



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Newsletter 1

September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support throughout the COVID period and since the reopening of schools in August.

It has been lovely to see the children come back to school enthusiastic to learn and excited to reconnect with their peers. They are full of lots of exciting stories of their time at home. Their resilience continues to be a strength throughout this.

Due to the guidelines, things are taking longer to get up and running than they would normally do and things will look a bit different; I thank you for your patience whilst we navigate through things.

I sent home a letter yesterday with regards to home learning. Home learning will be key in working together to ensure our children achieve their next steps. Teachers will be setting homework on a weekly basis, it will not be physically marked by the teacher but it will be checked weekly through discussions and conferencing with the learners to ensure we continue to move learning forwards. We are delighted to have allocated all our children in P5-7 their own chrome book which they are using to support their learning in class. Moving forwards we plan to use Google Classrooms to support home learning where appropriate.

Our refurbishment is well underway and it is starting to come together. I hope to provide you with an update of timescales and some sneak peak photos very soon!

Please can I remind all parents and carers that, unless it is urgent, you email the school in the first instance. This ensures that no messages are missed and that your query can be directed to the right person. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions, queries or ideas!

Kind regards,
Anna Chidgey

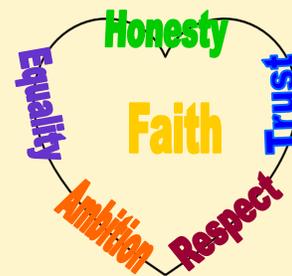
Vision, Values & Aims

Did you know that we have renewed our Vision, Values and Aims? We worked with a range of stakeholders last session to really try to reflect everyone's beliefs and opinions.

School Vision:

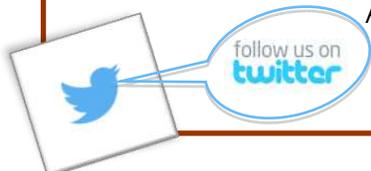
Aspire, Nurture, Learn, Achieve

School Values:



School Aims (child-friendly version):

- Provide a safe, nurturing learning environment
- Develop resilient, ambitious, creative and curious learners
- Support and challenge our learners
- Develop a 'can do' attitude in our learners
- Respect the rights of our learners



Class News

Nursery

Health and Wellbeing

The children have settled back into nursery very well. We have spent time working on our relationships with the children and they are working together to build on their own relationships with their peers. Our returning children have also been very welcoming to our new children that have joined the nursery over the past few weeks. They have all spent time exploring the environment both indoors and outdoors and we have been using their current interests and also what is going on in the world around us to inform our planning.



The world around us

We have been having discussions about what is going on the world around us currently. The children are showing an awareness of what has been happening and we have provided social stories to discuss it further. A big part we have focused on is hand washing and discussing why and when we have to wash our hands so often. We have watched a hand washing video which discusses the importance of hand washing, when we should do it and why, it also has a hand washing song for us to sing while we are washing our hands. The children are able to identify that “germs are tiny” so we are not able to see them and that even if we cannot see dirt or mess on our hands we still have to wash them.

Washing Hands Song

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash nasty germs away

If you don't you might get ill and that would spoil your day

(repeat several times)



Emotional Check In

It is so important for us to check in with how our children are feeling on a regular basis so each morning on their arrival they choose their name from the check in board and pop it beside the image that best describes how they are feeling that particular day, they are also able to change this throughout the day when their feelings change. This will open dialogue for us to discuss with the children what is making them feel this way. Previously to starting emotional check in we used the picture prompts to discuss with children how they thought the person in the picture was feeling, what tells us this and what might make us feel this way. The children are learning to express their feelings and have further discussions about this.

Treasure Maps ⇒ Jungles

The children have been interested in making treasure maps which led onto them using their maps to find “X marks the spot” in the jungle. We used the teabag method to make our maps look really old and then used them both indoors and outdoors to find the treasure. This opened up opportunities to use directional language and we will continue to challenge this over the coming weeks. We created a Jungle talking/thinking tub which opened discussions about the various types of snakes you can get, how a compass. We have started a floor book and we our questions of what we would like to learn going spiders make webs and if we could learn how to use look forward to finding the answers to some of next.

Staffing Update

We are lucky to have gained some new members to our Sacred Heart family!

Miss McKee has joined us as our new P4 teacher and Miss Lee has joined us as our new P5 teacher.

We welcome Kim Turner back from her Maternity Leave and are delighted to have her back in her role as Senior Early Years Practitioner. We also welcome Katrina Walker, our new Modern Apprentice in the Nursery. Zoe is covering a staff absence at another Nursery at the moment. We look forward to having her back soon!

School Lunches

We are delighted that our Nursery learners began receiving hot lunches at school from Tuesday 22nd September.

Learners in P1-7 will continue with packed lunches until further notice. Thank you for your continued patience and support with this. If your child is in P1-3 and does not require a school packed lunch (you will send your own from home), please notify the school office via email as soon as possible to avoid food waste.

Primary 1

Hello everyone and welcome to Primary 1

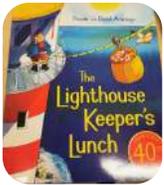
We have all settled well and have been very busy learning lots in Primary 1 since we started in August. It has been great to meet up with our friends again and meet new ones.



In Literacy, we have been learning our Set 1 sounds and have been enjoying sharing our learning with our grown-ups at home by bringing home our Set 1 Speed Sounds book.

In our Listening and Talking lessons, we enjoyed meeting up virtually with our P7 friends and their teacher at the beginning of P1.

P7 asked us about what we were enjoying about being in Primary One and what we liked to do. We had such fun answering their questions and seeing them of on the classroom Smart board.



In Numeracy, we have been learning to write our numbers correctly and have been practising this using shaving foam. We have been ordering numbers and using numeracy games in the classroom to reinforce this.



We had lots of fun working with a partner in order to problem solve after reading *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. We used lots of materials in the classroom and made a pulley to send lunches over in our baskets from our lighthouse to the house corner in the classroom.

Primary 2



Welcome back Primary 2! We have really enjoyed our return to school and settling into our new classroom. We have spent the first few weeks of term revising our Read Write Inc phonics sounds and building words and sentences using them. In numeracy we have been revising our number knowledge, practising counting backwards as well as our addition facts and strategies to help us add.



In maths we are looking at money and will be using the story 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?' to learn about time during maths week. In health and wellbeing we have been talking about friendships, and will be exploring our emotions and how to build positive relationship with our classmates and all school staff. We still have lots of play in our classroom and we have really enjoyed exploring all areas in our class, we are particularly enjoying writing and creating as well as building structures from Lego. We look forward to sharing our learning with you soon.



School Rules

All learners have been reminded of our new school rules this session:

***Be Ready
Be Respectful
Be Safe***

In line with our behaviour policy, if learners are not following these rules, the following steps will be followed:

- Reminder
- First Warning
- Second Warning
- Time out in class or by sharing the care (as appropriate)
- Restorative conversation

Primary 3

It was lovely to welcome Primary 3 back after the summer break. It feels great to be back at school! I hope everybody is well-rested and ready for another fantastic year. We have loved life in Primary 3 so far and have all settled in fantastically.

In Literacy, we have been continuing our learning following the Read Write Inc Phonics program. It is our aim to be finished Phonics before Christmas so we can begin the Language and Literacy program. We have also been focusing on basic elements of grammar. We began with learning about nouns, adjectives and verbs. We have recently moved on to learning about simple and complex sentences and how to use them in our writing. Finally, we have been learning how to write a basic character description. We have also been busy reading our class novel. So far we have read 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'The Twits.' Recently, we started a new novel called 'The 13 Story tree house,' which was recommended by a pupil in the class. We have loved it so far.

In Numeracy we have been learning about place value. We have learned about thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. We played a lot of games to help us learn, which we all really enjoyed. One of our favourite games was using Deines' blocks to build numbers into the thousands. Mr. Smith is convinced this was one of our favourite games because he let us run around the hall like mad to find blocks we needed. We are now learning how to add 10, 100 and 1000 to a number.

For our IDL we are going to learn about the about the Victorians. We are going to explore pictures, video clips, objects and photographs from the Victorian era. We are also going to describe what is different in our everyday lives today compared with the Victorians. Finally we are going to learn about Victorian schools and what life was like for children back in the Victorian times.

Primary 4

P4 have settled in well to being back at school and getting used to being in the high school building.

We started the year talking about our experiences during lockdown and over the summer. We drew our favourite place and wrote a description. We also worked together in pairs to plan and design a poster to tell people how they can continue to help the environment after watching a video about the positive impact of lockdown on animals and pollution.

In literacy we have been writing letters, diaries and emails using formal and informal language. We pretended to be a headteacher and wrote a complaint to the manager of a theme park; some of us even had a go acting out the meeting with the manager! We have been focusing a lot on grammar and identifying nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. It would be great if you could take time to read with your child as much as possible at home as this would really help with their literacy skills.

In numeracy we have been looking at place value and number sequences. In maths we have been sorting hexagons and pentagons and identifying right angles and parallel sides. This week is Maths Week Scotland and we will be learning all about probability. After this we will be working on addition and subtraction. Refreshing their knowledge of being able to quickly add and subtract within 20 at home would be really helpful.

It has been lovely getting to know all the children in P4 and I'm sure we will have a fun and productive year together in the forthcoming year.

On Yer Bike!



Bike to School week takes place between 28th September and 2nd October.

We always see lots more learners cycling during this event and hope that this year is no different!



We do ask, however, that your child brings a padlock with them to ensure their bike is secured during school hours. We cannot accept responsibility for bikes that are stolen or lost.



COVID-19

COVID-19 Updates & Reminders

COVID-19

If your child has any symptoms of Coronavirus (new, persistent cough, high temperature, change or loss of sense of smell or taste), please keep your child off school and follow NHS guidance.

A gentle reminder to all our parents and carers to maintain a 2m distance from others at drop off and pick up. Please limit pick ups and drop offs to one parent/carer to avoid over-crowding.

Primary 5

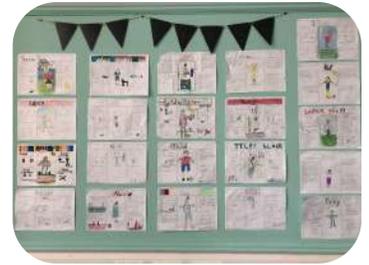
The Primary 5s have all coped very well with coming back to school after Lock-down. The pupils have also settled in to our new routine in the High School. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of the pupils over the past month and we have been doing some great learning together.

Initially, we spent some time getting to know each other. We created an 'All About Me' picture surrounded by facts about ourselves. We then created an autobiographical piece of writing as a device to practise our writing skills and this helped me get to know the pupils further. We discussed our different experiences of living in Lock-down with art and poetry. The class created a charter together by thinking about what kind of place we want our classroom to be and identifying key rules to keep us Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Recently, the class created mystery stories. The aim was to create suspense with 'show, not tell' where the pupils do not tell how the character is feeling but instead show how they are feeling through language techniques. We moved on from this to work on non-fiction writing, creating a report all about NASA. Following this, we have created "News Broadcasts" about the Moon Landing.

In Numeracy, the pupils have enjoyed getting back into their Times Tables Rockstars routine. We have been looking at place value and learning to read, write and order bigger numbers. We are now going to be focusing on the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

I have really enjoyed working with the p5 class so far, and I am looking forward to working with them all over



Primary 6



We have had a very busy return to school in Primary 6 this term, with the children (and teacher) getting used to the school routine again. We have all settled in very well and it feels like we have never been away! In numeracy we have been focusing on the four operations, particularly addition and subtraction just now, as well as starting to look at money. In literacy we have written a story about Trolls and Bogeys as well as an information text about them, which the children have really engaged with. In health and wellbeing we have been focusing on everyone's wellbeing, discussing life during lockdown, the support networks we have, the impact lockdown had on the environment and the importance of



friends and family in helping us through difficult times. For PE we are currently working on fitness and athletics, as well as the importance of good nutrition and a healthy balanced diet to help keep us fit and healthy. I have been very impressed with how well the children have settled back in to school life and the hard work they have put in so far



Parent/Carers are invited to come along to our Virtual Coffee & Chat sessions which will be held on the last Friday of each month from 9.45-10.30am.

Our first coffee & chat session will be on 30th October 2020



Dates for your Diary

September 2020

2020

Sept-18-21	School Closed—September holiday
Sept-28 - Oct 2	Bike to School Week
Sept-28 - Oct 2	Maths Week Scotland
Sept-29	Active Schools – Dance P1-P3 only (3.25-4.15pm 3 Wks 29 Sept-13 Oct)
Sept-30	Flu Vaccination Programme for pupils in school
Oct-01	All Saints Day
Oct-05-09	Walk to School Week
Oct-12-30	Midlothian Science Festival (virtual)
Oct-08	Parent Consultations (3.30-8.30pm)
w/b Oct-12	Share the Learning videos to parent/carers
Oct 16th	Virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning—More info to follow
Oct-19-23	OCTOBER HOLIDAY – School closed
Oct-26	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Oct-27	Pupils return to school
Oct-30	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Nov-13	Children in Need
Nov-16-20	UK Road Safety Week 2020
Nov-16-20	Book Week Scotland
Nov-27	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Dec-11	Christmas Jumper Day
Dec-14	Share the Learning videos to parent/carers
Dec-22	End of Term – school closes 3.10pm – return Wednesday 6 January 2021

Sacred Heart Church Mass (online) - check parish website for details

We are in the process of planning Christmas Festivities and will update the calendar ASAP

Dates for your Diary cont'd**2021**

Jan-06	New term commences - all return to school
Jan-14	Parent Consultations (3.30-8.30pm)
Jan-29	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Feb-05	School closes for February break
Feb-08-12	February Break – school closed
Feb-15	In-Service Day—school closed to pupils
Feb-16	Pupils return to school
Feb-16	Shrove Tuesday
Feb-17	Ash Wednesday
Feb-26	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Mar-04	World Book Day
Mar-25	Parents Consultations (3.30-8.30pm)
Mar-26	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Mar-29	Share the Learning videos to parents/carers
Apr-01	End of Term—school closes (return to school Tuesday 20 April)
Apr-02-19	Easter Holiday – school closed to pupils
Apr-20	New term commences—all return to school
Apr-30	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
May-03	May Day Holiday - school closed
May-24	In-Service Day - school closed to pupils
May-28	Virtual Coffee & Chat (9.45-10.30am)
Jun-11	Feast of Sacred Heart
Jun-14	Share the Learning videos to parents/carers—tbc
Jun-25	End of Term—school closes 12.25pm (pupils return Wednesday 18 August)

We will update the calendar with more dates in the New Year following guidance e.g. Sports Day, Leavers etc

All dates and times are subject to change.