

Sacred Heart RC Nursery & Primary School



7 November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new half term at Sacred Heart — we hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for another exciting few weeks of learning, creativity, and community together!

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)

Sacred Heart Achieves the Primary Science Quality Mark!

We are delighted to announce that Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) — a nationally recognised award celebrating excellence in science teaching and learning. The award is valid **from 2025 to 2028** and recognises the school's strong commitment to developing an inspiring, inclusive, and high-quality science curriculum for all pupils.

Our science leader, Mrs Alice Whitmore, has worked with exceptional dedication to raise the profile of science across the school. The PSQM reviewers described their leadership as *“highly effective, with impressive impact on the science curriculum for the benefit of all pupils.”*

The review highlighted that:

- The science development log showed a *“full cycle of development”* with clear links between monitoring, staff training, and improved classroom practice.
- Every child could talk confidently about their learning and name an investigation they had completed — showing that science is engaging, meaningful, and memorable.
- The new Plymouth Science Scheme has made lessons more practical, hands-on, and accessible for all learners, including those with additional needs.
- Links between science, maths, and other subjects are now firmly embedded, helping children apply their learning in a range of contexts.
- Assessment in science is now *“a purposeful part of learning,”* empowering teachers to respond to pupils' needs in the moment.

The reviewers described the overall impact of the PSQM year as “*remarkable*” and praised the leadership and enthusiasm of Mrs Whitmore, noting that teachers now actively seek her support and that pupils have become more confident, curious, and willing to take risks in their learning.

This achievement reflects the hard work of our whole school community — staff, pupils, and parents — in making science a joyful, inclusive, and inspiring part of everyday learning.

Congratulations to everyone at Sacred Heart for this fantastic recognition of excellence in science!

Reception 2026 Open Day – Come and See Sacred Heart in Action!

We are delighted to be holding our **Reception 2026 Open Day** on **Friday 21st November**. Families are warmly invited to come along and see our wonderful school in action.

There will be two opportunities to visit between:

Morning: 9:15am – 11:30am

Afternoon: 1:15pm – 3:00pm

We welcome anyone to drop in between these times and you can stay for as long or as short as you like.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place for September 2026, please do point them in our direction and encourage them to pop in for a look around. It's a great chance to see our caring ethos, vibrant classrooms and happy children at work.

We look forward to welcoming new families and sharing what makes Sacred Heart such a special place to learn and grow!

Sacred Heart Choir

We're delighted to share that **Mrs Good** is restarting our **school choir on Wednesday 19th November**. This is open to all **Key Stage 2 pupils** who love to sing!

The choir will meet **every Wednesday from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm** with places limited to **30 children**. They will be offered on a **first come, first served basis**. A google form will be sent out at **4pm on Monday 10th November**. The first 30 to reply will gain the places. Any forms received after that will be placed on an ordered waiting list.



Being part of the choir is a wonderful way for pupils to develop confidence, teamwork, and a love of music — but it also requires a regular commitment. Children who are offered a place will be expected to attend each week and participate with enthusiasm.

Please note that the choir is **not a childcare provision**. If a child shows that they do not wish to take part or that they are struggling in the after school sessions, this will be discussed with parents and their place will be offered to another pupil who is keen to join. Equally, if a child joins the choir and finds that it is not for them, parents can let school know and the waiting list will be used.

From time to time, choir members may also be invited to perform at **school or community events outside school hours** — a fantastic opportunity to share their talents!

We can't wait to hear our choir singing together again and filling the school with joyful music!



School Council Elections 2025

We're very excited to announce the launch of our new School Council at Sacred Heart!

As part of UK Parliament Week, pupils will be learning about democracy and having their say through real elections in school.

The School Council launch will take place on Friday 14th November. Children who are interested in becoming a councillor will then have just over a week to prepare a **manifesto poster** explaining why they would make a great class representative.

Key Dates:

- **Friday 14th November** – School Council launch
- **Monday 24th November** – Closing date for manifesto posters (the start of UK Parliament Week)
- **Monday 24th – Thursday 27th November** – Candidates will present their manifesto posters to their class
- **Friday 28th November – Election Day!** Each class will take part in a secret ballot to vote for their councillors

Every class from Year 2 to Year 6 will elect their own representatives, and an additional six pupils from Year 6 will be chosen to represent Nursery, Reception and Year 1.

Following the counting of the votes, the newly formed School Council will be led by Miss Hartley, PSHE Lead. The newly formed council will meet monthly to share pupil ideas, discuss ways to improve our school, and plan projects that make a difference to school life and our wider community.

This is a brilliant opportunity for children to learn about leadership, teamwork, and having a voice in school life. We can't wait to see the enthusiasm and creativity of our campaign posters.

SEND

Locality Pilot – Information for Parents.

As Sacred Heart is part of the Locality Pilot, Child and Family Health Devon would like to invite you to a Webinar.

Webinar: Understanding the Balanced System

We're inviting parents and carers to join a free online Q&A session exploring the Balanced System® Link Therapist Model. A Speech and Language Therapist will be linked to each school, settings or a cluster of settings.

They will work with the school team and consult with them regularly to identify needs so that all children and young people access the right support at the right time in their learning context.

These sessions will offer an opportunity to:

- Learn more about how the Balanced System® Link Therapist Model works
- Ask questions and find out how CFHD Speech and Language Therapists will be supporting your child's speech, language and communication needs within schools

Each session will be tailored to your local area, so you can find out what's happening near you and connect with local support networks.

Before attending any of the below sessions, we would advise you to watch our online, introduction webinar, [here](#). This will give you more information on the Balanced System.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Torbay South & West: Monday 11th November, 9:30 – 10:30am (virtual)

Click the link to book:

[Webinar: Understanding the Balanced System - Children and Family Health Devon](#)

Best Wishes,

Warm regards,

Mrs Nichola Day
Executive Headteacher



Diary Dates



Mon 10th Sacred Heart V Boys' football match

Tues 11th South Devon College Remembrance Service

Parents' Evening

Weds 12th Individual School Photographs

Thursday 13th: Skipping Ninja PE/PSHE enrichment

Thursday 13th: Parents' Evening

Fri 14th Children in Need (Mental Health focus) – Dress in sportswear. School council launch

Mon 24th: Parliament Week. School Council closing date.

Fri 28th: School Council Elections

Fri 5th: Rudolf Run for Rowcroft

Fri 12th: Christmas Market

Fri 19th: Break up



Contacting your child's teacher

Nursery: Mrs Berry berry@shrcps.org

YR: Mrs Pancott pancott@shrcps.org

Y1: Mrs Good lgood@shrcps.org

Y2: Miss Sloggett sloggett@shrcps.org

Y3: Mrs Flintham / Mrs Glew flintham@shrcps.org / glew@shrcps.org

Y4: Mr Mason jmason@shrcps.org

Y5: Mrs Whitmore/Miss Hartley whitmore@shrcps.org / hartley@shrcps.org

Y6: Mrs Bird bird@shrcps.org

Executive Head Teacher	Mrs Day	day@shrcps.org
Senior Administrator	Mr O’Kane	senioradmin@shrcps.org
Administrator	Mrs Macdonald	admin@shrcps.org
Administrator	Mrs Garside	garside@shrcps.org
Inclusion Team		
Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Day	day@shrcps.org
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Nott	nott@shrcps.org
Deputy SENCO	Mrs Nott	nott@shrcps.org
Support Team		
Play Therapist	Jane Doidge	doidge@shrcps.org
Family Support Worker	Rachel Ripley	rachel@attendance-solutions.co.uk
Attendance Officer	Natalie Black	natalie@attendance-solutions.co.uk

What's on...



**CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITY CAMPS**

NO COST

**SOUTH DEVON
COLLEGE**

22ND, 23RD, 29TH & 30TH DEC

5 - 11 YEARS

9AM - 1PM

**CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS AND
BRACELET MAKING**

**FUN SPORTS LIKE
FOOTBALL,
DODGEBALL, AND
MORE!**

**DELICIOUS LUNCHES
AND SNACKS**

BOOK ONLINE AT [HTTPS://EEQU.ORG/BOOK/18778/DATES](https://eequ.org/book/18778/dates) OR SCAN THE QR CODE. IF ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS USE DISCOUNT CODE GIVEN (FROM CHILD'S SCHOOL) TO BOOK FOR FREE

** NO COST FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Palace Avenue Methodist Church Paignton

Christmas Bazaar

Amazing Grotto

+ Santa

Saturday 22nd November

10a.m. - 2.00p.m.

(in the back hall) **Free entrance**

Crafts **GIFTS** **Games**

JEWELLERY **Raffle** **Tombola**

Lucky dip **Books** **Cakes**

Refreshments -tea, coffee, bacon rolls, toasties,
etc

Santa's Grotto

Come and meet Santa. Only £3 includes present



**CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITY CAMPS**

**£15
A DAY!**

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TORBAY
TABLE TENNIS
ACADEMY

SEASON ONE

KIDS TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE FOR ALL LEVELS

FIVE WEEKS – FUN COMPETITION

Supported by:

Bribar
TIBHAR

TEAM
TA

WILTON
BRADLEY

KEVIN
THOMAS
Electrical

CDM
ROOFING

SecureForce

URBAN
Design

JAS CARS LTD

PLAY
TABLE
TENNIS

TORBAY MOVE
Activity provided
by Torbay Council

Dear Parents,

The Kids Table Tennis League is a fantastic opportunity for children to start a new sport or build on the skills they already have. By joining our 5-week programme, your child will get a taste of our club, make new friends, learn new skills, and – hopefully – be inspired to stay active and continue their table tennis journey!

The programme includes:

- Week 1: Training session
- Weeks 2-4: Friendly matches with children of similar ability
- Week 5: Finals and Awards Event

Duration: 5 weeks - 5 Wednesdays: 19.11, 26.11, 3.12, 10.12, 17.12.

Cost: £20 per child (children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2) and Key Stage 2)

Where/Time: Torquay Academy Sport Hall at 5:10-6:30pm

Booking is essential – please message 07516 984707 or email ttclub2011@yahoo.co.uk

Places are limited, so please book early to secure your child's spot!

If you haven't heard about our club, Torbay Table Tennis Academy, visit our Facebook page to see all our activities – we have been proudly part of the community since 2011.

Best wishes,
Torbay Table Tennis Academy Team

Table Tennis Club for Everyone