



# Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

**Welcome!** We are very pleased to report how well the Foundation 1 children have settled into school this September. In such a short amount of time the children have created a lovely little community, where they provide help, support and encouragement to one another. It has been such a fantastic start to the Autumn term, and the children are getting along beautifully. Mrs Cairns is the full-time teacher, with support from two teaching assistants. Miss Slawson works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in F1; and Miss Ghaboush works Thursday and Friday. As a team, we provide the upmost care for each child, ensuring they are safe, well and happy each day. We appreciate how hard it is for children and parents during this great milestone in life, and thrive to support all involved. Do not hesitate to contact any staff members with any worries and queries.

During the first half term F1 will focus on quality texts to support learners to explore their feelings and emotions. The books for this half term are: The colour monster (Anna Llenas), I am enough (Grace Byers), Elmer (David Mckee), Supertato (Sue Hendra), and Handa's surprise (Eileen Brown). These texts will help children understand and appreciate that everybody is special and unique, with different preferences and abilities.

**Allergies/food safety precautions:** Please remember we are a nut free school, accommodating allergies throughout the school, this includes chocolate spread sandwiches. In addition to this, please ensure that grapes and cherry tomatoes are sliced lengthways to avoid any potential choking hazards. If grapes or cherry tomatoes are brought into school whole, your child may be advised that they cannot eat those in school due to safety reasons.

**Uniform** Your children always look very smart in their uniform, thank you. We do really try to ensure that items do not get lost. To help us, please ensure that your child's name is clearly labelled. Please do not send your child to school wearing hooped earrings, to minimise the risk of injury.

**Physical development / PE** There will be plenty of opportunities for F1 to develop gross motor and fine motor skills each day. We will use our bodies as instruments, access bikes trikes and scooters, and develop balancing skills, using appropriate equipment. Children will build independently, exploring and selecting a range of appropriate resources. Independence will be encouraged throughout the day, during lunch time, toileting, using buttons and zips.

F1 will carry out weekly PE sessions on a Thursday afternoon, therefore if you would like to send them in a PE kit consisting of a white t-shirt, black shorts/joggers/leggings, and a black hoody this would be appreciated. However, do not worry, as F1 can carry out PE in their uniform if necessary. Please ensure all earrings are removed prior to PE lessons.

**Phonics** Children will carry out daily phonics sessions, following the Little Wandle phonics scheme, encouraging gradual progression throughout the foundation stages. During this half

term we are focusing on the nursery rhymes: 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, Baa Baa Black sheep, Hey Diddle Diddle, Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, and Miss Polly had a Dolly. Activities set out within the classroom, and outdoor learning areas will support and develop their learning related to the weekly phonics focus.

**Maths** Pupils will carry out daily maths sessions, where they develop mathematical understanding through a gradual process. Pupils will build upon previous knowledge, sharing their understanding with each other, promoting peer learning. The focus for this half term will be colours, matching and sorting. There will be many group and individual activities set up to support this learning focus. We will engage in lots of number songs as a group, understanding that a number represents an amount, using fingers and objects as mathematical representations.

**RE** The learning focus for this half term is 'God made me' where pupils will begin to understand that God made each of us unique in this world, exploring different families. Additionally, we will study the creation story, where God made the world in seven days. Carrying out a variety of activities to support development and understanding, providing lots of time for discussions, questions and role play. Children will learn how to make the sign of the cross and recite the daily prayers.

**Understanding the world** During this half term, pupils will begin to make sense of their own life story and their family's history. Children will think about, and discuss their own families; comparing the differences and similarities that occur. Towards the end of the first half term we will show interest in different occupations, with a focus on 'people who help us.' If your occupation falls within this category and you are happy to come into school and discuss your job description with the children, please contact one of the foundation team, or somebody in the office.

**Expressive art and design** Pupils will begin to mark make with intention, exploring paint using tools, alongside their fingers/hands. A range of materials will be explored and interacted with, providing opportunities for pupils to select desired resources. A variety of musical instruments are available for children to experiment with, alongside daily nursery rhymes and songs. Children will engage with roleplay, where they work independently, or in groups to act out short narratives.

**Communication and language** Speaking and listening skills will develop greatly during F1, as pupils gain the courage and language to share thoughts and ideas with their peers. Children will develop vital conversational skills where they begin to discuss topics with adults and peers. Daily circle time will be carried out, providing multiple opportunities for all children to engage in conversations. Listening skills will develop, as children comprehend and react to what is being said. Children will engage with lots of different instructions throughout the day, displaying understanding through their responses.

**Literacy** Children will begin to notice print, recognising their name, and the letters that occur within their name. Nursery rhymes will be engaged with daily, with focus upon a specific Nursery rhyme per week. Each week includes a different book focus, with a range of activities that support children's comprehension of the text. A variety of mark making

activities will be available daily, for pupils to enjoy and develop their mark making in preparation for writing.

**PHSE** Children will begin to establish their own autonomy, expressing preferences, whilst building self-confidence. They will become familiar with the school environment and routines, learning and practicing self-regulation skills to manage their own emotions. Self-control will develop, as children understand that actions affect others. Children will learn how to discuss their emotions, building expectations and boundaries. Pupils will be encouraged to use the toilets independently, however staff will always provide appropriate care and assistance to all children as they develop in these areas.

This may sound overwhelming; however, learning is incorporated in every activity planned in class, and development occurs through fun, engaging interactions. Children are given plenty of opportunity to practice, and revise skills taught. With indoor and outdoor provisions linked to specific learning focusses, pupils can access quality resources to promote development in all areas in the class.

We wish your child the best of luck, and will provide nurture and comfort, alongside quality teaching and learning opportunities.

Thank you for your time, Mrs Cairns.