



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you enjoyed your long weekend. It was great to hear about all the exciting things our learners got up to! It was straight back to learning from Tuesday though, and children got back into the swing of things very quickly. It is remarkable to see the progress being made in each of the classes, and learners are becoming more confident in speaking about their learning too. Please continue to have conversations about learning at home with your child as it is definitely having an impact on their attitudes to learning at school!

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 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>

Nursery – Clothes Returns/Donations

If your child has been sent home from nursery in a spare set of clothes, please return them to nursery as soon as possible as we are running low! Similarly, if you have any nursery child-aged clothes at home that you no longer need, we'd be really grateful if you could donate them to nursery to add to our collection. We're especially short of pants, trousers/leggings. They can simply be handed to one of the staff at the nursery gate or given to the main school office.

Rag Bag Collection

A quick reminder that Rag Bags should be returned to school on Monday 27 September. Bags can be brought to the front office or can be sent in to classes with learners. If at all possible, please drop bags off at pick up and drop off rather than over the course of the school day. 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

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

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

We are delighted to have Ms Learmonth back to school this week. Support for learning will commence in the coming weeks. Parents will be notified by letter or phone call.

P2/3 were very excited to meet their new teacher, Mr Forshaw, who will join the staff team on Monday 27th September. Mr Forshaw already has some fabulous ideas of exciting things to do with P2/3 and he loved getting to know the learners during his visit on Thursday.

Ms O' Rourke joined us on Monday and will stay with us until the October break in the first instance. She will be working with small groups of learners either in class or in breakout spaces around the school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to you all for your support for Macmillan today (Friday 24th September). The school was a sea of green! We are delighted to share that we raised a total of £212.35! Well done everybody!

Class Updates:

Nursery

This week we have been taking part in learning experiences related to our story of the moment- 'We're going on a bear hunt.' The children participated in a yoga session based around the events of the bear hunt and this gave children the opportunity to have a go at a variety of stretches and yoga poses while relating this to a well-known story. We have also been making story sticks where children have been drawing the characters of the story and gluing these onto wooden lolly sticks – when they are ready the children can use these to retell the story themselves or with their peers.

The children have been exploring insects and bugs this week as they have been sharing what they know about them. Some of the children could identify the names of the mini beasts they were seeing and could use their developing numeracy skills to count how many legs they have. There has been a lot of daddy long legs around at the moment and the children have identified these as "it's a daddy long legs, it's just a flying spider."

The children have also been talking about who is in family, some of the children have been drawing their own pictures of their family. If anyone has a family picture that you would be happy for your child to bring in we would love to see these. This way the children can have a visual prompt while sharing who is in their family.

P1/2

It has been another busy week in Primary 1/2!

The class enjoyed a morning of Drama with Mrs Browne on Tuesday and were very excited to share what they had been learning. Primary 1 have learned 3 new sounds this week (p, g & o) and are always excited to find out what their new sound of the day is. Primary 2 have been working really hard to learn their spelling words this week and are showing a lot of enthusiasm and determination when practising. They have also been developing their reading skills and sight vocabulary in their Read Write Inc. groups.

As a class in maths, we have been consolidating our learning of 2D and 3D shapes and we can't believe how much we have learned about them!

Next week, P1 will be looking at number lines and where each number sits, as well as discussing numbers 'more than' and 'less than'. P2 will be focusing on doubles while continuing to build on their knowledge and understanding of number.

P2/3

A special highlight of the week for P2/3 was getting to meet their new teacher, Mr Forshaw. Mr Forshaw visited the class on Thursday and spent some time getting to know the learners and finding out what kinds of things they enjoyed.

In literacy, we have continued with our Read Write Inc learning, and we have been making excellent progress now that we are a bit more used to the structure! We have also been continuing to focus on using capital letters and full stops and to think more in sentences. We will continue to practice this until we are really confident.

In numeracy, we have been learning about numbers to 100 (and some of us to 1000 and beyond) and have been talking about the value of each digit in a number, as well as learning to write and read these numbers correctly. We also put our detective hats on as we tried to work out some missing numbers using clues, which was quite tricky, but lots of fun!

In our topic learning, we have continued to learn about the rainforest and spent some time comparing some of the animals in the rainforest to some of the animals that you'd find in the Scottish Highlands. We also had some more French learning with Mrs Sargison, where we learned how to tell how we are feeling, which we will continue to practice more and more in the classroom. We are all very excited to have Mr Forshaw as our teacher on Monday!

P4

Primary 4 have been lucky enough to get to know Ms O'Rourke this week while Mrs Rudkin has been off school. We have been really busy and have made Ms O'Rourke feel very welcome!

In literacy, we have been learning about personification and have been reading poems with lots of personification in them. We then learned about kennings with Ms Learmonth and wrote some amazing poems of our own using them – be sure to ask us all about this as we were very proud of the examples we came up with! We have also been learning about the water cycle and have been able to personify different weather types as part of this!

In numeracy, we have been learning about sequences of numbers and have been partitioning numbers into equal shares and have been identifying how many equal shares there were. Some of us found this a bit tricky, so we'll be revisiting this again!

In PE, we have continued with our netball learning and had the chance to apply a lot of our skills to netball games. We reflected on what we could do to improve our technique and practiced this within the games. In RE, we learned about the Pentecost Story. We are looking forward to having Mrs Rudkin back on Monday so we can tell her all about our busy week!

P5

In Literacy we have been learning about sentence structures. We have been primarily focusing on simple sentences and complex sentences. We have learned about conjunctions and how they act as glue to connect two independent clauses together. We learned about coordinating conjunctions and used the acronym FANBOYS (for – and – nor – but – or – yet – so) to help us remember them.

In Numeracy we have continued to focus learning about multiplication and division. We have been taking part in the Times Table Rockstars 'Scotland Rocks 2021' competition. Competing in the competition has given us lots of opportunity to practice our times tables. We also took part in a Times Tables treasure hunt, which we all really enjoyed. We had to answer a series of multiplication questions and hunt for the answer around the upper school building. Each answer had a corresponding letter attached to it. Next week we are going to use our knowledge of multiplication and division to help us learn how to find a fraction of a quantity.

We have continued this week to learn how to use Scratch. We have learned about avatars and how we can use the different features within Scratch to help us move them across the screen

P6

It has been a lovely week in P6 this week. Everyone came back refreshed from their long weekend and have worked hard in class. We have continued reading *The Midnight Fox* and the children have enjoyed discussing different elements of the story as well as creating a newspaper report. Next week in literacy we will be reading and memorising a short story called 'The Canal'. We will use this as our context for grammar and writing over the week. In numeracy, we have continued working on the four operations and this will carry on into next week. For PE we focused on fielding in cricket, emphasising the importance of retrieving the ball quickly and throwing accurately. We also started working on some fox art that will be displayed in the classroom once finished. Next week we will start to look at accuracy with the bat in cricket and will begin our new topic on life in Edinburgh throughout the years.

P7

Primary 7 have been learning the features of persuasive texts and have begun planning their own persuasive writing for the house captain election. Next week they will carry out their extended persuasive writing piece using what they have been learning and their plan to help them. We will also begin our talk for writing where we will learn a journey story called 'The Canal'. The children will be learning the story through drama, discussion and by reciting it to one another. We will explore aspects of grammar including: inference, fronted adverbials and sentence structure. In maths, we will be continuing with addition and subtraction strategies and word problems. The children have worked extremely hard on their TTRS tournament this week and have placed in the top 20 schools in Scotland - well done everyone. Next week as part of Maths week, we have entered into a Sumdog tournament so I'm sure they will be keen to keep up the good work and climb the leader board! We will also be doing daily maths games and activities to celebrate and mark maths week. In P.E, the children will be planning and preparing a sequence of gymnastic movements to present to their peers as well as learning team building skills in cricket.

Kind regards,



Anna Chidgey
Headteacher