



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer,

This week, I have noticed an increase in the number of our learners wearing full school uniform which from P3-7 includes shirts and ties. Thank you for supporting us to maintain high expectations of school uniform. A wee reminder that although Friday is a short day at school, no class has PE on this day, and as such, every child should be wearing their full school uniform.

Lots of our classes have been learning about bonfire night and how to keep safe if around bonfires or fireworks. We urge you to continue these conversations at home should you and your families be attending any events tonight or over the weekend.

## 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-P7 School Lunches**

From 15 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. The weekly menus are being confirmed and will be shared with you once complete.

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

Please note that BACS payments covering Monday 1 Nov to Fri 26 November have been made to parents of pupils who qualify for free school meals. This will be the final BACS payment that you will receive.

**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.

<https://forms.office.com/r/jTYvT90EEe>

## 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.

## Poppies

Our Primary 7 learners will be selling poppies to anybody who wishes to make a donation to Poppy Scotland. If you wish for your child to purchase a poppy, Primary 7 will circulate classes during the day to allow for this. Please note that we only have a limited number of poppies and they will be given on a first come, first served basis.



## 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.

## 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. We are awaiting confirmation as to whether we will have wristbands to sell as in previous years and will keep you updated on this when we know more.



## P2/3 and P5 Meet the Teacher

We are aware that parents of our P2/3 and P5 have not yet had the opportunity to meet their children's teachers. We are in the process of confirming dates for a virtual meet the teacher session so that you can get to know Mr Forshaw and Ms O'Rourke a bit better. More information on this will follow.

## 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
5/11	P4
12/11	P6
19/11	P7
26/11	P1/2
3/12	P2/3
10/12	P5

## 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.

### **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.

#### 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 **(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.

### 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%22Tid%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%22Tid%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d37602b2-fcaf-434e-b1f4-15705cb04e97%22%7d)

### Milk

FINAL REMINDER - If you wish for your child to receive milk this term, please complete the form at the link below before Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November:

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

### 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 on firework night. The children have been discussing the sounds they make, the colours that they can be and also making their own pictures using some bright paint colours. While having group discussions with the children about Bonfire night the children recognised that “only adults touch them cause they are dangerous.” Some of the children talked about how they didn’t like the loud sounds that they make because they “go boom, boom, boom!” however the children also reflected on the fact they liked watching the colours in the sky.

Continuing to explore and reflect on our emotions, we have been looking into the feeling ‘worried’ and what we can do if we feel worried about something. Together we read the story ‘Ruby’s Worry’ and following on from this the children talked about who they would speak with if they were feeling worried about something. The children also talked about some of the things they have been worried about such as “sinking when swimming” the children then recognised that they “have armbands” to help them in the swimming pool.

As part of Science Month we were given materials from Edinburgh University to go on a bug hunt. The children used sheets to mark down if they could spot certain bugs such as Spiders, beetles and snails. Once the children had spotted the bug, they marked it on their sheet demonstrating that they could collect data. The children were finding lots of spiders in our garden and were looking at them with a magnifying glass – “look it’s got 8 legs.” The children noticed that these particular spiders had “long legs with a little body”

The Big Bedtime Read will be starting in nursery from next week, this is where the children choose a book bag in nursery with a selection of 5 books in it; they can then bring their chosen book bag home with them for the week and you can look at these stories together at bedtime.

The Big Bedtime Read initiative emphasises the importance of sharing a book at bed time and how during this time it can be a relaxing and enjoyable way to end your day while you snuggle up and enjoy exploring other worlds in the pages of a book. You and your child can also share your thoughts and emotions while communicating with each other throughout the story telling session.

- *Children who attend nursery full time (Monday-Friday) will choose their own book bags on a **Monday** and then if you could please return them on the **Friday**.*
- *Children who attend blended care sessions will collect and return on the days below:*
  - *Children that attend on a **Monday/Tuesday** only; collect book bag on **Monday** and return on the following **Monday**.*
  - *Children that attend on a **Wednesday/Thursday** only; collect book bag on **Wednesday** and return on the following **Wednesday**.*

### P1/2

Primary 1/2 have been very focused and enthusiastic in their learning and should be proud of their hard work this week! We spent time getting to know Mrs Hodgkin on Monday afternoon and enjoyed getting to know more about her while she learned more about us too. We have also been recapping our Read Write Inc learning this week and Miss Maxwell has been so impressed with just

how much we learned in Term 1. Our topic from last term was 'Taking Care of Our Local Environment' and due to COP26 we have continued to learn more about it this term. We learned about the things we can do to make positive changes to the world around us and then made our own promises to the planet, choosing one thing each to do in order to help the environment. It was great to hear such fantastic ideas and P1/2 demonstrated great care and passion when learning about this!

Next week we will be continuing our measure learning in maths by looking at weight and exploring the different ways that we can weigh items. We will be focusing on learning two new nursery rhymes as well as working in our Read Write Inc groups to continue to develop our reading and writing skills. We are also looking forward to more Drama with Mrs Browne, another drumming session, and our second PE lesson, focused on throwing and catching.

### **P2/3**

It has been another very busy week in P2/3. This week in Literacy we have continued with our Read, Write Inc work and we have started our novel study. We will be looking closely at Flat Stanley over the next few weeks and have been focusing on instructional writing.

In Numeracy, we have continued with addition but have been using different strategies to do this, we also have started to look at addition word problems as well as continuing with our times tables. Our topic for the next couple of weeks is COP26 and climate change. We have been discussing the small things that we can do to help look after our planet. As it was Diwali on Thursday, we learned about the story of Rama and Sita and how Diwali is celebrated. We then went outside and created our own Rangoli patterns with chalk. Next week we will continue to focus on climate change and will hopefully be able to do some fun experiments relating to this. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

### **P4**

In P4 this week we have started our new novel study, which is on The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. So far we have looked at Chapter 1 and used this to practice sequencing events in a story. We are going to use this next week to write an imagined personal response. We have also been using our novel to practice using conjunctions. This has been quite tricky so we will continue to work on this next week.

In maths and numeracy we have been working hard, learning about fractions. So far we can find a half, a third and a quarter of a quantity. We have also been looking at pictorial representations of fractions and used these to explain our thinking to our talk partners.

We have continued with our topic on COP26 and Climate Change this week. We brainstormed to find out what we knew about climate change and then each of us created a question we would like to answer. Now we have so many interesting questions to help us make our topic interesting! Finally, in PE we started gymnastics. This involved practising different rolls, such as the forward roll, backward roll, log/pencil roll and teddy bear roll. These were so much fun! We also did cross country running with Ms O'Rourke and look forward to challenging ourselves in this again next week.

### **P5**

It has been another busy week in Primary 5! In Literacy, we have started our new novel study, The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman. The children engaged in lots of discussion surrounding the main character, using evidence from the text to support their opinions. We also examined the illustrations and other key information to consider where the story might be set. Furthermore, the children did some excellent grammar work, learning how to use possessive apostrophes correctly.

In maths, the children had fun exploring the names of 2D shapes and describing their properties. They used this learning to create some scary 2D monsters!

In health and wellbeing, we explored friendships; the different types of friendships we can have, identifying qualities in a friend and what is important to us in a friendship. The children also started to learn about Peaceful Problem Solving which is a set of tools that help us overcome any friendship and/or peer difficulties we may encounter, in a calm and constructive way. This links closely to the Zones of Regulation which we will learn more about next week.

In P.E., the children took part in a Virtual Cross-Country competition and I was so impressed with their stamina, determination and enthusiasm when running their laps. They then participated in some Gymnastics, developing mat skills.

Finally, we have continued to learn about COP26 and the impact that climate change has on different parts of the world. The children also considered ways in which they can reduce their own carbon footprint and take positive action to nurture their planet! A very productive week indeed! Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

## P6

It has been a busy week in P6 as usual this week. In literacy we have been learning about expanded noun phrases and characterisation in writing. We have also started our novel study 'Street Child' which has generated lots of good discussion in class. We will use what we have learned this week to plan and write a story based on a character from the novel. In numeracy we have been working on multiplication as well as the order of operations (BIDMAS, or BODMAS, depending on what you were taught). Next week we will have a focus on division as well as continuing to look at BIDMAS. Elsewhere, we have continued with our cross country/fitness practice in PE and the class are already improving. Let's see what happens in the coming weeks! Preparations for Christmas singing have continued with the children sounding really good already! It is just a case of memorising all the songs now!

## P7

Primary 7 have had another great week. At the start of the week, we began our Playground Assistant Leader (PAL) sessions with Danny, our Active Schools coordinator, where the children considered the skills and qualities required to lead games. This will help develop their leadership skills as they use what they've learned to organise playground games with the younger children. We look forward to continuing our weekly sessions with Danny for the rest of the month.

In Literacy, the children are enjoying our novel study, War Horse and will continue to do work around this next week. In particular, they will be focusing on shared reading and grammar aspects such as modal verbs, parenthesis and words of cohesion.

In Numeracy, the children have been working hard on multiplication strategies this week as well as order of operations. Next week, we will be reinforcing order of operations and begin work on division strategies. Our topic for this term is 'Science and Sustainability' which we will be linking to the current COP26 conference in Glasgow. So far, Primary 7 have enjoyed an introduction to COP26 and electricity conductors and insulators. The next step is for them to learn about the aims of COP26 and begin looking at electricity circuits and their component symbols.

Kind regards,



Anna Chidgey  
Headteacher