new Governors now, so if you're interested in finding out more, please email: governors@shoodle.co.uk

Catholic Ethos

This year, after bidding a fond farewell to Father Anthony, we welcomed Father Paul who has focused on further enhancing and celebrating our Catholic ethos. We have introduced an in-school Mass, attended by the whole school, parents and parishioners. The Mass themes have been varied and have included, prayer, thanksgiving, remembering those in need, loving our neighbour, praying for the deceased, caring for creation, advent, lent, the Good Shepherd, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and the Year of Mercy. Some themes have been linked to other areas of the curriculum. For example, when Year 2 read the Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, the Year 2 Mass focused on how the disciples were afraid on the lake, and how Jesus calmed their fears. Each class has prepared Mass on at least three occasions. The children also write the bidding prayers and often decide upon which theme will be chosen.

During Lent the whole school thought about the Year of Mercy, using the three great parables of Luke's Gospel (the Prodigal Son, the Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan) as a means to enter into this concept. Previously each class had studied how parables work, and therefore were able to enter deeply into these stories. Aided by the new prayer bags, each child was encouraged to bring the parable and the Year of Mercy into their home and celebrate this with their family.

Year 3 and Year 6 have been preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. In a break with the past, *every* child in the class has taken a full part in the preparation. Each child in Year 3 has received a copy of the workbook, 'I Belong', which they have found enjoyable. The same principle applies to Year 6. Children from the school have led the liturgy at Mass on the Sundays when Year 3 has been preparing for their First Holy Communion. There has been excellent attendance at Sunday Mass on these occasions.

Father Paul visits the school each Wednesday to celebrate Mass and each Friday, where he leads a class for an hour and meets parents in the school playground. He also visits the school on other days of the week. The link between the School and the Parish is particularly strong.



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Music

We encourage engagement with music every day in school. The drum, brass and guitar workshops funded by the School and PTA give the opportunity for each child in Years 3, 4 and 5 to try their hand at playing a new instrument. Our choir has flourished this year, with members performing at community events, the Henley Youth Festival and of course at the School Concert. What an amazing evening that was with so many talented children performing to an extremely high standard and wowing the audience with some exceptional musical talent.



Sports Success

Sacred Heart has been thriving on the sporting front this year, participating in numerous inter-school events and achieving excellent results that reflect the combined efforts of pupils, teachers and parents. At the winter series cross country events at Chiltern Edge School, Sacred Heart fielded consistently strong teams. Combined with many impressive individual performances our efforts culminated in winning the overall trophy for 2015. Our strength in running was further reflected with Sacred Heart achieving 2nd place (out of 19 schools) in the RAF Benson cross country on 6th February and excelling at the South Oxfordshire Championships with two pupils finishing in the top three for their age groups and the Year 3/4 girl's team coming second overall.

In athletics, our Year 3 & 4 team achieved fourth overall in the Indoor Athletics Competition at Gillotts in January, while our Year 6 team came third. In football, teams from Years 2 - 6 have participated in several tournaments, with our Year 2 team achieving 3rd at Kidmore End, our Year 5 & 6 girls impressing as overall winners from their event at Henley Rugby Club, the Year 5 & 6 A team coming a creditable fourth overall at their tournament at Rotherfield FC and the Year 5 team winning 3rd place in their High Wycombe tournament.

We have also seen strong performances from the children at inter-school netball, swimming and rugby tournaments. Year 4 won the Rounders tournament at Gillotts and took part in a memorial triathlon at Queen Anne's School. The children have been a credit to themselves and the school in all of these events, with event officials regularly commending the children on their sportsmanship and conduct.



Your Views

The Governing Body is interested in hearing your views on the school and we are therefore conducting a formal survey which can be completed online, via the Ofsted website. The survey is very quick and easy to complete at the following link. We'd like to receive as many responses as possible before school finishes on Wednesday. Surveys can be completed via this link:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>



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New Initiatives

The school is always looking for new ways to engage and inspire children. This year, with a focus on reading, the school extended World Book Day to a whole week, with parents and carers invited to watch Guided Reading sessions and read stories to the children. Behaviour for Learning has been enhanced through the new Traffic Light reward system in each class, our Learning Walls which model what 'good learning' looks like, and the trial of SkillForce with Year 5, which has proved an outstanding success. In June, the school celebrated British Values week, learning about different religions and cultures, and culminating in a whole school assembly where the children showcased what they had learned. During this week, the whole school enjoyed celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday with a party.

New Website

October saw us unveil our brand new [school website](#). Following feedback from parents and carers, we were keen to develop a website that represented the school professionally and provided information that was relevant, up-to-date and easy to find. Following feedback from parents, carers and other stakeholders, we understand that the website delivers against all of these objectives.



Buildings & Outdoor Improvements

There have been many improvements to the school during the year. The Reception team has developed their indoor and outdoor classroom spaces to provide a highly engaging, all-weather learning environment for our youngest pupils, which has been praised by Local Authority representatives. The area in front of the Tiger Turf has been transformed by the PTA with a widened path for improved access, re-surfacing of the area and the addition of seating. This area now provides a true Sacred Heart welcome upon entering the school. Re-roofing above Year 4, painting the hall and classrooms, re-capping the wall around the Tiger Turf have all been completed during the year. We have also welcomed Mr Wilson in the school maintenance role. The Spring Term saw a re-vamp of the school library, with the support of the PTA. The children are encouraged to choose one of the wonderful new books each Friday.

Thank You & Farewell

We are immensely proud of our KS2 results, yet our Year 6 pupils have excelled in many areas that are not measured by statistics. They have grown in their senior roles, developed their confidence and become fantastic role models for their younger peers during the course of the year. They have been a credit to Sacred Heart and we know they will continue to be in their new schools. We wish all of the Year 6 children a very fond farewell and continued success in the years to come.

The Governors would like to thank Mr Davis and his team for the endless hours and dedication they give to this school, often working behind the scenes long after the school day has ended; the pupils for rising to new challenges and working hard to achieve success; and to our PTA, parents and carers for your continued support.

We wish you a wonderful Summer break; dedicate time to family members, reduce the pace of your life, rest in the shade of God's presence and rejuvenate ready for the welcome back in September 2016.