



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer

October already! Today marks the final day of Maths Week Scotland, where our classes have enjoyed lots of fun maths activities inside their classrooms, around the school and outside in the playground and field areas. It has been great to see how excited the children have been about their learning and everybody has engaged really well with their activities and really enjoyed the lessons. All classes have also introduced a new literacy programme called ‘Talk for Writing’; you’ll hear about the kinds of things the children have been doing in the class updates below.

## 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.

### **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**

We are still awaiting the return of some clothes from nursery. If your child has been sent home in a spare set of clothes, please return them to nursery as soon as possible.

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.

Thank you so much to all the families who have already made a donation of clothes to us – it is a huge help!

### **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](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants)

### **Food Bank**

If you feel your family would benefit from a food bank delivery, please contact the school office to discuss this further. Please note that all calls will be taken in confidence.

### **Nursery Parent Consultations**

Nursery Parent Consultations will begin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. If you have not yet arranged a time to speak with your child's key worker, please speak to the member of staff on the gate at pick up or drop off.

### **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

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> November. Further information can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/childflu](http://www.nhsinform.scot/childflu)

## **NHS Anxiety Workshops**

NHS Lothian are running more workshops for parents and carers about anxiety in children and young people. There are number of possible dates and all workshops are virtual. Feedback from the previous workshops that were run was very positive.

Further information will be sent via email.

## **Labelling Uniform**

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. There are a number of school jumpers that are yet to be reunited with their owners, particularly in P1/2/3/4. If you believe your child is missing a jumper, please get in touch with the school office.

## **Weather – Nursery Notice**

Please ensure your child has (labelled!) wellies and waterproofs at Nursery for times when we go outside in wet/cold weather. We are planning on visiting the woods in the coming weeks, so wellies and waterproofs will be necessary for this. If you are unable to provide your child with outdoor wear, please speak to a member of staff on the gate at pick up or drop off.

## **Weather – Primary School Notice**

As the weather starts to change, we ask that all children are sent to school with appropriate outer layers to ensure they keep dry and warm during times outdoors. We aim to get the children outside at playtime and lunchtime even if it is a bit wet and blustery and will only keep them indoors in inclement weather. Our outdoor space has not yet been refurbished, so it is likely that children will get muddy when playing, so an outer layer of waterproof trousers and wellies or other suitable footwear is very much encouraged.

## **Staffing Update**

Mr Forshaw has settled in remarkably well to the Sacred Heart family and the feedback from the P2/3 children is very positive! 'You're the best teacher' and 'I love you' have been overheard coming from the classroom at different points across the week, so we are delighted that it has been such a positive start for them all.

Ms O'Rourke has been enjoying working within the different classrooms, as well as taking some groups out for lessons. Children have been really enjoying her lessons and have already showed determination to make excellent progress during their time working with her.

## Family Holidays

We understand that some families have been going on holidays during term time due to previous cancellations due to Covid and due to parental holidays from work. We understand that holidays during term time can sometimes be unavoidable, but we ask that you do inform the school office of the days that your child will be absent from school and their expected date of return.

This will also mean that we won't text or phone you while on holidays to find out why your child is absent! Please note that as per council policy, unless in exceptional circumstances, these holidays will be marked as 'unauthorised'.

## Parent Partnership

Our Parent Partnership AGM will be held virtually online on Wednesday 13 October at 6.30pm. All parent/carers are welcome to join.

Please find link below to join the meeting on the evening. Please note, you will be held in a 'waiting room' until the host allows access to the meeting on the date and time stated.

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YWQ3N2Y3NzMtM2RlMjY0OONGEOLThjYzMtMDRiMGViZTliMGZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22e27df13b-35b9-49c5-828d-56d763c86551%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWQ3N2Y3NzMtM2RlMjY0OONGEOLThjYzMtMDRiMGViZTliMGZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22e27df13b-35b9-49c5-828d-56d763c86551%22%7d)

## 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.

## Residentials

A reminder that the following residential trips have been planned for our primary school children. The date of the residentials and proposed venue have also been added, for your information. Please note that while these are 'pencilled in', and temporary bookings have been made, they are subject to change.

If you wish for your child to attend a residential trip this year, we encourage you to start adding money to your parent pay account as 'savings'. This can be done by clicking 'Active Payment Items', viewing your balance and adding funds using bank transfer. We understand that some of these camps are quite expensive, and we ask that if you feel you will have difficulty financing the camp for your child or children, please contact the school office.

Stage	Proposed Venue	Proposed Dates	Length of residential	Approximate cost (excluding transport)
P1	educational visits (day trips) over the course of the year – tbc			
P2	Bonaly Scout Centre	10th May	one day trip (no overnight)	£40
P3	Alison Cargill House, Haddington	1 <sup>st</sup> June	1 night residential	£60
P4	Bonaly Scout Centre	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> May	2 night residential	£200
P5	Benmore	13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> June	4 night residential	£350
P6	Benmore	13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> June	4 night residential	£350
P7	Lockerbie	25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> April	4 night residential (Cluster Camp)	£328

## **Class Updates:**

### **Nursery**

This week we were very lucky to have a visitor from the library! Linda from bookbug came and read us some lovely stories in the nursery garden. There was a song story about the whales on the bus (\*wheels on the bus) which the children joined in with, singing about all the animals on various modes of transport and then we had a counting story called 10 little pirates where the children showed us their counting skills. Linda asked which books the children would like to hear next week and they picked a book about a princess and one about a dragon.

The children have also been learning about Autumn, recognising the seasonal changes in the world around us. The children have had the opportunity to explore a 3D Talking Thinking tub where they had discussions about pictures and resources related to the season such as pinecones, leaves and pictures of the night sky. While exploring this, the children could identify which season we were in and could recognise events that occurred in Autumn using the talking thinking tub provocations. One of the pictures that the children looked at was pumpkins, the children discussed what we use pumpkins for and wondered if we could eat them, we are looking forward to researching this further and finding out what we can make with pumpkins. The children also had discussions about phones having torches and the children wondered if every phone had a torch, we will continue to explore this further.

### **P1/2**

This week Primary 1/2 have been busy learning the story of 'Quackling' and practising re-telling it by using a story map and actions. It has been a little bit tricky at times but we are doing a fantastic job! We have been celebrating Maths Week Scotland by using lots of new games to support our learning and discovering all new ways of using resources such as numicon to help us learn. We have also been exploring our new maths focus on measure and enjoyed finding new and creative ways of measuring classroom objects. P1 learned the sounds c, k, u & b this week.

Next week as part of our topic work we will be learning all about the importance of recycling and discussing how we can improve our local environment by doing it. We will be continuing to practise counting forwards and backwards in numeracy every day as well as exploring the language of measure in maths with a focus on length. In literacy, P1 will be learning their new sounds and using them to build words. P2 will be continuing to develop their reading and writing skills in their groups as well as learning their new spelling words for the week.

### **P2/3**

We have had a fantastic week in P2/3. It has been my first week with the class and I hope the children have enjoyed it as much as I have.

This week has been 'Maths Week', so we have spent a lot of time doing really fun maths activities. We have been learning all about 2D shapes and 3D objects, through practical tasks and games. One of the lessons that we particularly enjoyed was going outside to find sticks to create our shape pictures. In literacy, we introduced a new story called 'Quackling'.

On Monday, Mr Forshaw had a bag full of objects and we had to try and work out what the story was about. As a class we have been working hard to create actions to help us remember the story and working in small groups to act the story out and then perform this back to the class. Alongside this, we have continued with Read Write Inc learning and focusing on writing sentences using capital letters and full stops. Mr Forshaw has been very impressed with our fantastic learning. In our topic, we became researchers and had to study books to look for information on different animals. We then created a fact file to describe a specific animal. Mr Forshaw is looking forward to continuing to work with such a fantastic class and we can't wait to continue our learning about the story 'Quackling'.

#### **P4**

This week in Primary 4 we have been learning our version of Little Red Riding Hood as part of our new 'Talk for Writing' programme. This was tricky at first, but when we started to use actions and create our story map with pictures this really helped us. We have then used this to help us write some interesting sentences.

In maths we have been celebrating Maths Week by using different maths and numeracy skills to create our very own theme parks. First of all we used our skills in measure to plot out areas of our map for the different rides and attractions. Secondly, we used our knowledge of money and addition to work out how much money we had spent on the various parts of the park. Finally, we used our skills in subtraction to work out how much of our budget was left. We really enjoyed creating our theme parks and are excited about making posters for them on Friday.

In PE we finished our block of netball. We had 4 teams and played each other in a tournament. Although some of us found it difficult to lose at first, we discussed what it means to be a good sportsperson and were able to congratulate each other at the end of the matches.

We have also been busy working on our topic on Scottish Castles. We had a look at the first type of Scottish Castle and then drew a picture of it, then we created a timeline of famous Scottish Castles for our display in the classroom.

Finally, we have started our new class novel which is 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.' We are really enjoying the story so far and are using our novel time to write down any interesting vocabulary we hear into our 'Magpie Books' to help us with our own story writing.

#### **P5**

In literacy we began our first 'Talk for Writing' Unit. This week is the 'imitation' stage and we have been learning to retell and recite the story 'Little Red Riding Hood.' We have also been learning how to punctuate speech currently, add in action clauses and learn how to include fronted adverbials within our writing. Next week is the 'Innovation' stage and we are going to be adapting the text using our own ideas. We have discussed possibly creating our own modern day version of Little Red Riding Hood set in Penicuik.

This week in numeracy we have been learning about fractions. We have learned how to find a fraction of an amount. To help us visualise the concept we learned how to use the 'Singapore Bar Method.' Now that we are confident in finding the fraction of a quantity we are going to move on to solving worded problems. Next week we are going to move on to learning how to simplify fractions.

#### **P6**

It has been Maths Week Scotland this week and the children have been busy working on a Sumdog Maths Week Scotland contest each day and have managed to make great progress. We have also done some outdoor learning, using measurement and division skills to find the age of some of the trees in the playground. As well as that, we started a new game called 'guess my number' where the children can only ask yes or no questions. This has led to some interesting conversations around the sort of questions to ask as well as a determination from the whole class to beat their record each time! Other than maths, we have started a new literacy topic based around a short story called 'The Canal'. The children are memorising the story and are using story maps to help them, as well as using the story as context for grammar and independent writing tasks. We were lucky that the only sunny day this week fell on PE day so we were able to get out and play cricket again. In RE, we have been discussing the creation story in the bible. Next week we will continue working on the four operations in numeracy as well as developing our own versions of The Canal in literacy. We will be starting to look at life in old Edinburgh through the years and looking further at the creation story. Weather permitting, PE will continue outside and the class will be learning French with Mrs Sargison on a Thursday and reading comprehension with Miss Learmonth on the same day.

## P7

In numeracy, we have been using the museum on the mound website to learn about probability and carry out some of the challenges. Primary 7 have mainly been doing probability games each day to make predictions and work out how likely certain outcomes are. For example, they were flipping a coin and working out the probability of heads and tails. They have also enjoyed taking part in the Sumdog tournament where they placed 51st out of over 2000 classes in Scotland - well done everyone!

This week, Primary 7 have engaged well with 'Talk for Writing' where they have created a picture map to help them retell the story of 'The Canal'. They have learned about inferencing, fronted adverbials and dramatic verbs. Next week we will continue building on this by using what we've learned to rewriting a journey story of our own. In maths, we will be continuing with TTRS, mental maths and subtraction work mainly focusing on word problems. Our house captain election will be held in school on Friday 8th October. The children will be busy preparing persuasive posters to encourage others to vote for them and to come to the 'polling station' to vote.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Chidgey". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

Anna Chidgey  
Headteacher