



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

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Executive Principal: Mr. G M O'Hara

1st March 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for the second half term of Spring.

As you will be aware, the St John Paul II Multi Academy, this week, have officially commenced intensive support to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School with myself taking up the role of Executive Principal, both here, at Sacred Heart and at St Joseph's Sutton Coldfield.

Whilst I am at St Josephs, I leave you, as always, in the very capable hands of Mrs Elliott and Mrs Cooper. Thank you to Mrs Walker for her work in the school since Christmas as Interim Head Teacher she has done a fantastic job.

I would like to thank all parents who have taken the time to introduce themselves and have a chat with me before and after school on the playground, this is much appreciated. The children at Sacred Heart have welcomed me with smiles and great conversation. They are lovely children, with fabulous manners and respect- you should be so proud of them –please tell them!!

As always, we have an open door policy at Sacred Heart; should you have a concern regarding your child's education please make an appointment with a member of staff via the main office.

This week the following children have received commendations. Well done and congratulations to: **Archie Phillips, David Okunodu-Ejiofor, Anisur Rahman, Janna Bargil, Tanim Rahman, Milcah Yosef, Antonio Nnabugo**
The class with the best attendance this week was- **Class 5** with 100%.

Congratulations to **Class 5** for achieving 99.1% punctuality.

The winning house this week was St. Matthew.

GOSPEL VIRTUES

It was wonderful to see how proud these children were when receiving their Gospel Virtues certificates this week. They are shining examples of how they are growing to be Learned and Wise in what they say of themselves, to each other and the world.

Niyah Smith-Bennett, Solihome Yonas, Prince Nzolani, Levi Morton, Sarwa Zegard, Raphael De La Cruz, Claire Odiwa

Lent

The six weeks of Lent start next week with Ash Wednesday Mass. The whole school will be walking to the Sacred Heart Church for Morning Mass and the receiving of the Ashes.

Please support the children during Lent with their sponsorship fundraising, fasting and of course through encouragement spiritually with extra prayers as we all try to bring ourselves even closer to the Lord.

The Charities that we are supporting this year are:

- Father Hudson's Society- requested by Archbishop Bernard
- Cafod

Father Hudson Society carry out vital works for the elderly, disadvantaged and those living with disabilities and dementia all within our own diocese of Birmingham

Cafod supports projects in parts of the world less fortunate than us, providing water and farming resources so the people there can drink, eat and become more independent in their own survival.



Important update – Online safety for children

We are aware that a lot of our children are accessing and using social media (including games) to communicate with friends and family. There is currently something called the Momo challenge that is circulating across the internet at the moment. Your child may or may not have come across this at some point. Please follow the link below which will tell you more about it:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

The important message here is that this is not real and children should not take part in it.

Children must talk to a trusted adult if they come across this.

As a result of this information, we are reminding the children this week about how they can keep themselves safe online and to:

- Always report any concerns or worries about anything they see on-line

- Always be polite, kind and considerate in any comments they make on social media
- Always be mindful of others' feelings. (If you know that it would be wrong to say something in front of others on the school playground, then it is wrong to say it online).
- Avoid sites or games which allow communication with people we do not know. Never assume that other players are children and never engage in on line conversations with them.

Parents can support us in keeping children safe online by:

- Monitoring closely what their children are doing on-line
- Talking to them about their use of the internet
- Reporting any concerns directly to the school as soon as they arise, ensuring that any image or message causing a concern is saved and shown to us.
- Ensuring that children do not share personal information or anything that could easily identify themselves to others
- Ensuring that children do not share unpleasant comments with others.

Thank you for supporting us to keep our children safe and happy.



Thursday 7th March 2019- World Book Day and Dress as a Book character day

Next week is book week in school. To celebrate this, we will be holding lots of fun activities for the children to encourage a life-long love of reading and sharing of stories.

It has always been at traditional at Sacred Heart for the children to come dressed up as their favourite book characters on this day. It will be wonderful to see the children dressed in their marvellous costumes on that day and take part in our '**Book character parade**' during the special book week assembly.

- It would be lovely during this week if the children could bring in their favourite book to share with their friends. **Please send your child's book in labelled with their name and class.**
- Reading with your child now can have long-lasting benefits for their future and, because we know how busy you are, the great news is that reading together for JUST 10 MINUTES a day can make all the difference. Here are some fun and easy ways to join in:
- Find **10 minutes** on **World Book Day** and **every day** to read with your child. It doesn't just have to happen at bedtime – reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time.
- **Why not play the fun *Are You A Share A Story Reading Star?* game with your child?** Play online or download a copy of the game at worldbookday.com/reading-stars and have fun collecting your stars and discovering all the exciting ways you can share stories together.
- **Choose a book at your local library to read together** – join the library and start a new habit of visiting the library on a regular basis.



The more you enjoy reading a book, the more the child you're sharing it with will too. My biggest tip is to cosy-in for the moment and go at the pace of the child... stories, like life, are more fun when you slow down and savour the journey."

RACHEL BRIGHT, AUTHOR OF *THE SQUIRRELS WHO SQUABBLED*



Every child in school will receive a £1 book token to spend on a book from local bookshops. WHSmith and other book stores accept these tokens. Please visit your local bookshop & help your child choose their **FREE World Book Day** book with their **£1 book token**. **Try not to waste it!**

LENT

*Lord, help me in my desire to enter this holy season with a new resolve to
find time to pray, to give myself to fasting
and to give generously to others in need*

Amen



Yours sincerely

G M O'Hara

Mr G M O'Hara
Executive Principal