



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for all your valued conversations during parents' night last night. It's so important to have a strong link between home and school and staff have commented on the positivity and supportive attitude of our parents and carers. Research has shown that when parents and teachers have strong relationships, children get many academic and social benefits such as regular school attendance, improved attainment, a positive attitude towards school and a general sense of wellbeing (to name a few!). We know that Covid has prevented parents from getting into classrooms and out on school trips, but we are really grateful to know that you are still enthusiastic and interested to hear about school life and we very much look forward to opening our doors to you again!

School Updates

Covid Updates

Thank you for supporting our school to be a safe place by wearing face coverings at pick up and drop off and by distancing from other households.

We ask that only one adult accompanies their child to school in the morning/collects their child in the afternoon. This is to avoid overcrowding in the playground.

Please note that if you receive a 'warn and inform' letter in your email, this does not mean that your child has been identified as a close contact. It means that a case of confirmed COVID-19 has been reported in a person with links to Sacred Heart Primary School.

Trace and Protect will contact any close contacts accordingly. If you are not contacted by Trace and Protect, your child can attend school/nursery as normal.

During this time, we continue to encourage our whole school community to be vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19, and understand what actions should be taken if someone develops them, either onsite or offsite

Contingency Planning

Part of our contingency planning may need to involve some classes moving to remote learning for a short period of time. This decision is never taken lightly, and would always be in consultation with Midlothian Council and the Health Protection Team.

ParentPay

All payments to school must be made via ParentPay (this includes milk, pantomime, residentials, trips, to name a few). If you have still to activate your account we ask that you please do so as soon as possible. If you require any assistance with set up or have perhaps misplaced the activation letter providing user details, please contact the school office.

Pantomime

Thank you if you have returned your child's form and confirmed payment via ParentPay. If you have not already done so, please ensure your child's completed PC form is returned to school by Tuesday 21 September with **payment on ParentPay no later than Monday 27 September**. If you require financial assistance, please contact the school office as soon as possible to discuss.

P1-P4 Friday Packed Lunches - Thank you to those who have completed the form to opt out of Friday lunches, this has been noted accordingly and passed to the kitchen. If you do not require a packed lunch for your child on a Friday, please complete our online form by clicking the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/GJhJ3vgQC2>

Rag Bag Collection - Monday 27 September - We are pleased to confirm our first rag bag collection of the school session. Empty bags have been sent home and we ask these are **returned to school on Monday 27 September only** (unfortunately we do not have anywhere to store them prior to this). Thank you for your support.

Free School Meals

Children from P5-P7 who are entitled to Free School Meals will continue to receive a BACs transfer until further notice.

If you have a child in P1-P7 and have not yet applied for free school meals, please do so. Pupils can also receive free milk each day and clothing grants so even if your child is in P1-4 and automatically receives a free lunch, completion of the application could support with free milk and uniform.

Further information can be found at

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants

September Holiday

A wee reminder that Monday 20th September is a holiday so school will be closed on this day. School reopens on Tuesday 21st September, with breakfast club from 8am as normal.

PE

At this time PE changing rooms remain closed and children will not be encouraged to change for PE. **We advise that on the days children have PE, they come to school dressed in sportswear.**

Class PE days are as follows:

P1/2: Wednesday

P2/3: Monday (previously Tuesday)

P4: Thursday

P5: Tuesday

P6: Wednesday

P7: Wednesday

Nut-Free Snacks

Due to severe nut allergies at our school, please do not send your child to school with snacks or lunch items containing nuts. This includes, but is not limited to, Kinder Buenos, Nutella, Daim bars and peanut butter. Please note that any snacks with nuts in them will be sent home with the child.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available to all learners from Nursery to Primary 7 and will be free of charge due to our partnership with the Gregg's Foundation. Toast and cereal will be available. Please note that in order to comply with current restrictions, pupils will be required to sit in their classes.

Breakfast Club opens at 8am and children should enter via the main office door. No pre booking is required. Last entry into breakfast club is 8.35am.



Flu Vaccinations

Please note that flu vaccinations will take place for Primary 1 - Primary 7 on Wednesday 17th November. Further information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/childflu

Staffing Update

As per the letter sent out on 15th September, we have a number of staffing updates:

Ms O'Rourke will join us to support our learnings across the school until the October break in the first instance.

Ms Learmonth has been off school due to a family bereavement, but we look forward to seeing her again soon.

Miss Downing will not be returning to her post as P2/3 teacher; we look forward to welcoming P2/3's new class teacher in the coming weeks.

Andrew has joined us as our new caretaker at school; he has settled in exceptionally well and is already hard at work, helping our school to be the best it can be!

Meet the Teacher

Presentations from our Meet the Teacher event have been sent via email. Please note that we have not sent a presentation to P2/3 parents but we will arrange a new Meet the Teacher event with the new class teacher once they have started with us. Further information will follow.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place on Friday 24th September. Pupils are invited to wear something green to school on this day and make a donation if they wish.

Class Updates:

Nursery

This week the children have been continuing to make kites, as well as discussing what resources they need and the lovely designs they have been making – the children have also recognised what weather is best for flying kites. This has then prompted discussions about the changing weather and signs of autumn – the children were able to recognise that the leaves change colour and they also collected some leaves for our seasonal birthday display.

The children have also been learning to risk assess their own learning and play experiences while we are in the outdoor environment- we have been looking at the risks we might see in the outdoors such as inedible berries, glass and dog poo. The children could identify that we shouldn't touch or eat these things and they could also recognise that if they found edible berries they should be cleaned prior to eating. We have made a visual risk assessment book and will continue to discuss this with the children as we explore the outdoor environment.

Some of the children could show their story recalling skills as they spent time in the garden re-enacting 'We're going on a bear hunt' story. The children were able to retell the story as they role played it out in the garden. The children also added their own parts to the story as well, such as coming across

a mountain that they had to go over instead of through/under. We are planning to look at this story as our story of the moment over the next couple of weeks

P1/2

Primary 1/2 have been hard at work this week! In Literacy, P1 have learned 3 new sounds (t, i & n) and have started blending their sounds together to make words! P2 have been working on their reading and writing skills again this week and have been using materials such as play-doh and scrabble tiles to practise their spelling too. We have been looking at 3D shapes and their properties in Maths this week and the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm towards this by pointing out the different shapes that they find across the school whenever they see them!

Next week, Primary 1 will be continuing to work on number formation while also practising counting forwards and backwards and recognising the missing number in a number sequence. Primary 2 will be working on addition and subtraction, using concrete materials to support with this. We will also be beginning our new topic 'Looking After our Local Community' next week - it should be lots of fun!

P2/3

P2/3 have been so focused and very motivated this week! Miss Chidgey and Mrs Cran have been blown away by their positive attitudes to learning and their determination to get their names on the recognition board each day! We have been continuing our Read Write Inc learning and have been developing our use of capital letters and full stops in our writing. In numeracy, we have been learning to partition numbers into tens and ones and to recombine them again. This has been pretty tricky for us but some of us have even challenged ourselves to partition much bigger numbers! We will continue our learning of partitioning next week, and revise the number before, after and between. In our IDL learning, we have been learning about the rainforests and have drawn our own pictures of the rainforest to show the different layers. We are really looking forward to meeting our new teacher, who we hope will visit us next week and are excited to get to know them and for them to see how brilliant we are!

P4

This week in Primary 4 we finally began to write our very own adventure stories! We have been using our novel study on 'The Legend of Podkin One-Ear' as inspiration for our creating our own fantasy world, creating character and setting descriptions, and using this to plan and create our story. We are hoping to be able to send them to the author of Podkin, Kieran Larwood, when we are finished. In numeracy we have been continuing to work on our number sequences, number structures and the relationships between numbers. We have also looked at different addition strategies that involve splitting numbers into tens and ones and we found this really helpful. We're going to try to apply it to adding over 100 next! We have also finished looking at patterns in our topic maths. However, we are going to keep returning to it throughout the year to revise our times tables.

In PE we have continued to develop a range of skills to play netball. This week we revised the three different throws we have learned so far – chest pass, bounce pass and overhead throw. We have started to use these in small games of netball using a bench. We have really enjoyed this and are hoping to play more games next week.

In RE we looked at the liturgical calendar. We found out that different times of the year are represented by different colours, and that these colours are used in Church and on our class altar during these times.

In Science we have been busy looking at the difference between man-made and natural materials. After looking at the properties of these, we went into the playground to see how many different materials we could find and had a go at describing the properties. We felt like real scientists!

P5

In Literacy we have continued our novel study based on Anne Fine's story 'Bill's New Frock. We have completed our character description based on the character Bill Simpson. We have been learning how to proofread our work to help us find mistakes. We were given a passage that was missing capital letters, commas, full stops and had spelling errors. Our job was to read over it and identify any mistakes that we could find. This will help us with proofreading our own work in the future.

In numeracy we have been focusing on multiplication and division. We have the class signed up to Times Table Rockstars and we have been playing lots of different games to help us improve our multiplication/division skills. Next week we are going to return to fractions.

We have been taking full advantage of every pupil in the class having their own Chromebook. We have been learning how to program using the programming language Scratch. In P3, Mr. Smith taught us how to use Scratch Jr so we have loved the challenge of learning a harder version of the language.

P6

We have had a lovely week in P6 this week. In literacy we have continued our novel study and used this as a context for writing a newspaper report. We have been reading newspaper articles and thinking about interesting headlines for our own articles. Next week for literacy we will be looking at poems and creating a poem about a fox. In numeracy we have been working on subtraction before moving on to multiplication. We will continue to work on the four operations next week. For science we were working on circuits again and learning about the symbols that represent the different components of a circuit. We will learn how to draw a working circuit next week. In PE we have continued playing cricket and will be practicing our bowling more next week. We will also be looking to create some fox art next week.

P7

Primary 7 have had a busy week continuing with their novel study. They have now successfully written their news article and are ready for the next chapter of the book where they will work on their reading comprehension skills to gain a sound understanding of the plot, characters and setting. We will also be focusing on features of letter writing and using this to write to one of the characters in the story. In numeracy, the children have completed their work on rounding numbers and estimating answers to calculations and will now move on to addition and subtraction learning. Primary 7 have also been busy creating art work for a local display, "Let Penicuik Flourish", at St James the Less Church. They have been thinking about ways to care for themselves and others both physically and mentally. There will be handouts with more information if you wish to go and see the display. We are also continuing on with our house captain learning as we look at different voting systems and begin writing a paragraph to persuade younger children to vote for them in our school election (please note that the children do not have to run for house captain if they do not wish to but they will still take part in the learning leading up to this).

Kind regards,



Anna Chidgey
Headteacher