



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Despite this week being a short one for our learners, all classes have got back into the swing of school life without hesitation. This term will, as every Christmas term is, be a busy one, packed with preparations for our special Christmas celebration, COP26 learning, our whole school trip to the pantomime, as well as lots of other festive fun! We look forward to seeing what the next 7/8 weeks bring!

## 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.

### **P1-P4 School Lunches**

Menus and allergen information for school lunches from October to December have been emailed to P1-P4 parent/carers along with an online form which we require completed for all P1-P4 pupils - please complete and submit as soon as possible by clicking the following link:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/jTYvT90EEe>

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>

### **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.

## **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.

## **Wider Achievements**

Whilst we are currently unable to have whole school assembly celebrations each week, we would still like the children to have opportunities within their classrooms to share their achievements from outside of school. If your child has something they would like to share (sporting awards, club badges, martial arts belts, or other things they are proud of), please send a small description of the achievement –with pictures attached if possible –to the school email address. These will then be sent to the appropriate class teacher who will then support your child in sharing this with your child's class.

## 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 (Please note that this has changed from Tuesdays)

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)

### 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: 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

P2-6 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.

## **Weather**

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. If you wish for your child to keep their outer layers at school, they can do so in an individual bag on their hook with their name clearly displayed. All outer layers should be taken home each Friday for washing.

## **Parent Partnership**

Many thanks to those of you who attended our Parent Partnership AGM on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Minutes from this meeting will be shared with you in due course.

## **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)

## **Milk**

Please note that applications for milk this term will close on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. If you wish for your child to receive milk this term, please complete the form at the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/dmvCcm5tne>

## **School Photographs**

Please note that a photographer will be at school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November to take individual and sibling photographs. Please ensure pupils come to school in full school uniform.

## **Rudolph Cards and Gifts**

Please be reminded that if you wish to participate in the Rudolph Cards and Gifts programme this year, all artwork and order forms must be returned to school by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## **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. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment at school but we very much encourage and support this in any way that we can.

## **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 have been learning how to make paper!! This is a great way to promote recycling and re using paper. The children collected old sheets of paper and worked together to tear it up, they left it to soak overnight and then Zoe used the blender to blend it all up – while doing this, Zoe discussed with the children that an adult would do this part as the blender is really sharp. They then used mesh trays to collect their blended paper and sponged it down, when they tipped it over – they had made their very own sheet of paper! There was great teamwork throughout and the children were demonstrating how well they could follow instructions.

We have also been talking about tooth brushing as we are looking to introduce this into our nursery routine. During discussions about tooth brushing – the children could identify why it is important to brush their teeth and when we should brush them. Some of the children talked about their toothbrushes at home and also talked about their toothpaste being “spicy” mint flavour. We had a practice with our new toothbrushes and the children did a great job, brushing the front and the back of their teeth. Each child has their own coloured toothbrush with an animal on it.

The children have also been exploring Hallowe’en. We have been listening to Hallowe’en number songs in the nursery and the children have been showing us their good counting while doing so. We have also been exploring pumpkins – we used the inside for sensory play and the children talked about it being “gooey and slimy”. The children also baked some pumpkin pie and they demonstrated their good listening skills as they followed instructions on what they needed to do to bake their pie, they also showed good turn taking skills while sharing with their peers.

### P1/2

Primary 1/2 have enjoyed being back in school this week after their well-deserved week off. We are very lucky to have Mrs Hodgkin joining us in class for the next 6 weeks and the children have been making her feel very welcome so far! P1 have been revising all of the sounds that they learned last term and will continue to learn new sounds next week - they are doing so well! P2 have been so focused and hardworking in their Read Write Inc groups and when learning their spelling words.

Next week they will continue to practise their reading and writing skills in their groups. The class has also shown fantastic enthusiasm in their numeracy learning this week and even cheer when it's time to practise their counting! We also enjoyed our second drumming session on Thursday and can't wait for the next one!

We will be focusing on nursery rhymes in class this term and will be learning to recognise rhyming patterns in words as well as taking part in some fun rhyme-related activities. We are also going to begin a focus on throwing and catching in PE and hope to get outside to do this as much as possible if the weather cooperates! We are all looking forward to the busy but exciting term ahead of us!

### **P2/3**

I hope everyone had a lovely break, it has been lots of fun hearing what you all got up to during the October holiday. It is great being back and we have had a very busy week. In literacy, as well as our Read Write Inc learning, we have been learning about kennings. We even had a go at writing our own kenning in class today. It has been fun trying to think of clues to describe something without giving it away too easily.

In numeracy, we have been focusing on addition using the jump strategy and we have been practising our 2 and 5 times tables.

As it is nearly Hallowe'en, we have been doing a little mini Hallowe'en topic based on the Funnybones book. We have linked this to science and learned about some of the major bones in the human skeleton. We have also used this to create some amazing skeleton artwork using cotton buds. Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

### **P4**

We have had a very productive first week back after the October break!

In literacy we have been looking at poetry and have been working on Hallowe'en themed poems that use personification.

In numeracy and maths we have been working on developing our understanding of number structures by partitioning numbers into 100s, 10s and 1s, and we have also been looking at different ways to use measure. So far we have been able to convert from cm to m, read scales and have been able to apply this to create our own potions!

We also began our new topic this week, which is starting by exploring what COP26 is. We will be continuing to look at this in more depth over the next couple of weeks before looking at Climate Change as our topic more generally.

Finally we also had a go at using our ICT skills this week. We managed to log in to a chromebook and then join a Google Classroom. On here we found a link to follow that took us to a survey that focuses on our health and wellbeing in school. We are looking forward to developing our ICT skills more in the future.

### **P5**

It has been a wonderful week in Primary 5 and we have had lots of fun playing "Getting to know you" games!

On Tuesday, we had a terrific drumming session where the children played polyrhythms on the cajons in an energetic and enthusiastic way!

In Literacy, we have explored poetry looking at features such as similes, alliteration and onomatopoeia. I was very impressed with the children's efforts when creating a class poem about a volcano!

P.E. involved some circuit training and, in Art, we examined tone by creating some Tim Burton inspired hallowed characters!

Next week, we will be exploring friendships in Health and Wellbeing and I look forward to introducing the new novel study. The children will also be learning more about the impact of climate change through some fun COP26 activities!

## P6

This has been a shorter week but we have packed a lot of learning into it in P6!

In literacy we have been looking at poetry and learning about using personification. We are going to use what we learned to create our own personification poem about our classroom.

In numeracy we have been working hard on doing a pre-assessment ahead of our fractions topic which we will be starting soon.

We have also started practicing our Christmas songs (yes I know it's only October but there is a lot to learn) in preparation for a special performance. I won't tell you any more information than that just yet. Continuing the music theme, we also had a drumming workshop with Infectious Grooves which the children enjoyed.

Next week we will be starting our novel study which will be on a book called 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty and in numeracy we will be looking at multiplication as well as the order of operations. The music theme will carry on next week with more singing and drumming practice, both leading up to performances which I am sure you will all enjoy.

## P7

Primary 7 have had another busy week this week. We have been delving further into the world of poetry, learning about the features of poems and identifying these features across different poems. We have been working hard to investigate 'half rhyme' and have been able to find some really good examples of this in the poems we have been reading. Next week, we are looking forward to getting started on our new novel study. In Numeracy, we have been completing pre assessments on fractions to help us to highlight what we need to focus on learning in the coming weeks and have enjoyed doing some 'Kahoot' quizzes to test our times table knowledge and have started to learn about the order of operations when solving calculations. We will continue our learning on the order of operations next week.

We enjoyed our African drumming workshop and are developing a good sense of rhythm and can keep to a beat really effectively. In PE, we have started to learn some ball games, focusing on netball this week. We showed good teamwork skills as we played matches against each other and will be focusing on offence and defence tactics in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,



Anna Chidgey  
Headteacher