



# 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

19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been so wonderful seeing how enthusiastic and spirited the children are as they prepare for their special Christmas performance this year. A letter has been sent via email and through pupil post with important information in relation to this; please ensure you read and respond to this so that we can move to the next stage of our preparations.

## 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**

It has been wonderful to have the buzz back in the dining hall at lunchtimes as all of our learners access the hot meal selection once more. P1-P7 pupils now have the option to choose between two hot meal options and one cold meal option at lunchtime each day. Lunches 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 1 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. Please ensure you reply to the email that will be sent to you each week.

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.

### 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

Spots, yellow and fuzzy ears are plentiful today as children show their support of Children in Need. Many thanks to you all for your generous donations. Once we have counted the amount raised, we will share this with you.



### 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 |
|-------|-------|
| 26/11 | P1/2  |
| 3/12  | P2/3  |
| 10/12 | P5    |

### 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.



## 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 next week 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)

## Residential

A reminder that the following residential trips have been planned for our primary school children. The date of the residential 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 the children have been looking at a variety of coins and matching them to coin matching sheets. The children have been interested in shop role play and have been talking about how much things may cost. One of the children was selling a metre stick ruler for “£100.” While looking at the variety of coins that we get, the children were talking about the shape, colour and which number they could see on the coin. We are looking to continue exploring coins and using them as we role play ‘shops’.

This week we started to talk about which Christmas (yes-Christmas...) songs that the children would like to sing for our sing and sign along. Some of the suggestions were “Jingle Bells”, “When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney”, “Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “Baby Shark - the Christmas one.” We will begin to practice these over the coming weeks and look forward to sharing the video with you later on in December. From this group discussion the children talked a lot about snow and sledging – “it snows at Christmas”, “I like to go with my cousins.” We will begin to look at Winter and seasonal changes while exploring a 3D talking and thinking tub over the coming weeks.

This week we have been really putting our self-help and independence skills to work as we have been having a go at serving our own lunch. Staff have been supporting the children with this however they have been doing an amazing job at scooping their own lunch onto their plates. The children have been working together as a team round their tables and passing over the bowls to their friends “oh you need to get some of this too” and “can someone please pass me the rice?” are some of the conversations we have heard at the lunch tables.

### P1/2

Primary 1/2 have had a fantastic week! We have been working hard to practise our spelling words all week while also developing our reading and writing skills in our Read Write Inc. groups. In Numeracy, P1 have been learning about ordinal numbers and have also started to look at addition using concrete objects and pictorial examples. P2 have been exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction by looking at fact families and have really enjoyed doing this. All learners have been so focused and engaged with their number learning this week and it has been fantastic to see so much enthusiasm during our numeracy lessons. In PE we have been practising underarm

passes and tracking the ball/bean bag with our eyes to improve our catching skills. We also went on an Autumn-themed scavenger hunt with Mrs Hodgkin and collected leaves to use in our artwork, which was a lot of fun!

Next week we will be continuing to explore fractions, focusing on identifying halves and quarters. After our first lesson where the children cut up biscuits to show halves and quarters they are definitely looking forward to our next lesson! We have also been enjoying singing some Christmas songs in class and we are excited to keep practising these next week! Have a fantastic weekend P1/2!

### **P2/3**

It has been another very busy week in class. We have been focusing on RWI and on our novel study. For our novel study this week, we have been looking at the use of speech marks and will be moving on to completing a book review next week. We have also introduced 'Idiom of the Week' in class. So if you have been hearing a lot of 'It's time to hit the road' that's why!

In numeracy we have continued with our times tables and have introduced the 4 times table. We have also started using daily starter activities that focus on highlighting all the different strategies that we can use to solve problems. This is great as it shows the children lots of different ways of solving problems and gives them the opportunity to share their way of doing it with the class. We have continued with fractions and have started to look at finding fractions of numbers, we have also been learning about the important maths language used when talking about fractions.

For our topic this week, we have continued with the COP26 theme and have been exploring renewable and non-renewable energy. We have built our own wind turbine in the class using recyclable materials.

Again, I just want to say well done for all your hard work in class this week. Enjoy your weekend!

### **P4**

In literacy this week we finished our novel, The Iron Man. We have been focusing on finding information in the book to answer questions about it. This was tricky at the beginning of the week but a lot of us have been able to do this independently by the end of the week! We will be looking to create newspaper articles next week about what happens in the novel and we're looking forward to that.

In numeracy we have been showing different volumes on scales. We had to make sure we checked what the scale was going up in so that we knew where to draw the line. As well as this, we have been busy practising the 3 times table and will be continuing this next week.

For our topic work this week, we used the computers to carry out some research on the topic questions we created. We looked at:

- What is climate change?
- What does climate change do to our planet?
- How can we stop climate change?

This is something we will finish next week as we ran out of time but it was great working as researcher scientists to find out answers to these questions!

Finally, in PE we have continued gymnastics by looking at static poses. We had some to practise these as well as our rolls and jumps from previous weeks in order to make any improvements. We also worked on circuit training with Ms O'Rourke.

### **P5**

This week, Primary 5 have been very busy and have lots to celebrate!

In literacy, we have explored direct and indirect speech and have continued to explore our novel study. The children have written some extremely creative instructions for their imaginary fireworks, using onomatopoeia and alliteration!

In numeracy, we have continued to develop our times table skills, playing a range of games to practise these. The children have also been learning about tessellation as well as the names and properties of 3D shapes. They even had a go at building some of their own shapes with dried pasta! We are delighted to now have a set of cajon drums at school so the children have been busy preparing for our next drumming session next week, creating their own rhythms whilst playing in time to the beat! Very impressive.

Next week, we will be exploring addition and subtraction in more depth as well as learning more about angles. We will also continue with our novel study and link this to our Interdisciplinary Learning on COP26 and Climate Change. Well done for another great week, children!

## P6

In literacy this week, we have been learning about parenthesis and how to apply that in our writing. We used what we learned to create sentences that used the different forms of parenthesis. In numeracy it has been a week of checking up on progress. We have looked over addition, subtraction, division and multiplication this week before we move on to fractions again next week. This week has been anti-bullying week so we have been talking about bullying and what we can do about it, focusing on the 'One Kind Word' that is the focus of the campaign this year. Singing practice has continued this week and the children are really beginning to sound good. We also started our final prep for our drumming performance which will be filmed and sent out soon. In PE, we have continued our focus on fitness and cross country, with the cross country being in, a very warm, PE hall which tested us all a great deal. The children were very resilient however and worked hard.

## P7

Primary 7 have had another busy week with lots of learning taking place. As part of our literacy this week, we have been learning about discursive writing features and have begun planning a discursive text based on our novel study, War Horse. Next week, the children will use their plan to write their own discursive text and use our success criteria to self-assess their work.

In numeracy, we have been continuing on with our post assessments for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as our pre assessments for fractions, decimals and percentages. Well done to every one of you for completing all of these as I appreciate it is a challenging task. Next week, we will be starting our learning on fractions, where the children will be identifying and showing fractions as pictures. We have made good progress with our Science and Sustainability this week as the children carried out lots of research and note taking on their Chromebooks. They will use their notes in the forthcoming week to create a leaflet about climate change. We have also linked our topic with our drumming as the children use phrases linked to climate change to create rhythms for their final performance next week.

Have a great weekend, everybody!

Kind regards,



Anna Chidgey  
Headteacher