

Welcome to Reception Class

In early years we follow the framework, The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). There are 7 areas of learning. These include:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The EYFS is a play-based curriculum which holds the child at the centre. Learning and development opportunities are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child. This ensures that learning is fun, exciting and meaningful. Our planning system is very flexible so it can adapt to reflect children's interests and needs. I will keep you updated about topics through newsletters and on our blog.

In early years there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. We will be outdoors in all weathers. We will provide waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket so we ask if you could bring in a pair of wellington boots for your child which are to stay at school.



Read Write Inc is the phonics programme we use at Sacred Heart. Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they can read and this does wonders for their confidence.



We use *Numicon* in school which is a multi-sensory approach to teaching maths developed by experts in the classroom. It is designed to help children understand connections between numbers. Through the multi-sensory activities and mathematical language of *Numicon*, your child will develop the understanding and skills that underpin their later understanding of number.

We also use an online programme called *My Maths* as part of the children's maths homework.



Each week half of the class visit the John Marley Centre for their Forest School session, it is a chance to get out and about and explore the outdoors. This is a great way to motivate and inspire the children to develop a zest for learning.

Forest School sets learning in a different context for children where they can undertake a range of practical activities and carry out small achievable tasks. At Forest School children can develop their team working skills and also learn to become more confident and independent. Those who are unfamiliar with woodlands and green spaces can become confident in using them and this can form the basis of a life-long relationship with natural spaces. Children learn to solve problems and be creative and imaginative at Forest School thus showing enterprising behaviour.

PE- PE will begin after October half term.

Reading folders- Reading folders are to be brought to school everyday

Reading books- Your child's reading book will be changed every Monday. Please sign and comment in the reading record once you have read with your child.

Water bottles- Can your child bring a water bottle to school every day. These will be sent home at the end of each day.

Stay and Play sessions- You will be invited into school at the end of every term. It is an opportunity to meet with us and discuss your child's progress as well as playing with your child and becoming familiar with our school environment.

Homework- Homework will be given out every Friday and is to be completed and returned the following Wednesday. Homework will include phonics and maths.

Blog- Please take some time to visit our blog. I keep it regularly updated with little snippets of our day.

Labels- Please put labels on all items of clothing.

Many thanks for your support and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. I look forward to our year ahead together.

Mrs Bowman and Mrs Bays