



It is so lovely to feel like I am finally free of COVID restrictions, here in school. At Sacred Heart we have always tried hard to ensure the children have as many extra experiences beyond the classroom as we possibly can. Families, who have children in Year 4 and below, probably won't remember these as their children were in Year 1 or below when we closed the school to everyone apart from key worker children. This week it feels like we are now going back to times before the pandemic. Some of our Year 3 children have participated in pedestrian training, the Year 5 and Year 6 boys football team have played at Brierton Sports Centre and the afterschool clubs have restarted.

COVID also meant that play equipment was limited and children had to be separated from other classes. Today, I was lucky enough to be outside with some of our children whilst they used the equipment happily, mixing with children from other classes and year groups. It is the little things that we need to be thankful for.



### **Book of Condolences**

Hartlepool Borough Council has opened a Book of Condolences and schools, across Hartlepool have received loose leaf pages from the Book, including Sacred Heart. Parents are very welcome to come into the school office and write in the Book during the school day until 9am Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. After this time they will be returned to the council, who will collate the pages.

### **First Holy Communion (Y4 – Y6)**

If you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, the last day for completing and returning the forms is **THIS Sunday** (25<sup>th</sup> September). Forms are **ONLY** available from church and must be returned to church, not school. Further information can be found here: <https://sacredheart.bhcet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/11th-September-2022.pdf>

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October is CAFOD Family Fast Day. That week, (week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> October), we will be collecting items of food that will be donated to the Hartlepool Foodbank. Items you can donate include: tins of soup, beans etc, packets of food rice, pasta etc, breakfast cereal, longlife milk etc.



Well done to our boys' football team.

Their first fixture and they won all matches and drew another. They are now through to the Premium League football group! A special mention to George, the team captain, who led the team well.

### **Water in class**

Please ensure your child fills their water bottle at home with water. Juice and flavoured water are not allowed to be drunk during the school day, in the classroom.

### **PE Kit**

Has your child grown out of the PE kit? If so and you don't have a younger relative to pass it onto, please donate it to school. We are always looking for spare PE kits in case children forget to wear theirs on PE days.

Just to clarify; when your child has their PE lessons they come into school in their PE kits.

This kit comprises of:

- black shorts,
- leggings or
- tracksuit bottoms and their
- red PE T-shirt or plain red T-shirt.

They should wear their **school jumper** or **cardigan** on top of their PE kit or, alternatively, school hoodies can be purchased.

### **After school PE clubs**

For children who attend the gymnastics, tennis, netball, football and multi-skills after school clubs, they need to come to school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit in a bag, which they will change into at the end of the school day. Please do not send anything into school other than their school PE kit.

If they have a PE lesson that day, they come to school in their PE kit.

### Christmas Card Design

Over the next couple of weeks your child will bring home a Christmas card design that you are able to have printed professionally into a Christmas card, wrapping paper etc for you to purchase. Please complete the parent information and return it to school before 14<sup>th</sup> October. The items need to be paid for on Scopay before you return the form, otherwise your items will not be ordered. Children will bring these home as and when they are completed in their class so please do not worry if one of your children bring it home earlier than another child in a different class. Teachers will fit the activity in when they have time in the week.

### School Uniform

Please ensure that your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their full name and let teachers know via Dojo if your child is missing an item of clothing and we will endeavour to find it for you. We currently have a lot of lost property (unlabelled uniform) that will be put in the staff room on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at the beginning and end of the school day. This is accessed via the front doors to the right of the main entrance so please come and claim some of your child's missing clothes, otherwise they will be disposed of.

### Pantomime

We are going to the Panto! Oh no you're not, I hear you all say! But we are! Sacred Heart are going to Billingham Forum on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Further information is to follow and the cost will be on Scopay as soon as we have confirmed the buses.



### ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week is 94.1%. Well done to Class 5 whose attendance was the best in the school with 98.4%.

Your child attending school is the single most important factor in their education. Going to school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in

turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop: friendships, social skills, team values, life skills, cultural awareness and other opportunities.

If you choose to take holidays during term time, these will be unauthorised and, as you can see from the table, taking 2 weeks for a holiday will drop your child's attendance to 95%. **The national average for attendance is 96%.** Anything below this is classed as the child being at risk of being a persistent absentee and you will receive letters from the attendance team to inform you of this. Mrs McNamara, the Parent Support Advisor will contact you if your child is at risk of going below 96% so please do not be upset if you are contacted to discuss your child's attendance.

Days off school add up to lost learning!!						
190 SCHOOL DAYS EACH ACADEMIC YEAR						
Which means there are 175 NON school days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments						
365 DAYS IN EACH YEAR	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	30 DAYS ABSENCE	19 DAYS ABSENCE	23 DAYS ABSENCE Half a Term missed	38 DAYS ABSENCE	47 DAYS ABSENCE
	180 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	171 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	161 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	152 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	143 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	
	100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
	GOOD Best chance of success		WORRYING Less chance of success, harder to make progress and achieve Higher grades		SERIOUS CONCERN! Huge impact on academic learning, parents may face court action if no justifiable reason for absence	

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 residential to St John's in the Vale.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Lost property stall 8.30am-9.00am, 2.00pm-3.15pm.
	School Nurse drop-in session 2pm staff room.
	Meeting for parents wanting their child to make their First Holy Communion. St Joseph's Church 6.30pm.
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 pedestrian training – Class 8.
<b>W/b 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Food collection for Hartlepool Food Bank</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 – school nurse to talk to the children about personal hygiene.
	<b>CAFOD Family Fast Day.</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Mass, here in school, 9.15am. All welcome.</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School closes for October half term</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>School reopens at 8.30am</b>
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Remembrance Service – more information to follow.</b>
<b>w/b 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Parent Consultation Evenings</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	The Pantomime! Trip to Billingham Forum to see Beauty and the Beast.
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens at 8.30am.

Items in red are new this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Headteacher