



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



Headteacher: Miss Anna Chidgey  
<http://sacredheart.mgfl.net>  
@sacredheart\_ps

22a Crockett Gardens, Penicuik, EH26 9BB  
0131 271 4665  
sacredheart\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Another busy week at Sacred Heart! Learners have been really engaging in their COP26 learning and some have even been making suggestions as to how we can make small changes as a school to help our environment. I am sure similar suggestions are being made at home, so hopefully, together, we can help clean up our planet one step at a time!

We have also had further drumming workshops for our Primary school children, which, as one of the rhythms suggests, ‘raised the roof right off’ the school (not really!). Our learners are thoroughly enjoying these sessions and will start to put together their own performances in the coming weeks, which we look forward to sharing with you.

## School Updates

### **Covid Updates**

Please be reminded that if your child displays symptoms of coronavirus (continuous cough, fever, loss of taste or smell), the guidance is that a PCR test is completed. All members of the household should isolate until the test result comes back. Please consult the NHS Inform website for further guidance: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

### **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.

### **School Photographs**

Please return photo orders with appropriate payment to school by Friday 19 November. Payment details are noted on the photo proof.

### **P1-P7 School Lunches**

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, we are delighted to share that we will be in a position to offer P1-P7 pupils two hot meal options and one cold meal option at lunchtime each day. Lunches will cost £2.10 per child. Payment must be made in advance on Parent Pay. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept cash or cheque payments.

Menus of meals available are attached to the weekly update. Next week will follow the week 3 menu.

Any child who wishes to continue bringing a packed lunch is, of course, welcome to do so.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Following the introduction of Natasha’s Law, please be aware it is **essential** you advise the school should your child have a medically prescribed diet or any intolerance or allergen requirements.

Now that all pupils will have the opportunity to receive a school lunch, we require this information for every child, regardless of whether they do or do not have any dietary requirements. Please complete the following link to advise us of any allergies/intolerances/dietary requirements. This form should be completed even if your child does not have any specific requirements and even if you have already advised the school of requirements.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/jTYvT9OEEe>

Parents/carers of learners with dietary requirements will be required to pre-order their child's lunches. Further communication to follow.

If we do not have this information, we will be required to contact parents by phone to confirm their child's lunch choice.

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a refillable water bottle. Water fountains are available throughout the school to ensure that children can top up when required. Drinking water aids concentration and supports learning and is very much encouraged.

### **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.

### **Odd Socks Day**



Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and this year it's taking place on Monday 15th November. We invite all children (and adults) to come to school wearing odd socks on this day. Wearing odd socks to school gives our learners an opportunity to express themselves and celebrate their individuality.

The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying, and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way. No donation required.

### **Poppies**

Thank you for supporting our poppy campaign. A large number of poppies were sold across all stages and generous donations were given by our learners and their families, which will be sent to Poppy Scotland.



### **School Start Times**

We are aware that there has been some confusion around school start times following the initial changes made at the beginning of the pandemic.

Please note that the school day for P1-P7 starts at 8.50. Teachers will come to collect their classes from the playgrounds at this time. If your child is not in the playground at this point, they will be required to enter the school through the main entrance and will be marked as late.

Attendance and Punctuality is closely monitored at Sacred Heart. Parents will be notified if their child's attendance or punctuality falls below expectation.

### **Children in Need**

All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 are invited to wear spots or something yellow on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November and make a donation to Children in Need if they wish.



## P2/3 and P5 Meet the Teacher

P2/3 and P5 Meet the Teacher will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. A letter has been sent out to all P2/3 and P5 parents with further information and with links for the sessions.

## Class Masses

Please note that individual classes will be going to mass on Fridays for the rest of the term. Please see the timetable below, which outlines when each class will go. We are also looking for parent volunteers to accompany us on these visits to mass. If you are available between 9 and 11 on the date that your child's class goes to mass, and you would like to be a parent helper, please contact the school office.

Date	Class
19/11	P7
26/11	P1/2
3/12	P2/3
10/12	P5

## Sacramental Preparations

Please note that Fr Tad has arranged parental information meetings for each of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These will take place in the St Margaret's Parish Hall in Loanhead. Sacramental Preparation will start in the New Year.

### Details as follows:

16th November – Sacramental Preparations Parents Meeting – **Reconciliation**

7.30pm @ St Margaret's Parish Hall

17th November – Sacramental Preparations Parents Meeting – **Communion**

7.30pm @ St Margaret's Parish Hall

18th November - Sacramental Preparations Parents Meeting – **Confirmation**

7.30pm @ St Margaret's Parish Hall

## Christmas Celebrations

Traditionally, we host a range of Christmas concerts both for our parents and carers and for members of the local community. We have taken the decision this year to complete our Christmas Concerts virtually in order to keep as many people safe as possible in the run up to what will hopefully be a more 'normal' time of celebration compared to last year. More information will follow on this.



## Virtual Christmas Concert

We are appealing to any parents/carers/members of the community who may have videoing/editing skills that could support us with the filming of our Christmas concert, as well as the editing process that follows.

If you feel that you have some expertise that you could share with us, please contact the school office so we can discuss further.

## Christmas Holidays

You may recall that the date for the Christmas holidays this session was up for consultation by Midlothian Council. Please note that Christmas holiday dates this session will remain the same as initially planned. Pupils will finish on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## Christmas Cards

Pupils are welcome to send cards to their teachers and peers this session. In the spirit of reducing waste, particularly with the topic of climate change is so prevalent with the COP26 summit taking place in Glasgow, we ask that pupils write one card to their whole class rather than individual cards; these will be displayed in classrooms for all to see.

## Reverse Advent

Similar to previous years, we will be hosting a 'Reverse Advent' to collect foods for local foodbanks in the run up to Christmas.

Reverse advent is the opposite of opening an advent calendar. Reverse advent calendars work by putting things in a box during the month of December instead. This can be items of food and other various products and these are then taken to a local food bank in order to help those that are struggling at Christmas time. Please note that this is an optional venture and only donate if you can.

More information to follow.

## Christmas Gifts

As much as teachers appreciate your generosity at Christmas time, we ask that if you have planned on buying a gift for a member of staff, please donate some food items to our Reverse Advent collection instead. This helps to ensure equity among our learners and their families while also supporting those in need with food hampers at Christmas time.

## 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: Thursday

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.

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)

## Uniform

Please be reminded that pupils are expected to come to school in full school uniform each day unless it is their PE day. Primary 7 are permitted to wear their P7 hoodies as their uniform jumper but no other hoodies are permitted in any year group.

School uniform looks slightly different according to the different classes:

P1-2: A maroon polo shirt, school jumper, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore, black/white socks and black shoes. A white shirt and tie can be worn if preferred

P3-6 A white shirt, tie, maroon v-necked jumper/cardigan, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore, black/white socks and black shoes.

P7: A white shirt, tie, maroon v-necked jumper/cardigan/leavers' hoody, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore, black/white socks and black shoes.

Please follow the link below to buy items from our school uniform supplier:

<https://sacredheart.imagescotland.com/shop>

If you require support in providing enough uniform for your child to wear to school each day, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are happy to help in any way that we can.

Please note that purchasing uniform with the sacred heart crest is completely optional, and you are welcome to purchase plain items without the school crest (at Tesco, Asda etc.) if you would prefer.

### 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.

### Coffee and Chat

Our first coffee and chat of the session will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am. This will be a virtual meeting. The meeting can be accessed by following the link below:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzcyNzllZWItMDlkMS00MjExLWI2MTQtOTY5NTRhMDRkYjNm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22d37602b2-fcaf-434e-b1f4-15705cb04e97%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzcyNzllZWItMDlkMS00MjExLWI2MTQtOTY5NTRhMDRkYjNm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22d37602b2-fcaf-434e-b1f4-15705cb04e97%22%7d)

### 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

The children have been learning about bonfire night and talking about how we can keep ourselves safe. This week we have been showing our developing fine motor skills and hand eye coordination as we have been doing some threading. The children have been using some beads and string to thread them one by one and some of the children have been making two colour and three colour patterns while doing this. Some of the children made some lovely necklaces with their beads and were looking to take these home, so the following day we adapted the beads to pasta and string so the children could decorate their own pasta pieces, thread them onto their string and take their finished pieces home.

We have been talking about Diwali which is the festival of light and this started on Thursday 4th November; the celebrations last for 5 days. While watching a video on the smartboard which helped us to learn what Diwali is – the children recognised that they make beautiful patterns called “Rangoli” using coloured rice and sand. The children wanted to have a go at making their own Rangoli designs so we made some coloured sand using food colouring and once it dried the children made their own beautiful Rangoli pictures, one of the children said “this one is a flower.”

The children picked their own Big Bedtime Read story bags this week and seemed very excited to choose these. The children had a go at mark making a circle round their chosen bag number and at matching the number on the bag to the number on their booklet. We hope you are enjoying your stories at home!

We are very excited to have someone new joining our Sacred Heart Nursery Team. Rebecca Conroy will be joining us from Monday 15th November. Rebecca is currently undertaking her modern apprenticeship and will be studying her SVQ alongside working in the setting with us. She came out for a visit this week and the children spent some time with Rebecca showing her around the nursery and sharing some of the things we have been learning. Over the coming weeks as Rebecca settles in, we will introduce her to all the nursery families so I am sure you will join us in welcoming her to the setting.

### P1/2

This week in Primary 1/2 we have continued with our Read Write Inc learning and have been showing lots of enthusiasm towards our reading and writing. We are making great progress with reading, recognising and writing our spelling words and Miss Maxwell has been so impressed. We have also been focusing on different nursery rhymes this term and we are enjoying using our imaginations to write ‘what happened next’ stories about the nursery rhymes we have learned. Primary 2 have been revising subtraction in numeracy and have also begun to look at place value. Primary 1 have been working on adding two collections together and are continuing to practise forming numbers to 20. We had lots of fun in drumming on Thursday and enjoyed learning the different rhythms.

Next week we will continue our PE focus of throwing and catching, playing lots of games to help us to develop our skills in this area. The children have been very inspired by our learning about COP26 and it has been lovely to hear about all of the different ways that they are trying to help our planet. We will be continuing to learn about this in the coming weeks. We have really enjoyed having Mrs Hodgkin in class with us so far this term and we are looking forward to her teaching us some more next week.

## **P2/3**

Primary 2/3 have had a fantastic week. In literacy we have been focusing on our novel study 'Flat Stanley' and have been learning about the perfect verb tense. We have also completed our instructional writing on how to fly a kite.

In numeracy we have continued to practice our times tables and have started to learn about subtraction. We have been using cubes to help us develop our understanding of the operation. We have also just started learning about fractions, which we will continue with next week.

In P.E we are continuing with developing rugby based skills. This is progressing nicely and we are building up to some non-contact small sided games.

Preparations for our Christmas songs have continued and all the children sound amazing. We have also continued to focus on COP26 and climate change and we have been looking at the impact rising temperatures could have on sea levels. We all participated in an experiment to look at the difference in water levels between melting sea ice and melting land ice. Well done P2/3 for all your fantastic work. Have a fantastic weekend!

## **P4**

This has been an exciting week for us in Primary 4! In literacy we completed our first writing task on our novel study, The Iron Man. We had to think reflectively about what other people would think when they saw The Iron Man fall from the cliff and use this in our writing. We have also been busy looking at comprehension and fronted adverbials to use in our writing in the future.

In maths we have continued to look at measure this week. We have been busy rounding to the nearest cm and using what we know about length to estimate the length of different objects in the classroom. Some of us were very close with our estimates! We also spent time during ICT this week to develop our knowledge of money as it is Talk Money Week. We then played some money games to show off our skills.

We have been busy this week rehearsing our Christmas songs. They are sounding fantastic and we can't wait for you to hear them!

Finally, in PE we have continued with our floor skills in gymnastics and our cross country running.

## **P5**

Another week has flown by and Primary 5 have achieved a lot! We have continued with our novel study and the children explored some of the wonderful vocabulary, enjoying the sounds of onomatopoeic words! We have examined the features of writing instructions and used this to plan some writing.

The children had another terrific drumming session and made an admirable effort with their cross country running.

In numeracy, we have continued to explore shape, looking at lines of symmetry. The children also engaged in some valuable discussion surrounding the Zones Of Regulation, exploring the different zones and what types of events may trigger them to move into different zones. Next week, we will further consider strategies to move into the different zones. The children have continued to learn their Christmas Carols and should be commended on their efforts! Well done to the Primary 5 readers who I believe have started to memorise their readings already!

## **P6**

This week in P6 we have been working on our novel study, reading all about Jim, in the novel Street Child. We have used what we have read to think about characterisation and the difference between showing and telling. We have applied this to our learning when writing a short piece about Jim going to the shop. In numeracy we have just completed a Times Tables Rock Stars assessment and Mr Hutchinson was very impressed with the progress we have all made with our times tables. We have also used our tables knowledge to help us when dividing larger numbers.

In PE we have continued working on fitness and put a lot of effort in on our cross country circuit, with some sore legs in class the day after! There was another session of drumming on Thursday and we are working towards a performance that will be videoed and sent out to everyone soon. On Friday we attended mass for the first time this year and it was great getting out and seeing everyone in the Sacred Heart community. Next week we will start learning fractions, decimals and percentages in numeracy, write a script in literacy and carry on with our Christmas singing practice, drumming practice and fitness practice.

## P7

Primary 7 have been enjoying reading our novel study 'War Horse' this week and using it as a basis to learn about different aspects of literacy including: parenthesis, words of cohesion and figurative language used in setting descriptions. Next week, they will begin learning about features of discursive writing with the vision of writing a discursive text about whether the main character, Albert, should/shouldn't have been allowed to sign up for the army.

In numeracy, the children have been working very hard to complete their work on the four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Next week, they will begin their learning on fractions. As part of our 'Science and Sustainability' topic, Primary 7 will have the chance to draw electric circuits using the correct symbols and then build their own using safe equipment. They will continue to learn about COP26 as we consider what the outcomes of it are and what we can do to live more sustainably. This also links to what they will be doing in French with Mrs Sargison - 'l'environnement' - where the children will be making posters about COP26. In P.E we will be continue with PALs on Monday with Danny and ball games on Wednesday, with the focus being netball.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Chidgey". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anna Chidgey  
Headteacher