

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Headteacher's Report

Autumn Term 2008

1. SCHOOL STATISTICS

Pupil Numbers

Current number of children on roll (03/11/08) 198

Leavers 3 pupils emigrated to Canada
1 pupil returned to Austria
1 pupil moved to Windsor
1 pupil moved to Surrey

Arrivals 1 pupil from Portugal (Y5), October 08
2 pupils from Berkshire (Y3 and Y4), November 08

2. STAFFING

We were delighted to welcome Nicola Edwards to Year 2. She is job-sharing with Pauline Whitehouse. We also welcomed Suzie Steady as the new Year 6 teacher, Bridget Fletcher as Reception teacher, Michelle Gallagher (a parent of three pupils) who has joined Year 1 as their TA for five mornings a week and Carmen Lankshear who is an SEN TA in Year 5 for 2 days a week.

We have an extensive programme of training sessions and courses available to teaching and support staff over the year.

Classes	Teacher	Pupil numbers (total/Catholic)
Sept2008		
Reception	Mrs Fletcher / Mrs Wooding	27/16
Year 1	Mrs Stubbington	30/16
Year 2	Mrs Whitehouse/Mrs N Edwards	30/12
Year 3	Mrs Gavin	28/10
Year 4	Mrs Butler	30/16
Year 5	Mr Steele	25/8
Year 6	Mrs Steady	28/10

3. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

The teaching staff were delighted to welcome Father Anthony to the staff INSET day on Monday 1st September. He helped staff to re-focus on our shared ethos and mission for all learners and individuals within our caring community.

All children returned to school on Wednesday 3rd September. We were particularly pleased to welcome 27 Reception children of which 16 are Catholic.

We celebrated our first whole school Mass of the new academic year at Church on Thursday 18th September at 10.45 ably led by our new Year 6.

We have updated assessment of RE throughout the school, involving the young learners more in this process with 'I Can' statements which are being trialled this year.

We have bought new Bibles for KS 1 and KS2 pupils. They have all been received positively.

The Year 3s visited Father at church before half term and our new Reception class are looking forward to making their first visit soon.

We are in the process of timetabling visits to church by the remaining classes as well as visits to other places of worship to develop the children's understanding of different faiths and cultures.

There will be 11 children taking their First Communion next summer. Ten are in Year 3 and one in Year 4. Mr Gavin will be their Catechist. Their programme will be starting shortly with the first parents' meeting tonight at the Parish Hall.

Year 2 have learnt to sign the Our Father and have brought this to the rest of the school. It is very moving to witness. The 'Clapping Gloria' has been learnt and is enjoyed by all the children and is now an integral part of all our masses. Indeed, I was delighted when the Y5s and Y6s spontaneously sang the Clapping Gloria at different times throughout our Y5 and Y6 residential.

Faith in Action

School focused on Harvest during the first two weeks of October. We invited Hanover House residents and some local parishioners to a Harvest Cream Tea on 15th October from 2-3pm at the school. The Choir performed for them and it was an afternoon that all enjoyed enormously.

School has decided to support the following organisations over the next academic year: Operation Christmas Child (Christmas '08) and Nyumbani Catholic Orphanage in Nairobi and the charity supporting 1000 Burmese children who are Catholic refugees in Pattaya, Thailand.

4. CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

The school's focus this academic year is on:

- Moving the school from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'
- Further raising standards in writing
- Improving Assessment of RE throughout the school
- Formalising a Personalised Learning programme which includes the use of Assessment for Learning (AfL) which gives pupil's greater understanding and ownership of their own learning.
- Raising standards in Science through developing practical investigative skills and use of scientific language.

- Developing teaching of explicit ICT skills.

5. BUILDING AND PREMISES

Once again an enormous difference has been made to certain areas of the school over the summer. The Year 6 room has been enlarged by taking out two partition walls, re-carpeted and partially repainted to accommodate 28 pupils who have 'moved in': the effect has been significant.

The KS2 shared area (ex library) has been cleared completely and made into a comfortable 'quiet' reading/waiting area. Later this year we hope to add five stand alone PCs to the area to enable more small groups and independent learning and research to take place.

The new library, off the main Hall, has just been finished and looks fabulous and very much like an enticing lending library. We are very grateful to all the companies which generously donated money to help us buy new books. Two parents are currently working hard to ensure this becomes an effective lending library. This will be facilitated by Yr5 and Yr6 pupils who will be trained as budding librarians.

The wooden floors have been re-varnished and a deep clean over the summer has ensured the whole school looks and feels fresh and clean.

We are now awaiting work to be completed on the staffroom, infant shared area (to make it a shared food technology space) and re-touching in Year 5.

Many thanks to Geoff and all the parents who joined us on our two TLC days at the school on 16th August and 18th October. We have planned three TLC days throughout the year to help with redecoration and general sprucing up of the inside and outside of the school.

6. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I am passionate about offering as many of our pupils as possible a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This year our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities includes:

Day	Time	Club	Run by
Mon	3-4pm 3.15-4.15 3.15-4.15 3.15-4.15	Gymnastics Y4 - 6 Football Y5 & 6 Cookery Y3 ICT Y3-6	Mr Beedell (paid course) Starts 15 Sep Mr Jones Mrs Neighbour Mr Steele Starts 29th Sep
Tues	3.15-4.15 3.15-4.15 3.15-4.15	Drama Y3 - 5 Tag Rugby Y5 & 6 Games Y1 & 2	Mrs Whitehouse Mr Edwards Mrs Stubbington
Wed	Lunchtime 3.15-4.15 3.20-3.50	Choir Tag Rugby Y3 & 4 Spanish Y2 & 3	Mrs Butler & Mrs Gavin Mrs Steady Mrs Lennon (paid course)
Thurs	Lunchtime	Recorder	Mrs N Edwards

	3.15-4.15	Netball Y4-6	Mrs Painter, Mrs Hansen
	3.15-4.15	Football Y3 & 4	Mr Haneoek

School Trips

We have already run two residential experiences for our Y5 and Y6 pupils. The Y5s enjoyed a 2-night, 3-day outdoor educational experience at Longridge from 22nd to 24th September. The Y6s spent a week in Devon with myself and Suzie Steady from 29th September to 3rd October.

Both trips were extremely challenging but rewarding and enjoyed by all. There will be many other trips and events through the year that will enhance the childrens' experiences both in and out of school.

School Council

The newly elected School Council met for the first time on Friday 26th September. They are actively involved in planning for the Walk to School Week (20th October) and the National Anti-Bullying week in November.

Chris Poray and Amber Martin represented the school at the Henley Youth Council's first meeting on the academic year.

7. ECO/ENVIRONMENT FOCUS

Sustainability continues to be a key word for the school this year. We are concentrating not only on recycling our waste but how we can limit our energy consumption. We are holding a 'clear up the site' day on 18th October to tidy up our grounds. We are revisiting our School Eco Code and looking for ways to ensure we can achieve the targets we have set ourselves.

After observing the impressive environmental and recycling programme in practice at Skern Lodge, I am keen to make significant improvements on what we are already doing.

Travel Plan

The 'Drop Off' scheme continues. It is being used a little more consistently but we are keen to raise its profile and use. More and more children continue to scooter or cycle to school.

The school is awaiting delivery of 2 scooter and 1 cycle racks. County has offered money to fund a school crossing patroller for Greys Road and we now have a volunteer who will be trained in the near future. KED will continue to work with BWTS team and the school will work with Partnership Schools to raise the profile of walking to school in Walk to School Week beginning 20th October.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are continuing to make progress in this area as is explained in our recent Health & Safety report stated that our practices and procedures were again good.

9. EXTENDED SCHOOLS

We are committed to investigating and setting up as much support as we can for parents and families both inside and outside of school hours. The following sessions have been held or are planned.

23 rd October	Transition Meeting for parents of Foundation Stage pupils at Sacred Heart.
4 th November	Maths Awareness Session led by Suzie Steady at Sacred Heart
20 th November	Foundation Stage Parenting Session on setting boundaries at Shiplake School.
12 th March 2009	1.45 Y6 Drugs Awareness Session at Sacred Heart. 6.30 Drugs Awareness Session for all parents (Sacred Heart and Partnership)

The school is supporting use of the partnership minibuses for various activities.

We have secured funding to share a Home/School Link Worker for identified families in the school.

10. PTA

The PTA helped make the School Feast Day and end of year Fete two very memorable days with £3000 raised between them. They have set up an Alumni group and are looking to launch this at a celebration of the school being on its current site for 50 years.

The PTA AGM was held on 21st October. A new Committee was elected and have agreed to raise funds for new staging for the school hall, outdoor musical instruments and resurfacing of the lower playground.

11. Attendance

We were delighted with our whole school attendance of 96.7% for 2007-2008. This is above national average and testament to the commitment of all who are involved in the school, reflecting how much our young learners enjoy being here.

All of the school's achievements over the past year would not have been possible without the support and commitment of pupils, staff, parents, governors and Father Anthony. I would personally like to thank Geoff Fielding and Father Anthony for their efforts over the past year.

Karen Edwards
November 2008