



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs M Fusi

"Live, love and learn joyfully in the family of Christ"

June 2024

Parents of Reception Class Children 2024

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Sacred Heart. The relationship between the parents of the children and the school staff is a very important one and, hopefully, this meeting will provide the information that you need to enable your child's smooth transition into school.

To strengthen the relationship between school and parents, a "Home/School Agreement" has been drawn up in consultation with parents. Two copies of this agreement are enclosed with this letter. Once you have read the Agreement, please sign both copies and return one to the school, keeping the other for your file. If you have any questions about this Agreement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ways to help your child settle at school

◆ *Encourage your child to be independent at all times*

This is helped if all children (and their teachers!) know that their clothing **is labelled**, including P.E. bags and their everyday clothing. It gives the children greater independence if they can get their own shoes on. We use the outdoor environment in the Reception class garden every day and they have to put on/take off shoes on a number of occasions. We have found that those with Velcro fastening are the best. Failing that, buckles are good, providing the children can work them. This would also be a good time to remind you that even shoes need naming – it is amazing how several pairs of shoes can look the same when you are in a hurry to get outside and play!

◆ *Toilet training*

Please make sure your child flushes the toilet and tidies him/herself after using it. Please can you also stress the importance of washing hands after going to the toilet?

We do have a very small supply of spare clothing in case of accidents. It would be greatly appreciated, however, if the children could possibly have a couple of spare pairs of underwear in their school bags in case they have an accident.

Broadmeads, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9HY

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◆ ***Punctuality***

School starts at 8.45 am each day. Please ensure your child is brought to the main playground by this time, staff will walk them around to the Reception Class door for the first few weeks. We appreciate that parking around the school can be difficult. There is free parking in the Library and Broadmeads car parks for 30 minutes. Please do not park in front of the flats or garages or on the turning circle in Broadmeads, as this causes us problems with our neighbours!

◆ ***What do you need to bring to school?***

Book bags are available from Kids Connection, Hertford (leaflets enclosed). They are ideal for carrying books, letters and other bits and pieces. Satchels and other bags take up too much room in the cloakroom and are not suitable for Reception age children.

Please provide a pair of named Wellington boots to enable children to play in the outside classroom. Please ensure these are clearly marked with your child's name. At times the children will play on bikes and trikes. If you would like them to wear a helmet for safety reasons when doing this, please provide a correctly fitting cycle helmet (named) for their exclusive use.

All children need to bring in a named, filled water bottle daily.

◆ ***Help***

Help is always appreciated in the classroom, for example with reading, computer and craft activities. It is better to wait until the children have settled down and become used to the routines – so perhaps you would like to approach the class teacher about this after the Autumn half-term holiday. Parents who volunteer can come in to work in class on three occasions per month without the need to have a DBS check.

As Sacred Heart is a voluntary aided school, financial help from parents is much appreciated. To this end the Governors have introduced a "gift aid scheme" and I enclose a copy of a letter and form from the Chair of the Governors' Finance Committee explaining this scheme in detail. As well as recently paying for the replacement of classroom windows and extension to the car park, we are responsible for most repairs and maintenance of the school building. Any money you are kind enough to pledge has a tax benefit to the school and also to you, if you are a tax payer. We have also built three new classrooms in previous years and the donations and associated Gift Aid assists in paying off the loan for these buildings. Please do consider helping the school in this way, as all donations made will, of course, benefit your child during their time here. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the School Office.

◆ ***Work at Home***

The children will be given reading books to read at home. Please take the time to enjoy these and other books with your child. As the terms progress, the children will be given other pieces of homework. These activities give the children a chance to go over what they have been learning at school. They will probably want to share these with you as well.

◆ **Messages Sent Home**

We use the email service from our website to send messages home to keep you updated, these will come from notifications@primarysite.net. Please ensure that you inform the office of any changes to your email address.

If your child is absent from school, please download the Studybugs app and advise us, or telephone the school as soon as possible, explaining what the problem was.

As part of the Government's Healthy Eating Initiative, all Reception and Key Stage 1 children are provided with a piece of fruit each school day. The children will eat this with their milk and water before morning playtime. Biscuits and sweets are not allowed. We have also have a "no nut policy" in school and nuts are not allowed to be brought in at any time.

If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office or me before your child starts school.

If you have any worries once your child has started school, please feel free to speak to the class teacher in the first instance and to me if the matter cannot be resolved at that level. Before school is always a little hectic but after school is fine. Please voice any concerns and/or observations as it is vital to deal with any situations sooner rather than later and it reduces the amount of upset involved.

Please make yourself known to the "Friends" (FOSH - the school Parent/Teacher Association). They are a very friendly group of people who are always looking for help and new ideas to raise money for school funds.

For your information the start of the Autumn Term this year is Monday 4th September, but as this and Tuesday 3rd September has been allocated as a staff training days (Inset Day) the first day at school for pupils will be **Wednesday 4th September**.

I hope that this letter has proved useful and that the meeting allowed you to clarify any points that you may have had.

Yours sincerely



M Fusi (Mrs)
Headteacher