

Sacred Heart Primary School



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DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON

Jesus at the Heart of all that we do

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this month's Newsletter. It has been lovely to see all the children back in school, it is amazing how well they have settled back into school life I trust you and your family are looking forward to the long Easter break and that the children will return once again to school with renewed energy for the weeks ahead during the summer term.

STAFFING - After Easter Mrs O'Donnell in Foundation Stage will work remotely until she starts her maternity leave in June. RPO will be taught by Mrs Hill and Mrs A Hannigan

SEASON OF LENT - During Lent the children have been learning that just as new life emerges in spring after the deadness of winter, so too the Resurrection of Jesus could only happen after he had given his life on the cross. The children have been considering how Lent is an important time to think about the changes we need to make in our lives in order to make a new beginning at Easter. During Lent, through our assemblies and collective worship, the children were encouraged to listen more closely to God and invited to show kindness and love towards others. As we now near the end of Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter, let us remember that the Cross is a sign of God's unending love for us and with our families try to participate in the Easter services at Church.

WEDNESDAY WORD - Previously we have sent this home with families but due to COVID restrictions we now access this resource through their website www.wednesdayword.org The site provides resources for families based on the Sunday Gospel. I have attached their Easter booklet hopefully you will be able to share this with your children during the Easter holiday.

REPORTING COVID CASES - We are required to report all confirmed COVID cases to the Local Authority Covid-19 team. If your child displays COVID symptoms on Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th and/or tests positive for COVID please inform the school via admin@sacredheart.primaryluton.co.uk.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE - Thank you to staff members who have contributed Easter Eggs for our Easter Raffle at present we have a total of 91 Easter Prizes! The raffle was drawn on Friday 26 March and we raised a total of £616, an amazing achievement. The proceeds from the raffle divided equally and donated to CAFOD and Mission Together.

FRIENDS OF SACRED HEART PRIMARY - Thank you to the Friends for organising the Go Fund Page and the Old Skool Pantry who have kindly donated a 'cake box' prize. We are very grateful for all the donations, thank you to everyone who has donated to the Go Fund Page. The raffle for the 'Cake Box' prize was drawn by Mrs Cullen this morning and the lucky winner is Sam Byrne well done.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS - The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools, Luton Council and Bedfordshire Police. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

SCHOOL DINNERS - From April 1st Leicestershire Catering Services will be providing the school meals at Sacred Heart Primary. The price of school meals in KS2 is £2.30 a day. Please see attached a sample menu this will change slightly so that it does not include chocolate. I will send out the new menu once it has been confirmed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - Please apply for Free School Meals, if your child is eligible, even if your child is presently receiving a free school meal because they are in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2. **During lockdowns and school holidays the government is presently providing free school vouchers of £15 a child, your child will only receive these vouchers if you have registered them for free school meals** on www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

In order to be eligible for Free School Meals the parent/legal guardian must receive at least one of the following benefits: If you are in receipt of the following support payments, your child will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Universal Credit – from 1 April 2018 provided you have an annual **net** earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Due to changes in government funding for schools and the introduction of the Pupil Premium it is important that all our eligible pupils are registered for free school meals. **If your child is registered for free school meals, and is entitled to Pupil Premium, we use the funding in a variety of ways for example:**

- **to provide extra support and interventions in English/ Maths**
- **to pay for an after school club**
- **reduced prices for school trips**

Please call **01582 510346** for advice on the working tax credit run on. To apply for free school meals and for further information go to www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or contact the Revenues and Benefits Department in the Town Hall 01582 510346, email Revenues.Admin@luton.gov.uk. Our Family Workers are happy to assist you with your application, please contact Mrs. Diggin or Mrs Overton.

HOLIDAY DATES - The forthcoming Easter Holiday starts on **Friday 26th March** and the children return to school on **Tuesday 13th April**. School will also be closed on **Monday 3rd May** for the May Day Bank Holiday. All other holiday dates are available from both school offices on request and are also on our school website www.sacredheartluton.org.uk.

Thank you once again for your continued support and encouragement during this very busy term. The staff of Sacred Heart wish you a happy and holy Easter break

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J.M.Cullen
Headteacher