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 23 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the beginning of Advent, we are looking forward to some exciting and meaningful weeks at Sacred Heart. There is much to celebrate as our children continue to demonstrate enthusiasm, kindness and a commitment to our school values.

The coming weeks offer many opportunities for our children to put their faith into action through charitable fundraising, acts of service and learning inspired by Catholic Social Teaching. Alongside these, we will enjoy a range of festive events and celebrations that bring our school community together, as we prepare for Christmas.

Please take time to read this newsletter so you are aware of the activities taking place and how your family can get involved. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our children live out our mission: "We love and learn, with Christ at the heart of all we do."



Dates for Diary	
Thurs 26 Nov 2026	Year 5 are supporting Tesco's Christmas Foodbank appeal
Fri 27 Nov 2026	St Paul Chaplaincy Team – Cake Sale – for Mary's Meals
Fri 27 Nov 2026	EYFS Teddy bear's Picnic
Tues 1 Dec 2026	Advent Retreat Day – non uniform - £1 donation
Fri 4 Dec 2026	Year 4 Jingle Jog at Rushcliffe Country Park
Mon 7 Dec 2026	2pm EYFS Nativity
Tues 8 Dec 2026	9:15am EYFS Nativity Y5 singing at Braywood Gardens
Wed 9 Dec 2026	2pm KS1 Nativity
Thurs 10 Dec 2026	9:30am KS1 Nativity
NEW → 10/12/26	3:30pm Whole School Jingle Jog with Hot Chocolate
Fri 11 Dec 2026	9:30 Advent Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Mon 14 Dec 2026	CHANGE OF DATE: Christmas Disco – Tickets £4.00
Wed 16 Dec 2026	Christmas Dinner and non-uniform / Christmas Jumper Day – no cost
Thurs 17 Dec 2026	4pm KS2 Christmas Carols with Christingle (Y3 will make Christingles) – no cost
Fri 18 Dec 2026	Final day of the Advent Term
21st Dec – 1st Jan	Christmas Holiday
Mon 4 Jan 2027	Children return to school





Parking and Respect for Our Community

Recently, we have received a number of concerns from residents and school families regarding parking and, on occasion, the way adults have spoken to one another. We kindly ask all families to help keep our community safe and positive by **not blocking residents' driveways, not obstructing access to the New Row entrance, or parking on the zigzag lines** between 8:00am and 4:30pm. We all share the same aim: keeping children safe. As role models for our children, let us work together to help us spread our Catholic values beyond the school

Putting Love into Action

St Paul's Chaplaincy Team would appreciate **cake donations for their cake sale on Friday 27th November 2026.**



Cakes will be on sale at break time, at 2pm before Heart of the Week and any remaining cakes will be sold on the playground, at the end of the day. Cakes will be between 50p and £1. Thank you in advance.



Advent Retreat Day – Tuesday 1st December - £1 donation

Year 1 will use the money collected to go shopping for items required for the parish foodbank.

Keep an eye out on your Class Dojo for further fundraising and acts of charity events.

Whole School Jingle Jog – Thursday 10th December 3:30 – 4:30pm – School fundraiser!



Introducing Sacred Heart Jingle Jog!

We are excited to invite all children, parents and families to join us for a brand-new festive experience – our very first school Jingle Jog!

Come along, get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy a fun-filled run with family and friends. Whether you want to run, jog or walk to join in with the festive fun, everyone is welcome! **Boots / old trainers are a necessity.**

What better way to finish the Jingle Jog than with a delicious hot chocolate to warm you up! There will be a prize for the 'Best Dressed Adult' - show off your most creative, colourful and festive outfit! Children wearing festive outfits will be entered into a raffle. So, dig out your Santa hats, Christmas jumpers, antlers and tinsel, and get ready to jingle all the way!

Christmas Disco – Monday 14th December – tickets on sale from Wednesday 25th Nov



EYFS and KS1 starts at 3:30pm with party games and fun before enjoying a Disco until 4:45pm. Children should be collected from the EYFS playground.

KS2 disco will begin at 5pm and end at 6:30pm.

Children will be offered a packet of crisps and a drink.

Where a family has more than 2 children, please visit the school office for additional tickets. There will be no additional cost for 3 or more children in one family.

After payment for the cost of the disco (DJ) and food, money raised will go towards building a sandpit for our EYFS area.

Parent Forum Feedback

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent Parent Forum meeting. During the meeting, we discussed important areas of school life, including our Christmas festivities, attendance, changes to the RSHE curriculum and opportunities for after-school clubs. Here is a summary of the discussions:



Attendance

We discussed how we recognise and celebrate good attendance. Parents present agreed that a certificate would be an appropriate way to recognise children who achieve 100% attendance. Recognising improved attendance was mentioned. School explained that individual families are already supported and we recognise improvements in attendance and punctuality, not just perfect attendance.

A number of parents expressed the view that term-time holidays and illness-related absences are not the responsibility of children and that children should not feel accountable for these circumstances. School acknowledged these views but also emphasised the importance of developing strong attendance habits from an early age. Establishing positive routines and understanding the importance of regular attendance helps prepare children for the expectations of future education, employment and adult life.



Christmas Festivities

We discussed the arrangements for our forthcoming Christmas celebrations. Parents shared positive feedback about last year's Christmas disco format and agreed that we should continue with the same approach, with separate EYFS/KS1 and KS2 sessions. The timings were agreed, along with a ticket cost of £4 per child. It was also agreed that children would be offered crisps and a drink, with no additional food required.

We shared that any profit raised from the disco would contribute towards school funds, helping us to meet the cost of developing a sandpit for our EYFS outdoor area.

Our annual Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day was mentioned. This will take place on Wednesday 16th December. Festive jumpers are not essential. If you have spare Christmas jumpers your children have outgrown, please consider donating them to school.

Parents also responded positively to the idea of introducing our very first Whole-School **Jingle Jog**. There was enthusiasm for an opportunity to bring children, parents and families together, encouraging a sense of community spirit through a fun, festive activity.



RSHE Curriculum

We shared some of the changes and developments within the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum. These include:

- **Healthy relationships** - understanding respect, kindness, personal boundaries and how to recognise healthy relationships.
- **Online safety** - developing an understanding of online relationships, staying safe online and recognising potential risks.
- **Growing and changing** - learning about puberty, physical and emotional changes and how to look after our health and wellbeing.

A follow-up communication regarding the RSHE consultation will be shared with families in the coming weeks.



After-School Clubs

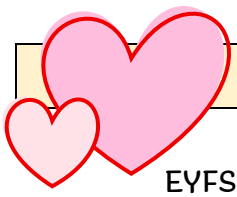
We welcomed suggestions from parents about how we could broaden our after-school club offer and provide children with a wider range of experiences. Parents expressed an interest in seeing more variety, with suggestions including dance sessions, gymnastics, sewing, arts and crafts. These suggestions have been noted, and we will explore these throughout the year.

Thank you once again to everyone who attended and contributed. Your feedback is important to us, and we really value working in partnership with our families to make our school an even better place for everyone.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor** on our Governing Body. Parent Governors play an important role in supporting school leaders, helping to shape the direction of the school and ensuring the best outcomes for all children.

Please, if you are interested in contributing your skills, experience and perspective to our school community, please come and speak to a member of staff.



Heart of the Week Celebrations

EYFS will be sharing a few songs from their Teddy Bears picnic celebration before our Heart of the Week celebration 27th November – 2:30pm start.

Kind regards, Anne-Marie Bell Headteacher