



What a lovely month of November we have had at school! As we get ready for the busy month of December, it is important to take a moment to think about the great things we have done together as a school community. November is a time to remember and honour those in our school community who have passed away, but who still guide us every day.

In line with Catholic Social Teaching, we remember that every person has dignity and we should support each other. This month, we have taken part in activities that not only remember those we have lost but also build a sense of community and kindness. Events like our remembrance services and donations have shown our commitment to fairness and helping others.

As we move forward, let us take the lessons of November into December. We should make sure our actions show empathy, respect, and service to others. Together, we can create a community that reflects the teachings of Christ, making it welcoming and supportive for everyone.



Heavenly Father,

We come together to pray for those who have passed away. We ask for Your light to shine on them, giving them peace and comfort in Your love.

We think about the memories we have in our Sacred Heart School and community, encouraging kindness and togetherness. May we feel thankful for their lives and the lessons they taught us.

Help us to remember them as we live with love and purpose.

Amen.



A Celebration of Mrs Jackson!!

As a school we are so incredibly proud of our very own Mrs Jackson! Not only a superb teacher but founder and leader of our Mandarin language lessons here at Sacred Heart. Recently Mrs Jacksons had the amazing opportunity to represent Sacred Heart on a world stage when she was invited to China to present on the collaborative work with the USTB Confucius Institute at De Monfort University.

A massive **THANK YOU** to Mrs Jackson from all of us here at Sacred Heart for all your hard work and dedication to the development of Mandarin in our beautiful school.

Please read the official press release for the Chinese World Communication and Language Conference.

On the second weekend during November Beijing hosted the 2025 annual Chinese World Communication and Language Conference. Our colleagues from the USTB Confucius Institute at De Monfort University; Director Yi along with Justine Jackson the Chief Practitioner of the Mandarin Teaching Hub and teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy in Leicester were lucky attendees of the event.

Justine Jackson, the Hub's Chief Practitioner was one of the few non-native Chinese speakers invited to give a talk on the progression of Mandarin teaching in diverse schools within Leicester through digital empowerment. During the talk she elaborated on the demographics of Leicester, particularly her school, Sacred Heart CV Academy. How she had developed their Mandarin curriculum into a standardized curriculum with high outcomes especially for EAL and SEND learners. Justine also talked about the development of the Mandarin Hub to both support schools already teaching Mandarin and to encourage more schools across Leicester to take up this language. Director Yi and her team at USTB CI at DMU along with **Justine Jackson Chief Practitioner**, worked especially hard at creating a digital platform for the Hub that can be accessed by all teachers. The focus of the conference, being on digital technology in the educational environment, showcased the Leicester Mandarin Teaching Hub's excellent work in digitizing its work in order to cut teacher workload while increasing student engagement. During her talk Justine showed examples of this highlighting the pilot work done at Sacred Heart Academy where the students who were the first in Leicester city to take part in the YCT exam in 2024 scored an above 89% pass rate and how lessons have progressed to using digital technology including introducing VR experiences such as "Ne Zha 2" allowing children an immersive first person view of Chinese animations and culture.

The work carried out through the USTB Confucius Institute at DMU and the Mandarin Teaching Hub along with **Justine Jackson** Chief Practitioner prove that Mandarin teaching excellence is achievable in diverse settings. The model being created by the Leicester Mandarin Teaching Hub has the ability to enhance and embed learning and proves its sustainability and scalability. Their belief that Primary Schools are fundamental in inspiring children on their educational journey has ensured that all school children part taking in Mandarin lessons through DMU Confucius Institute and the Leicester Mandarin Hub are prepared not just with language skills, but with the cross-cultural competence and digital fluency they need to thrive as future global citizens.

The work of these dedicated educational practitioners has been commended on the world stage, and we look forward to seeing how they evolve the Mandarin Teaching Hub further.

Our congratulations to all involved.





Press Release for the sister school collaboration between USTB Primary and Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy.

On Monday 17th November the Head Teacher from USTB along with her senior staff met with Director Yi from the Confucius Institute based at DMU and **Justine Jackson the Chief Practitioner of the Leicester Mandarin Teaching Hub** and teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy in Leicester. Their meeting was to formally announce the working partnership between the two schools. This partnership is to provide the children from both schools with cross cultural links. While the children at Sacred Heart CV Academy in Leicester are learning Mandarin the children at USTB Primary are learning English which means that the children will be able to form lasting bonds through collaborative work. Staff shared a little about their schools, their background, working practice and demographics of the areas. They spoke of what they would like to do as their partnership moves forward and are planning some online collaboration where children can share celebrations from their own cultures and perhaps take part in joint online classes. Each school then shared gifts as a token of friendship before taking a tour of USTB Primary. Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to hearing more about the schools collaboration in the future.





Remembrance Day Whole School Liturgy

Maple Class had the honour of leading the school in a respectful and reflective Remembrance Day collective worship. During this poignant gathering, we were all reminded of the sacrifices made by countless individuals for our safety and freedom. Through their prayers and readings, we reflected on the importance of remembering these sacrifices, ensuring that they are never forgotten. We were reminded by Maple class that at times of disagreement, it is crucial to look for ways to understand and encourage one another. More importantly, we must remember how Jesus calls us to remember so that we can move on with compassion and love, healing from previous wounds.

Thank you to the children and staff in Maple who organised this wonderful liturgy.





Harvest Collection

A huge thank you to everyone who made our Harvest Collection a massive success. In a time when many families are struggling, your generosity is an astonishing display of Catholic Social Teaching in action and a wonderful example of kindness for our young children. With the help of Mrs Remedios and Mrs Rodrigues, our school Chaplains led us in a beautiful whole school Harvest Liturgy. Our chosen charity this year, Open Hands will be delighted with our school's contribution to their foodbank.

Please scan the QR code to access Open Hands website.



Dear Lord, We give thanks for the food we share and ask your blessing on those who grow, harvest and prepare it. Inspire us to act for the good of our neighbours, especially those who do not have plentiful food.

Amen.





Bonfire Night School Dinner

A huge thank you to Sharon and the culinary staff for the fantastic school dinner on Bonfire Night. The dinner received a huge 10/10 rating from the kids, who loved it. We are also grateful to the School Councillors who helped promote the event. Thank you to the kitchen staff for all your hard work.

Look out for further themed meals that will be take place during the academic year!!!!



Christmas Dinner at Sacred Heart



Thanks to an incredibly generous Donation from SVP at Sacred Heart church **ALL** the children at Sacred Heart will have their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 17th December **PAID FOR** !!!

So even if you usually have packed lunches, please join us for dinner on that day!!!

Published Authors

We are SUPER excited to congratulate four of our wonderful Year 4 children; Dax, Rio, Avianna and Clyne as they are now published authors!!!!!! Their Monster Stories (which were written in Year 3) were shortlisted and published by Young Writers this past month. We are very proud of this achievement as I am sure their families are. Their book is in our school library where it will remain as an inspiration for future classes at Sacred Heart.





Anti-Bullying Week

Our wonderful Anti Bullying Champions here at Sacred Heart arranged Odd Sock Day on the 14th November. This coincided with a national Anti-Bullying week and the children were invited to wear odd socks to support this initiative. Wearing odd socks demonstrates our pledge to celebrate differences and encourage kindness at Sacred Heart. The theme of Power for Good has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Thank you to Ms Davidson and her team for raising this awareness at Sacred Heart!!!



Dates for your diary:

Friday 5th December – Menphy's Christmas Carol Concert

EYFS Christmas Play: Wednesday 10th December and Thursday 11th December 10am

KS1 Christmas Play: Tuesday 9th December at 10am and Wednesday 10th December at 5.00pm

Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day: Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Disco Day: Thursday 18th December

Christmas Raffle: Friday 19th December



School Closes for Christmas: Friday 19th December 1:30pm



Warning Zone Workshop

All our Year 5 classes had a visit from staff at Warning Zone. The children learnt about 'Tools for their Toolkit' that they could use in different situations to keep them safe and make informed choices. The children gave well thought out and sensible answers to questions to the example situations given to them.



A message from Craig at Warning Zone:

Your children were absolutely lovely, and so keen to take part. Their deduction skills were working full steam ahead and they came up with plenty of insightful and funny comments about the situations we discussed. It was a pleasure to work with them all.

Please pass on my thanks to the staff too for being so welcoming and helpful.
Many thanks,
Craig

[About Warning Zone – Warning Zone](#)



Exciting News! We're Going Green!

We're thrilled to announce that we've joined the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign on a mission to become a zero-carbon school by 2030! 🌍 Get ready for exciting eco-projects and ways your family can get involved—let's make a difference together! ✨ If you have any ideas or want to take part in our eco-projects, come and see Mrs. Dushan after school on Monday or Tuesday! 💡

Green tips of the month!

Become a 'Bug Hotel Architect'! 🐞
Create a cozy home for garden critters using natural materials from your garden!

•**Carry a Bottle!** 💧 Try to DITCH your plastic bottle and use a metal water bottle to help reduce plastic waste!

Let's make a difference together! ✨



Young Change
maker in
Action –
Humaira
Year 6

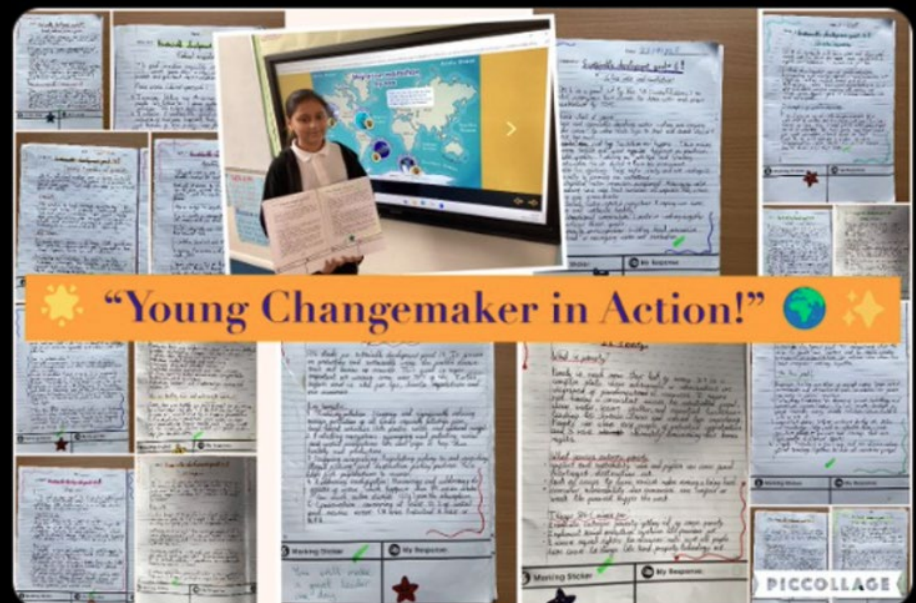


Sacred Heart CVA @SHeartCVA · Nov 4

🎉👏 WOW! One of our incredible Year 6 amazed us today!

🌍 They spent time at home exploring UN Sustainable Development Goals 🌱 wrote pages of inspiring ideas to share! 📝💡 Such amazing curiosity, and commitment to making the world a better place! 🌟🌍💪

#EcoSchoolsEngland



Eco Super Assembly! 🤖

Our Eco Champions, Laudato Si, and Energy Rangers presented an inspiring video from Merijn Tinga, the 'Plastic Soup Surfer,' encouraging us to cut our carbon 🌍 and be more plastic clever! 🌊 The assembly was incredible, with our students engaging deeply and asking thought-provoking questions about plastic waste! ♻️ ✨



Will send on Fri, Nov 28, 2025 at 8:00 AM

Our Eco Champions, Laudato Si& Energy Rangers shared an inspiring video from Merijn Tinga, the 'Plastic Soup Surfer,' encouraging us to be more plastic clever! 🌍 The assembly was a hit, with students asking thought-provoking questions about plastic waste! ♻️ ✨ #EcoSchoolsEngland



Our amazing children have created their own Eco Code! 🎵 ✨
Check out their rap in this video <https://x.com/SHeartCVA>—together, we
can make a difference! 🌍



✔ **Eco-Schools Update!**




Our achievements are now live on the Eco-Schools website 🌍 ✨ Sacred Heart proudly holds **Green Flag with Distinction** for 2023 and 2025! We're aiming for another distinction this year—if you have ideas or can help (even for 10 minutes), please see Mrs. Dushan after school. <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Achievements

Great work so far, Sacred Heart

This is where you can view the Eco-Schools Green Flags that your school has achieved.

Your Previous Eco-Schools Green Flags

<div>points earned 235</div> <div></div> <div>Green Flag with Distinction</div> <div>2025</div>	<div>points earned 225</div> <div></div> <div>Green Flag with Distinction</div> <div>2023</div>	<div>points earned 153</div> <div></div> <div>Green Flag with Merit</div> <div>2022</div>
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Christmas at Sacred Heart

- **Christmas Jumper Day**

Our annual Christmas jumper day is set to happen on **Wednesday 17th December**. We encourage everyone to wear their silliest, most Christmassy jumper to spread the fun and joy this holiday season. In support of a worthy cause, we kindly request a £1 donation. All money should be handed in to your child's class teacher.

- **Christmas Dinner Day**

Thanks to an incredibly generous Donation from SVP at Sacred Heart church **ALL** the children at Sacred Heart will have their Christmas dinner **on Wednesday 17th December PAID FOR !!!** So even if you usually have packed lunches, please join us for dinner on that day!!!

- **Christmas Disco**

Discos are here again! Get ready for some festive fun on the dancefloor!!!!

Disco day for everyone is on Thursday 18th December

This will be non-uniform, so please come dressed in your finest attire – think glad rags, glitterballs, fancy shirts, and dancing shoes!

We kindly ask for a **£1 donation**, which can be handed in to your child's class teacher on the day of their disco.

During the discos, our dedicated *Disco Divas* have arranged numerous Christmassy surprises for everyone to enjoy.

- **Christmas Raffle (To be held in school on Friday 19th December)**

You will notice our wonderful staff members selling raffle tickets for our annual **"CRAZY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE"**. Prizes have started to arrive at school (donated by staff at Sacred Heart) and there are LOTS of very exciting prizes up for grabs this year!!

Be in it to WIN IT!!!!

Tickets are priced at **10p each**
OR 50p for a strip.

- **"Name the Christmas Bear".**

Think of the most creative, imaginative, Christmassy name and be in with a chance

Name to be revealed on **Friday 19th December.**
20p a guess – add as many names as you like!!!!!!

Roblox

Children will no longer be able to chat to adult strangers on Roblox - one of the world's most popular gaming platforms - as part of an expansion of its safety measures. Mandatory age checks will be introduced for accounts using chat features, starting in December for Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands, then the rest of the globe from January.

Click on the below link for news to the updated safety measures for Roblox users!

[Roblox blocks children from chatting to adult strangers - BBC News](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



The National College®



**Mrs Sharma runs FREE English
classes for our parents**

FREE English Classes



**Friends and family of our school
community are more than welcome
to join.**

Starting Wednesday 5th November

Wednesday afternoons 2.30 – 3.15pm
Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy
Mere Close, Leicester, LE5 3HH
Tel: 01162624418
Email: office@sacredheart.leicester.sch.uk



Open Hands



The Food Store

Emergency Provision & Affordable Shopping. Our Food Store exists to help those with restricted or no financial means to access food on receipt of a referral.

What do we offer?

Our food bank is set up like a small shop. With the guidance of our volunteers, those referred are equipped to make choices for themselves regarding the food that they receive.

The Open Hands Food Store offers essential goods such as UHT milk, tea, cereal, pasta, soup, baked beans, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, and other cupboard items. Each week the store has a variety of different extras such as flour, coffee, oil, bakery, refrigerated and frozen goods. These vary depending on the donations that Open Hands receives.

We aim to take our clients on a journey towards independence, whereby people learn to reserve money for food as part of their budget.

To support this goal, we offer **emergency crisis support (no cost)** and **affordable shopping (half retail prices)** services:

Emergency Food Provision – Crisis Support (no cost)

Our Emergency Food Store is for individuals who have no financial means to pay for food. Households can be referred for a maximum of 6 consecutive weekly visits (1 per week, each visit provides access to one week's worth of food for the household at no cost). This gives people the time to process a benefits application where eligible, and/or seek additional help with money, budget management or other professional support.

After this 6-week period clients will be given the opportunity to transfer to our affordable shopping service (outlined above).

Please note that referred individuals living in fully catered accommodation (e.g. hotels and hostels) are not eligible for this service.





Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

We're excited to let you know that **bookings are now open for our Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and Holiday Scheme** at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

To help us reach as many families as possible, we'd be grateful if you could **share our updated posters** with parents and carers through your usual channels (email, newsletters, noticeboards, or social media).

For more details and bookings, please visit:

<https://eequ.org/leicesteroutdoorpursuitscentre>

<https://www.lopc.co.uk/childcare/holiday-scheme/>

Thank you again for your continued support – it makes a huge difference to the families we serve!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

**3 DAYS WITH A 1 DAY
HAMPER (MON 22ND/TUES
23RD/WED 24TH)**

OR

**4 HOURS FOR 4 DAYS (MON
29TH/TUES 30TH/WED
31ST/FRI 2ND)**



#HAF2025



Department
for Education



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK NOW!