



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer,

This week has certainly seen a change in weather with a drop in temperature, winter is coming! Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the cold weather.

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent, Advent means “coming”. We are preparing for the birth of the baby Jesus on Christmas Day. Throughout the remainder of this term we will be preparing for the birth of baby Jesus. Classes are already working hard to perfect their nativity performance, which will be complemented by additional learning opportunities around Advent and Christmas within classrooms.

School Updates

Pantomime – Bad News

We regret to inform you that Council Senior Officers have announced that, in line with reducing the risk in schools guidance around large gatherings, Midlothian School visits to the pantomime should not take place this session. This, unfortunately, means that we will not be going to the Kings Theatre to see this year's performance of Sleeping Beauty on Tuesday 30th November and school will finish at the normal time of 3.15pm.

Pantomime and Christmas Lunch – Good News

We have booked a virtual pantomime event for all learners to ease disappointment of missing out on the King's Panto this year; while we know this is not quite the same as the real event, we wanted to find a way to spread a bit of cheer.

Our online pantomime performance will take place on Wednesday 15th December. We have also arranged for this to be our Christmas lunch day so that it can be extra festive. Christmas jumpers absolutely encouraged! Christmas cheer mandatory 😊.

Christmas Parties

All classes will have a Christmas party this year. Class parties will take place on the final day of the Christmas term, Wednesday 22nd December. Classes will plan a range of classroom entertainment over the course of the day and will be allocated a slot in the gym hall for some additional Christmas fun and games of their choosing.

Children can come to school on this day in their party clothes.

P1-P7 School Lunches

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.

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/jTYvT90EEe>

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.

Primary 5 School Lunches

P5 pupils will receive free school meals from January 2022. Please take care when applying monies to the school lunch payment item on ParentPay in order to prevent any overpayment

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.

Medication

With seasonal viruses, coughs and colds upon us, we have noticed an increase in the number of children requiring medication (e.g. calpol) during the school day. If your child requires any medication, please be reminded that this cannot be administered unless the appropriate medication permission forms have been completed. Any prescribed medication that a child receives should have a pharmacy dispensing label attached, with the child's name and dosage clearly visible. Please do not send medication to school with children for self-administration.

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

Once again, many thanks to you all for supporting our fundraising efforts for Children in Need last week. We are delighted (and very proud) to share with you that we raised £144.31.



Class Masses

Please note that individual classes will be going to mass on Fridays for the rest of the term and will continue in the Spring 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
3/12	P2/3
10/12	P5

Sacramental Preparations

Please note that preparations for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation will start after the Christmas holidays. First Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation will start after February half term.

Nursery 'Play on Pedals'

We are hoping to build in more 'play on pedals' within our Early Years Setting once our outdoor space has been developed. If you have a balance bike or pedal bike suitable for 3-5 year olds that you no longer require, we would be delighted if you would donate it to us so that we can facilitate this. Bikes can be brought to the Nursery gate at pick up/drop off times or to the school office at any point during the school day. Thank you in advance for your support.

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

Please note that P5 and P7 will swap PE days next week. P5 will have PE on Wednesday 1st December and P7 will have PE on Thursday 2nd December (for this week only). PE days will resume as normal the following week.

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, cereal, fruit and yoghurts 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.



School Photographs

If you have not yet submitted your form for School Photographs and would like to purchase these, please ensure you do so by Monday 29th November. Any submissions later than this date will be returned and you are encouraged to contact the photographer directly to make alternative arrangements.

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.

Permission slips for filming this performance have gone home to all families; please ensure you complete the permission slip and return to school if you have not yet done so.



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 22nd December. School will finish at the usual time of 3.15pm. Nursery children can be collected at the usual time of 3.05pm-3.15pm.

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.

Reverse Advent will begin on Wednesday 1st December. Boxes will be placed at multiple points around the school. We thank you in advance for your support.

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.

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 st June	1 night residential	£60
P4	Bonaly Scout Centre	11 th -13 th May	2 night residential	£200
P5	Benmore	13 th -17 th June	4 night residential	£350
P6	Benmore	13 th -17 th June	4 night residential	£350
P7	Lockerbie	25 th -29 th April	4 night residential (Cluster Camp)	£328

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.

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.

Class Updates:

Nursery

This week we have been exploring the story of The Stick Man. We made some story stones with the characters of the story and the children have been using these to role play and have a go at retelling the story using the props. The children have also been getting creative and have been making their own stick people using our lolly sticks, googly eyes and brown paint. The children showed their problem solving skills when they realised there was no brown paint and said “we have to mix some colours.” The children recognised that we could use “green and red” to make brown. The children made “stick man” and “stick lady love” and chose their own materials to make these. While making these the children talked further about the characters and talked about how Stick Man is the daddy and Stick lady love is the mummy linking to discussions about family.

The children have also been exploring their role play skills through Shops and Doctors. The children turned their expressive area into a shop and a doctor space and they led this change themselves. Some of the children made their own pictures of fruit and vegetables for the shop and have been exploring number and weight as they weigh some of the items they are buying using the scales. The children have also had a go at exploring some coins as they pay for things in the shop. One of the children talked about a sign that they had made and it would say “open or closed.” In the doctors the children have been talking about how they can help each other and some of the resources you might need such as “bandages”, “plasters” and “ice packs”.

We have been practicing our Christmas songs this week and have also been adding in our signs. The children have been doing an amazing job at picking up the words to the song but also remembering the signs alongside. We will continue to practice these over the coming weeks and look forward to you all seeing the video when it is complete. The children have been talking about some of the things they would like to do in nursery to celebrate Christmas so we are looking forward to planning these activities over the coming weeks.

P1/2

Primary 1/2 have been working so hard this week! We have been continuing to focus on our Read Write Inc learning while also exploring more nursery rhymes. This week we looked at Incy Wincy Spider and wrote some fantastic ‘what happened next’ stories about what might have happened to the spider when he climbed back up the spout. P1/2 showed so much creativity in their writing and Miss Maxwell was very impressed!

We also continued to explore fractions this week with Mrs Hodgkin where we took part in lots of different activities to develop our understanding of halves and quarters.

It was also a lot of fun filming our final drumming performances on Thursday and seeing the result of all our hard work - this will be available on Seesaw soon!

Next week we will continue to work on strategies for addition and subtraction in numeracy. We will also be doing our final practices of our Nativity performance in preparation for filming - we are all very excited about this!

Well done on all of your fantastic learning, this week, P1/2!

P2/3

This week in literacy we have been working really hard on our RWI tasks and have also started to look at letter writing. We have been writing a letter to Stanley as his friend asking him if he wants to come visit. We are learning about the key aspects of setting a letter out and why it is so important. Our Idiom of the week this week is 'sitting on the fence'. It has been a lot of fun using this as much as possible during the school day and it highlights that the children have a strong understanding of what it really means.

In numeracy, we have continued to focus our starters on building confidence by sharing how we solve a problem and we have also continued to learn our times tables. We have been using arrays to help develop our understanding. As well as this we have also continued to develop our fraction learning. We have been looking at fractions of shapes and fractions of numbers. We even had a look at equivalent fractions and have been discussing what fraction of a cake we would rather have! We have also been developing our fantastic acting skills by practicing for the Nativity. For art this week we had a go at creating our own version of Vincent Van Gogh's 'A Starry Night' using oil pastels and we can't wait to show off our finished artwork. Enjoy your weekend, everyone!

P4

It has been another busy week in Primary 4! Literacy has been focused around writing a newspaper article based on The Iron Man. We have discussed the importance of headlines and introduction sentences in our newspapers so that we catch the reader's attention. We have also included speech in our articles and discussed direct and indirect speech through this.

In numeracy, we have started to explore our new topic - angles. So far we have looked at what a right angle is and what tools we can use to check if something is a right angle. This will help us with our directions next week.

Our topic research is really coming along too. We have managed to find lots of facts about climate change, and a lot of us are now able to log into the chromebooks and search on Google completely independently!

We have also been busy preparing for our drumming performance, which is taking place next week. We came up with our own rhythms in groups about our Zones of Regulation in class. We also decided together which notes should be high or low, and that we want to challenge ourselves by including a rumble swap! We can't wait to record our performance next week and show you what we have created together.

P5

Another week has flown by in Primary 5. We have been working hard at being kind to each other and our new display 'Filling Buckets' has been a great way to demonstrate this. The children have been paying each other meaningful compliments, which has been wonderful to see. We have also been focusing on listening skills and following instructions. Due to the efforts of many children, lots of names have been put up on our Recognition Board!

In Literacy, we have been describing characters using a range of adjectives and evidence from the text to support our ideas. We have also continued with our Firework Instruction Writing, self-assessing and developing our work further.

In Spelling, we have explored the prefix 'mis' and how it changes the meaning of words.

In Numeracy, we have revised various addition and subtraction strategies which we will continue with over the course of next week. The children have spent more time exploring 3D shapes and learning about their nets.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have continued to explore the Zones of Regulation and the children created some personal posters to help them develop their understanding of emotions that they experience in each zone.

It has also been Catholic Education Week and the children explored this year's theme: Celebrating and Worshipping by learning about the Liturgical Year.

We had another terrific drumming session and the children have done a marvellous job at creating their own rhythms with a 'Climate Change' theme. They used these to play polyrhythms and have developed other performance features such as a 'rumble' and a 'drum fill'. On a similar musical note, the children are making excellent progress memorising their Christmas Carols and, this week, they decided upon an individual class Christmas song to sing. Great work, Primary 5!

P6

We have had a busy week again in P6 with lots to do! In numeracy we have started to look at fractions, as well as recapping what we learned about the order of operations before. Next week will be the same as we continue working through fractions, decimals and percentages. In literacy, we have been reading a script and decided what features are common in all scripts. We are going to use what we have learned to create a script based on our class novel, Street Child. Next week we will continue working on our scripts and we look forward to sharing what we come up with soon.

As it is Catholic Education Week, we took some time to learn about St Columba, the Apostle of Scotland, using our note taking skills to help us create a paragraph about him. We have been involved in a lot of music making this week, with our Nativity singing practice coming along nicely. We have also been working hard on our drumming performance rehearsals with the final performance video to be sent out soon. Although we don't have drumming next week, our singing practice continues with our performance date drawing ever nearer!

P7

Another good week has been had by Primary 7 as they continued to work hard on their learning. We have now finished reading 'War Horse' and the children are excited to watch the film next week. They have been using this to write discursive texts to explore some of the issues raised in the book. The children then went on to independently write a discursive text about the use of Chromebooks in school - well done, everyone.

Next week, we will be focusing on spelling and grammar as well as topic writing. The spelling will be based around prefixes and suffixes whilst in grammar the children will be learning about the use of semicolons, colons and bullet points within a list. The children have been busy making notes about the causes of climate change and how to prevent it and will be using these to help them create an information leaflet.

Primary 7 have successfully begun working on fractions and will continue to focus on equivalent fractions and fractions of a quantity next week. We will also be learning about multiples and factors. As next week brings the start of December, P7 will begin learning about advent and Mary's significance within Catholic tradition as part of our RME.

Francais



Bonjour tout le monde! Mme Sargison here again!

I thought I'd give you a little update about our plans for French! Some of our learning this month will focus on introducing ourselves in French because we were delighted to receive some beautifully written letters in English from our partner school in France. We have already started to plan our replies as we want them to be just as good as the letters we received. We are also going to send the school some of the Cop26-themed posters we all made, showing we can share an environmental message in French!

