# Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

## Whole School Newsletter

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*"We love and learn, with Christ at the heart of all we do."*

Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been wonderful to see the children settle so positively over the last two days, reconnecting with friends and embracing new learning opportunities. We hope you enjoyed a restful summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead. As a school community, we remain committed to our mission:

**"We love and learn, with Christ at the heart of all we do."**

This mission guides our learning, relationships and daily life together. We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every child thrives this year.

Please take a few moments to read this letter carefully so that you are well informed and able to support a successful year ahead

| Dates for Diary | |
|---|---|
| Tues 8 Sept 2026 | Individual photographs – FULL winter uniform please (blue jumper/cardigan) |
| Thurs 10 Sept 2026 | 9am CAFOD Seasons of Creation National Assembly |
| Fri 11 Sept 2026 | 2:30pm Heart of the Week |
| Sat 12 Sept 2026 | Education Sunday - Saturday 5pm Mass |
| Fri 18 Sept 2026 | 9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart Church |
| Thurs 24 Sept 2026 | Mary's Meal's visit – Jane Wright will lead an assembly and workshops |
| Fri 25 Sept 2026 | 2pm Macmillan Coffee and Cakes |
| | 2:30pm Heart of the Week |
| Mon 28 – W 30 Sept | Y5 Hathersage Residential |
| Fri 2 Oct 2026 | 2:30pm Harvest Festival Celebration and Heart of the Week |
| Mon 5 Oct 2026 | 1:30 – 4:30pm Parents evening |
| Wed 7 – Fri 9 Oct | Y6 Briars Residential |
| Fri 16 Oct 2026 | Final day – break up for half term |
| Half Term Monday 19th October – Monday 2nd November | |
| Mon 16 Nov 2026 | Odd Sock Day / Anti-bullying week |
| Tues 1 Dec 2026 | Advent Retreat Day – non uniform, off-curriculum day |
| Mon 7 Dec 2026 | 2pm EYFS Nativity |
| Tues 8 Dec 2026 | 9:15am EYFS Nativity |
| Wed 9 Dec 2026 | 2pm KS1 Nativity |
| Thu 10 Dec 2026 | 9:30am KS1 Nativity |
| Fri 11 Dec 2026 | 9:30 Advent Mass at Sacred Heart Church |
| Tues 15 Dec 2026 | Christmas Disco |
| Wed 16 Dec 2026 | Christmas Dinner and non-uniform / Jumper Day |
| Thurs 17 Dec 2026 | 4pm KS2 Carols with Christingle (Y3 make Christingles) |
| Fri 18 Dec 2026 | Final day of the Christmas term |
| | |

## Putting Love into Action

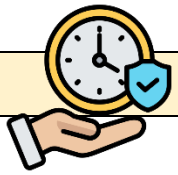
Early this term, through a visit from Mary's Meals and our Seasons of Creation Assembly, we will be continuing the brilliant work we accomplished last year, living out our faith through our actions.

Children will reflect on Pope Leo's message of caring for those most in need and our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation.

Children will learn about Maggie and her community in Zimbabwe, exploring how small acts of kindness and generosity can make a significant difference to the lives of others. These experiences will encourage our children to see the power of putting their faith into action, strengthening their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and help them to actively live out our mission through prayer, reflection and fundraising.




## Attendance and Punctuality



As a school, we have seen a significant improvement in attendance over the past year. More families recognise the importance of children being in school every day, and rates of persistent and significant absence have reduced. **Thank you for your support in helping us achieve this positive change.**

However, there is still work to be done, particularly at key points during the year. In particular, attendance can dip around the start and end of holiday periods when some families choose to take holidays during term time. Every day in school matters, and even short periods of absence can have a significant impact on learning and progress.

In line with national guidance, attendance is monitored rigorously. School leaders track attendance and unauthorised absence on a rolling 10-school-week basis, with particular attention given to pupils who accumulate 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence. This enables us to identify concerns early, offer support where needed and work proactively with families to improve attendance. Where unauthorised absence reaches the national threshold, penalty notices will be issued.

Lateness also remains a concern for a small number of pupils/families. Arriving late can mean missing important learning and can affect a child's start to the day. **In many cases, leaving home just five minutes earlier would make a considerable difference.** We will continue to work closely with families to improve punctuality and would greatly appreciate your support with this. Together, we can ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

## Education Sunday – Saturday 12th September 2026 – 5pm Mass

Next weekend, we will mark Education Sunday, a special time to give thanks for the gift of Catholic education and for all those who help our children learn and grow in faith. It is an opportunity to reflect on our mission, "We love and learn, with Christ at the heart of all we do," and to pray for a successful year ahead for all members of our school community.

We warmly invite our children and families to join our parish community in celebrating Education Sunday, giving thanks together for the important role of Catholic education in helping our children grow in faith, learning and service. We look forward to coming together in prayer as one school and parish family.

## Heart of the Week Celebrations

Heart of the Week Assemblies – all are welcome

Heart of the Week celebration is a chance for the school to come together to celebrate children who have demonstrated care, thought and love in their behaviour, attitudes and learning. Our Heart values are: **H**ard work, **E**mpathy, **A**ttitude, **R**espect and **T**ogetherness. The office will send a message on a Friday via Arbor if your child is going to receive an award, to enable you to join the celebration if you can. But all are welcome to every gathering.



## Uniform Reminder

Our school uniform expectations are relatively relaxed compared to many schools, but we do ask that all children arrive dressed smartly and in the correct uniform each day.

Please ensure that children wear **black school shoes** (not trainers or boots), a blue school jumper or cardigan (not navy) and clearly labelled uniform.. If uniform is not named, staff may add your child's name using a permanent marker to help us return lost property quickly. We also ask that children do not bring keyrings attached to their school bags, as these can easily become lost or damaged. Toys and similar items must also remain at home.

Many photographs will be taken over the coming weeks for displays around school, and our school photographer will be in on Tuesday. Let's work together to ensure our children look smart, take pride in their appearance and represent our school beautifully.

Kind regards, Anne-Marie Bell Headteacher