



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

Newsletter 4

December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe it is the last week of term and that it will soon be 2021. I look back to August when children returned to school amidst a pandemic with a mix of emotions, to a new one way system, increased hygiene routines, classroom layouts and a whole new building! Our children have risen to the challenge and we are so proud of each and every one of them. I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for everything you have done to make sure that your children are in school. We know that this has not been easy at times. The children have been happy and excited to be in school and having your support and reassurance has been what has made this all so much easier.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team. They are totally incredible and we are very lucky to have such a dedicated and caring teaching and support team. Above all however, my thanks go to our fabulous children for the many smiles, joys and special moments which they have created and shared this term.

As we await the birth of Our Lord, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. I look forward to our return in January, where our school can be together again in our fabulous new and improved building!

Kind regards,
Anna Chidgey
Head Teacher

Get in to the Christmas Spirit!

Who doesn't love a cringey joke? We hope to hear about lots of these shared over the dinner table on Christmas Day!

- Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee? Starbucks!
- What's every elf's favourite type of music? Wrap!
- What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum — you can't beat it!
- What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.
- What do grapes sing at Christmas? 'Tis the season to be jelly.
- What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Ice Crispies.



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Class News



Nursery

Space/Planet Earth/Ice

We have continued to learn about space this month and the children have been showing their knowledge in various areas of the curriculum. During the snow days the children started discussing ice and how this is originally water and when it gets “freezing” it turns to ice, following on from these discussions we made our own ice indoors, “it goes in the freezer.” While popping the water in the balloons some of the children likened their shape to the “dwarf planets.” The children recognised that “Pluto is a dwarf planet and it used to be in our solar system.” Another dwarf planet also discussed was “make make.”



We have made our solar system using our paper mache planets, the children identified the colours and sizes that they should be. When putting it together the children could identify which order the planets should go in as well. Some of the children wanted to write the names of the planets in case we forgot which one was which so the children copied the words from a sign and done some great mark making and writing!

Moving on we have started to chat about the towns and countries on Planet Earth- the children can tell us that they live in a “town called Penicuik” and a “country called Scotland.” There have also been discussions about other parts of world such as Ireland, London and Spain.



Rhyming

The children have been showing us that they are aware of rhyme in their everyday discussions. Particularly during lunch while they are socialising they are using each other's name to identify which world rhymes with it. We have since looked at some stories with rhyming words and the children are beginning to confidently recognise which words are the rhyming words.

Christmas

I am sure you are wondering like myself- how are we here already?! Christmas has looked very different for us this year however we have tried to make it as festive as possible for the children. Festive Friday – what a welcome half hour to our Friday morning – during this time we get the tables set up and all spend some festive fun together. We have made some lovely cards for our nursery room and plan to make some Santa's next. We have also been working really hard to learn our 4 Christmas songs in sign which you will see in our shared learning video very soon, I am sure you will agree - the children have done a fabulous job!



Primary 1

P1 have spent lots of time in class practising for their Nativity. We had great retelling the story and we hope that you enjoy watching our performance.

Through our play when using the Nativity Calendar and wooden Nativity Scene we have enjoyed retelling the story to one another.

We have continued to meet up with the rest of the school on a Friday at Assembly. P1 very much enjoy seeing everyone and sharing our achievements in and out of school.

Our Festive Fridays recently have included a craft activity. We have beautiful balloons in our classroom and most recently brought home our candles.

In Health and Wellbeing we have been speaking about being kind after reading the story about the Kindness Elves.

The Kindness Elves themselves have decided to stay in our classroom and leave us a note every morning asking us to do something kind for someone or each other.

P1 had great fun at the virtual Pantomime recently as well as enjoying our Christmas lunch with our friends today.

We look forward to keeping busy for the next few days as well as having fun.



Primary 2



Christmas is almost here and we are all getting excited in Primary 2! It's been a busy term for us and in literacy we've been focussing on reading our common words and using the sounds we know to write sentences. We really enjoyed writing about Little Red Riding hood and used a story mountain to help us plan our writing. We are continuing with our Read Write Inc sounds and reading the story books.



In numeracy we have worked on lots of skip counting to help us identify patterns and work on our early multiplication. We have continued to practice our addition and subtraction skills to increase the speed of our basic number facts recall.

We were very interested in our IDL topic, learning about the Victorians. Most recently we looked at Victorian schools and their school day and we are glad we aren't attending school in the Victorian times!

We have enjoyed listening to the nativity story and worked together as a class to create a story map which we then retold for our Christmas share the learning video. We worked really hard to learn a Christmas song in British Sign Language. We are loving festive Fridays and have made a Christmas tree made out of our hands, baubles for the tree, Christmas cards for the class and Snowmen! Although we missed the trip to the theatre, we were lucky to have a virtual Pantomime last week and set our classroom up like a theatre with rows of seats. We found it very funny and loved all the costumes! Have a wonderful Christmas break and we'll see you



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Some Christmas Riddles to keep the kids busy over Christmas:

1. If it takes 5 elves 5 minutes to make 5 dolls how long would it take 100 elves to make 100 dolls?

Answer: It takes one elf 5 minutes to make one doll therefore 100 elves making 100 dolls would, of course, still take 5 minutes!

2. One of many, kids love to play with me. You won't find me in professional sports, because you won't get a bounce out of me. What am I?

Answer: A snowball.

3. What's another way to spell 'noel'?

Answer: 'Abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'.

Primary 3

December has been a busy month! We are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays for some well deserved rest. Despite Christmas looking very different this year, we still managed to have had lots of fun.

On Thursday 10th December we watched an online version of The Brunton Hall's pantomime 'Rapunzel.' We were allowed to bring in snacks and we watched it on the big screen in the dark. It was like being in the cinema. We all really enjoyed the show and laughed out loud at some of the silly moments.

Every Friday we have been taking part in 'Festive Fridays.' We are currently working on creating some Christmas themed art. We have been creating a penguin picture scene using mixed media. We used paint for the background and are using collage to create penguin.

We look forward to bringing our work home to show our adults once we have finished it. We have lots of other fun festive art activities planned.



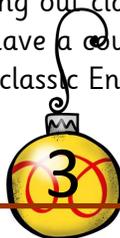
For the month of December we have been opening our Christmas Advent calendar. We have a calendar with Christmas Jokes in it and a second calendar with Christmas facts in it. Some of the jokes that we have heard have been hilarious. Hopefully all the learners have been sharing jokes and facts with you on a daily basis.



We have been learning about Christmas around the World and will be telling you a little about what we have learned in our 'Sharing our learning' video.

We are hoping to finish reading our class novel 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by the end of term. We only have a couple of chapters left. After a class vote we have decided that we want to read a classic Enid Blyton novel.

I hope everybody has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Primary 4

Christmas is nearly here and in P4 we're getting excited!

This month in literacy we have been learning all about instructional writing, using adverbs of time and imperative verbs. We read lots of instructions and were able to come up with success criteria for a good set of instructions. P4 then put their learning to the test by writing their own set of instructions for making a paper snowflake and got their partner to test it. Our window now has a flurry of beautiful snowflakes!



In numeracy we have been focusing on multiplying and dividing. We have been drawing arrays, sharing into groups and solving word problems. We found the pattern in multiplying and dividing by 10 and now that we know the rule we can even multiply and divide by 100 and 1000!



We are looking forward to a bit of Christmas fun in the last week of term, after such hard work from everyone. Merry Christmas!



Primary 5



P5 are very excited for Christmas! In literacy, we have been learning to use alliteration. We listened to the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' in class and we had fun creating our own lyrics using alliteration.



We have also prepared for Christmas by learning to use sign language for 'Silent Night' and body percussion for 'Winter Wonderland'. We practised both songs lots to include them in our sharing the learning video.

On our Festive Fridays, we have had a different advent activity every week. We have created a balloon with a word to show how we plan to prepare for Jesus coming. We have drawn a mirror and written about someone we admire and want to be like when we are older.



This week we have created advent candles that are pink to symbolise our joy that Jesus is almost here.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone in P5!

Primary 6

It has been a busy time in P6 this month.

We have been learning about fractions this month in numeracy and will be moving on to decimals and percentages in the new year.

For literacy we wrote a free verse poem about the classroom which included personification and class chose to include other features like alliteration, metaphors and similes.

Recently, we have been practicing for the Active Schools Virtual Pentathlon in PE which will take place in January. The class are hoping to improve their scores for the shuttle run, standing high jump, standing long jump, bunny hops and chest push each week.

At the start of the month, we made good intention advent calendars which we took home to share with our families. Mr Hutchinson hopes that everyone has been following their good intentions for each day of the advent!

We have also been busy preparing for our Harry Potter themed shared learning videos which will be sent out soon. The class have put a lot of effort into preparing a script to show you what we have been doing in class lately and can't wait to share with everyone.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas holidays and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and we will see you all in the new year back at Sacred Heart!



Primary 7



Primary 7 have had another busy term! They have been looking at stories with flashbacks and the key features of biographies. They have all made a good attempt at writing their own flashback stories and biographies about a famous author – well done everyone. In particular, we have focused on: how important it is to plan and use this plan to help guide our writing; proof reading our work and using tools such as a dictionary or thesaurus to up level it; and using reliable primary and secondary sources to find information for our writing.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have been finding out about fractions of a shape and quantity, equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions and converting them. More recently, we have been linking lots of our maths skills to help design a winter wonderland theme park. This has involved work on area, money and budgeting, profits, and addition and multiplication. It has also created opportunities for the children to draw a winter wonderland theme park, which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

In P.E, the children are preparing for the active school pentathlon in February. They are continuing to practice the following skills: shuttle runs, chest pass, standing long jump, vertical jump and speed bounce. As we edge near the end term, the children have been involved in a lot of expressive arts including: learning sign language, body percussion and festive arts and crafts. We look forward to sharing these skills with you in our festive, share the learning video.



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Breakfast Club—January 2020

We are delighted to have started a partnership with Greggs to run a breakfast club for all our learners. With current COVID restrictions, we will continue to limit our numbers and offer breakfast club to those in exceptional circumstances but we will keep you posted on when our Greggs Breakfast Club will officially begin.



Christmas Gifts



Staff at Sacred Heart are always so grateful for all the kind gifts that our pupils and families give at Christmas time, however we understand that this is an added expense at what is already an expensive time of year. This year, instead of gifts, we encourage small donations to local food banks, which we know will be greatly appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul run a very successful food bank in Sacred Heart Church on Thursdays and we are confident that your donations would go a long way there.



Parent/Carers are invited to come along to our Coffee & Chat sessions which will be held on the last Friday of each month from 9.30-10.30am. Our next virtual coffee & chat will be on 29 January 2021



Dates for your Diary

December 2020

2020

- Dec-22 Christmas Parties in individual classrooms
- Dec-22 End of Term – school closes 3.10pm – remote learning will begin Monday 11 January 2021

2021

- Jan-11 Remote learning begins for pupils
- Jan-14 Parent Consultations—further details to follow
- 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)

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



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Dates for your Diary

December 2020

Dates for your Diary cont'd

2021

Mar-04	World Book Day
Mar-18	P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation (2019/20 & 2020/21 sessions), Sacred Heart Church 7.00pm
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-22	P7 Sacrament of Confirmation, St Matthew's Church, Rosewell 7.00pm
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)
May-30	P4 (2020/2021 session) Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Sacred Heart Church
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.

