

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our new school year, which I hope will bring many joys to you and your children. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces on Tuesday morning as parents and carers walked down the path with their children.

You will have noticed that we are in the final stages of the completion of our repairs and refurbishment to our school roof. The internal work is completed and this has made a huge improvement to the ceiling and lighting in our classrooms. A new classroom and cloakroom area has been created within the existing building and this has significantly improved the environment for our Year One pupils. We anticipate that the exterior of the roof will be completed over the next two weeks and we will all be very glad when all the banging and hammering stops and the scaffolding is removed. In the meantime, please bear with us as we use alternative entrances and exits.



The roof is nearly finished – no more leaks!

Our staff have been very impressed with the presentation of their pupils. They all look very smart in their school uniforms and shiny shoes. They are indeed a credit to all our parents and carers who have tried very hard to comply with our uniform policy. Thank you very much for your support in this. However, a very small number of pupils have arrived in school wearing nail polish and earrings, which are not allowed, and should be removed before school. Hairstyles too, should be neat and tidy and not extreme. Long hair should always be tied back and 'tram lines' are also not allowed. Please could you check that your child's name is written into all items of clothing too?

If you require any further information about uniform and standards of presentation, please look on the school website, where our prospectus is available.

Staff returned to school on Monday for an INSET day. They spent time in preparation for our new school year, with all hands on deck to get the interior of the KS1 building open for the new year! Part of our day was focussed on our behaviour policy and procedures. We have worked with an external consultant over the summer term, who has visited our school and produced guidance and suggestions as to how we might now move our behaviour outcomes to the next level. It was very pleasing to hear his opinions about the ethos and atmosphere of our school.

'The love and warmth of this school hits you from the moment you walk through the door. The culture of the school radiates happiness. The school uses the acronym PROUD and this sings out (literally in assembly!) from all over the school. This is a school that genuinely lives its values. The adults and children are all, quite rightly, proud of their school.'

Chris Sweeny (Pivotal Education)

We will be making changes to some of our procedures and approaches, and we started our school year, with lots of reminders and expectations of behaviour. Our pupils were reminded of our three diamond rules, which we expect everyone to up-hold. If we can all follow these rules, our school will continue to have a happy and thriving atmosphere. The rules are:

Follow instructions with thought and care.

Show good manners at all times.

Care for everyone and everything.

These rules are on display around the school and are used by staff and children to describe the behaviours we see. These are the minimum expectations for all pupils.



Behaviour at Sacred Heart is already good and with all pupils taking responsibility for their actions we are encouraging pupils to now 'go the extra mile'. We aim to ensure that our pupils will go beyond these minimum expectations and become independently responsible for taking their behaviours to the next level. We will have 'recognition boards' in each classroom to display the names of those pupils who have risen to this challenge.

This is Mr. Sankey's 'recognition board'. Who will be first to have their name displayed?

We will also continue with our celebration assemblies at which we award our star and worker certificates and will re-commence these as soon as the work to the roof is completed. We look forward to welcoming you to these lovely events again soon.

We opened our new breakfast and after school club too! **Heart Club** is available for parents who are looking for child care at both ends of the school day. Mrs Baines is our new **Heart Club** manager and here she is with other staff at the club, Miss Spellman and Mrs Murphy. If you would like more information about the club, please call at the school office.



Have you noticed our **new path**? It's on the grass at the bottom of the school site. This 'daily mile' path will give the children the opportunity to run safely, or go for a walk away from the busy playground – great for both physical and mental health.

So another school year is well underway! Here are some of the other areas that we will be working on this year at Sacred Heart:

The continued development of the wider curriculum subjects.

In mathematics: times tables and the bar method for problem solving.

In English: Reading, spelling and vocabulary development

Behaviour: engagement pupils in self-motivated learning and 'going the extra mile'.

Attendance: Reducing the persistent absence rate of a small number of pupils.

I will write to you again with more information about these areas and how you can help your child at home.

Universal Free School Meals – Children from Reception to Year Two are entitled to a free meal from our kitchen every day. This saves parents £467 pounds each year! When children move into Year Three, meals are no longer funded. So we encourage everyone to 'make the most of it' whilst you can!

If your child is entitled to free school meals, because you are in receipt of benefits (including in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two, as well as KS2). Please let us know. We receive a significant amount of additional funding for every child who is eligible for free school meals. This funding lasts for six years and totals £7920 per child. **Sacred Heart pupils are missing out on this funding. For help and support with this, please speak to Mrs Roach or Mrs Golden.**

Finally, we will be holding our first parent's evenings of the school year soon and this will be an early opportunity to discuss how your child is settling into his/her new class, with new routines and new challenges. The dates will follow soon. Please keep in touch with everything that is happening in school through **PARENT MAIL**; our school APP and through our school **web-site**. In addition, we are setting up a **FACEBOOK** page and this will be a further way of finding out about school life, at your fingertips!

With best wishes for the coming year ahead,

Mrs Mason (Headteacher)

PROUD of our children; **PROUD** of our school; **PROUD** of our faith

