



Newsletter

Summer Term Assemblies 2017

Friday 5 th May 2016	Y4 / PD Crowning of Our Lady
Friday 12 th May 2016	Year 5
Friday 19 th May 2016	Year 3 First Holy Communion Assembly (Sat 13 th May 2017)
Friday 23 th June	Sacred Heart Feast Day Celebrations Chaplains to Lead
Friday 30 th June 2017	Year 2
Friday 7 th July 2017	Year 1
Friday 14 th July 2017	Nursery and Reception Transition Assembly
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.00am Followed by Headteachers Awards

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 13th May – 1st Holy Communion at Sacred Heart RC Church
Wednesday 14th June – Sports Day
Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th July 2017 – Robinwood Residential for Y6 Pupils
Monday 17th July - Golden Hearts Party
Monday 17 July - Attendance Awards / Sporting Achievement Awards
Wednesday 19th July School Closes – 3.30pm

Mission Statement

Following a review with parents, governors and children our school has a new mission statement, which is shorter for the children to learn and understand and capture the mission of our school.
Learning to Love, Loving to Learn - Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Learning.
I often remind the children of when in Matthew's Gospel Jesus is challenged:

'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said to him, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets too.'

St Joseph's Penny

Thank you for your support in sending in your St Joseph's Penny Boxes. Which raised **£213** for the work of CARITAS within our Diocese. We linked this to our work during Mission Week and learning more about St Teresa of Calcutta, 'We can all do small things with great love.'

Easter

Easter is the biggest feast in the churches year and so Holy Week leading up to it is also very important. Following last week's very successful Mission Week in school, we have spent much time together during Holy week in prayer. Our teachers led the children through the Stations of the Cross taking the children on a journey around the school grounds. Following this, the children all enjoyed Hot-cross buns and a drink!

Thank you Mrs. Powell who once again organised a beautifully reflective Lenten Café Church and to everyone who was able to attend. Our Y4 children enjoyed a visit to St Thomas' Church, Delph where they took part in reflections on the season of Lent. To finish the term together, our Year 6 children led Key Stage 2 in their reflections on the way of the cross.

Well done to our year three and four children who performed a wonderful Easter Musical, 'Hosanna' The whole school community including parents and carers enjoyed the performance and the children greatly enjoyed singing and acting.

Fishy Hat Fashion Show

What a wonderful occasion! We all enjoyed a brilliant day together wearing and admiring each other's fishy hats and all for a good cause. We managed to raise **£93.68** to support CAFODs Lenten campaign, 'Turning little fish into big fish'. We were very impressed with Mr. Brown's balloon modeled creations - another hidden talent!



OFSTED

Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to attend the meeting for parents held on Wednesday 5th April and for the support shown to our school. We received a number of questions in advance of the meeting and a summary of the responses can be found at the end of this letter. School was supported by Margret Moore from Salford Diocese as well as Gillian Barrett from the Local Authority

Our school has once again enjoyed a number of sporting successes and achievements this term ...

Sacred Heart wowed this years Rochdale Musical Festival with some excellent group and individual performances:

Sacred Heart Talented Tinies
Sacred Heart School Choir – Commended
Edward Jamil (Guitar Solo) – Second place – Highly Commended
Guitars – Second place with honors
Keyboard – highly commended

Mrs. Price has been leading the development of science teaching across our school and we have been working with Manchester University to gain the Primary Science Quality Mark. We are currently being assessed for the bronze award and will let you know the outcome of the assessment soon!

OFSTED

Parents shared with the school leaders their concerns and overwhelmingly their support for our school, acknowledging the many positive experience and success their own children have enjoyed.

Summary of the responses to the key points raised:

Standards:

The only 'drop in standards' last year for outcomes for pupils was at the end of KS2 (Y6). Whilst, a decline had been expected the school acknowledges that the results were lower than anticipated. Nationally, there were changes in 2016 to the way in which children are tested and many schools suffered a decline of around 30%. However, our results at the end of the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One remained high and the percentage of children reaching the expected standard was above local and national averages.

The Headteacher explained the term 'high school ready' used by OFSTED in the report, refers to pupil's achievement and does not mean that the children are not socially and emotionally ready for the next stage in their education.

Whilst, school is aiming for a good OFSTED judgement, we are always aspirational for our pupils. Sacred Heart was previously judged as outstanding but the inspection criterion has changed significantly since our previous inspection ten years ago and the outstanding category is very difficult to achieve. Gillian Barrett was able to confirm that no schools in Rochdale have recently been graded outstanding and it is likely that the grade will be removed.

Parents were assured that the comment regarding the behaviour of pupils in nursery is in relation to learning behaviors' and how well the children were accessing the provision and interacting with their peers and adults. An action plan is in place to improve the provision in nursery and to increase pupil engagement in the different areas.

Following the discussions at the meeting, the key point raised by parents was that they would like us to improve our communication in relation to current standards across the school, outcomes from external monitoring and when significant changes take place for example staffing changes. Leaders of the school agreed that this would enable parents to have a better understanding of the school's work and that this information will better be shared.

Parent APP

Following OFSTED's evaluation of our school website this will now contain less information about the day to day running of the school and instead will provide more information about the running of the school. Facebook and our newly launched parent APP will be used to celebrate the day-to-day life of our school and the children's many achievements.

Parent APP will also be used to reduce the amount of paper and the cost of reprographics across the school. Letters, policies, term dates, newsletters will all now be posted on the APP and anyone who would prefer a hard copy of any documents can request them at the school office.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and to wish all of our families a very happy and holy Easter. He is Risen ... Alleluia!

