



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



Acting Headteacher: Mrs Síobhra Cran  
<http://sacredheart.mgfl.net>  
@sacredheart\_ps

22a Crockett Gardens, Penicuik, EH26 9BB  
0131 271 4665  
sacredheart\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

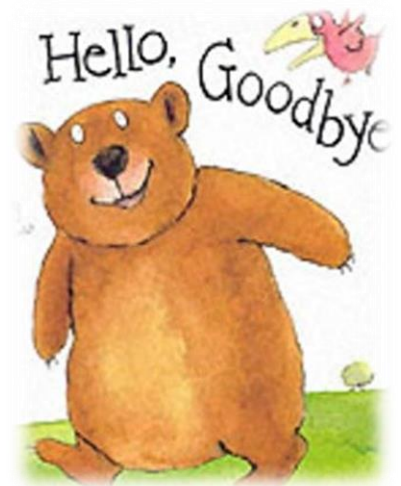
Welcome back to a new school year at Sacred Heart Primary School and ELC nursery. It has been so lovely to feel the buzz as the children settled in to their new classrooms and we welcomed some new children too. Our Primary 1 pupils made a great start and it feels like they have been here forever!

## Hello & Goodbye

We are delighted to welcome a new member of teaching staff to our school. Kimberley Anderson is joining us from her previous post at Woodburn Primary and will be working with the Support for Learning team

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Kat Walker from the Nursery, who has moved on to pastures new - we wish her all the best with her new endeavours. We shall also be saying goodbye to Rebecca Conroy, from the Nursery, later this month as she has decided to resume her studies to gain a Master's Degree. This will be a lot of work but we know she will smash it!

The school is actively recruiting at the moment to replace staff so further information about this will be shared as soon as we can.



## \*\*Annual Data Returns and Permissions\*\*

This is the busy part of the year when you have lots of forms to complete. Please check in your child's bag for the following pieces of paperwork and complete/return them to school **by Monday 21 August**:

- Data pack including permissions for the sharing of images
- Food allergens update
- Mid-morning Milk orders

<https://forms.gle/p3Nn1B2S1TWa5upW7>

- Consent form for flu vaccine



A permission form for Seesaw will be issued to all children who are new to our school. Otherwise, the permissions you have agreed to previously, regarding Seesaw, will continue unless you advise us of any changes.

## Registering For Free School Meals



An important source of income for the school is through funding from Midlothian based upon the number of children who have applied for 'free school meals' (FSM). Unfortunately, as all pupils from P1 – P5 are now entitled to a school lunch, the numbers of families who apply for FSM status has dropped dramatically and so, therefore, has the **vital funding** to the school.

It would be fantastic if all families, who believe that they would be entitled to FSM (P1 – P7), would **apply through the link below**, so we can increase the numbers who are registered and increase the funding to school which can be used to support our children in so many ways. There are so many additional benefits to you, and your child, if you do apply for FSM such as:

- Free milk
- Access to clothing grants
- Access to financial support for trips / events



You may not be aware that you are eligible for FSM so please check see if any of the following criteria applies to your family. Do you receive:

- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £726)
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Your child is also entitled to free school lunches if you get:

- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £18,725
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and have an income of up to £8,717

[https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school\\_meals/117/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_clothing\\_grants](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants)

The school will be more than happy to support you in completing the necessary paperwork so please do not let that put you off applying. Remember, the more families who register, the more funding the school gets and ultimately this benefits the children.

## School Uniform

It has been so lovely to see how smartly the children have been dressed - in their full school uniform - since returning to school. School uniform helps to give children a sense of community and belonging which is so important. If you wish to order items of Sacred Heart school uniform, please use the link below:

<https://sacredheart.imagescotland.com/>



**Remember, if you apply for Free School Meals – you will get financial support to buy uniforms.**

## Free School Uniform Bank

We realise that buying school uniform is a considerable expense therefore we would encourage families to come and look at the items of good quality uniform which we have to give away for free. All items are hanging on a rail at the office. Please feel free to come along and have a look.

If, over the coming year, you find you have items of good quality uniform that you no longer need, please donate them to the rail for others to us. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

## Panto!

One aspect of Sacred Heart which makes us truly unique is our commitment to the dramatic arts. Our children participate in school 'Shows' every year and we try to give our pupils the opportunity to see a range of performances from theatre groups.



This year we are resuming our annual visit to see the pantomime - one of the oldest forms of theatre art. I know this has been a feature of our school year which has been sorely missed. We have booked tickets for the Festival Theatre Pantomime this year to see The Adventures of Peter Pan. This is a wonderful experience for our learners. Letters and permission forms have been issued and we ask payment of £14 is made via ParentPay by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

We do not wish any of our learners to miss out so if this causes you any concern, please contact the school so we can put a plan in place.

## P2 and P3 Book Trust Author Visit – Parent Helpers

The P2s and P3s are off the Cuiken Primary School on the afternoon of **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August** to meet the author Philip Reeve (The Mortal Engines saga) and author/illustrator Sarah MacIntyre (Grumpycorn). There are lots of stories and fun activities planned.



Books from the author will be available to purchase on the day for £5.00. If you wish to do this then please put the money in a named purse / envelope. There is no obligation or expectation to purchase a book.

**To support us in the organisation, we are looking for parent helpers. If you are free from 1.00pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, please let the office know.**

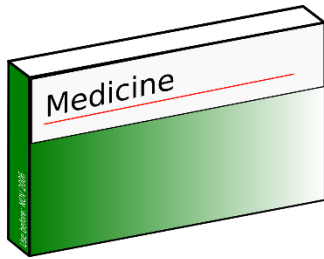
## PE Days

P1 – Monday and Wednesday  
P2 – Tuesday and Thursday  
P3/4 – Monday and Wednesday  
P4/5 – Tuesday and Thursday  
P5/6 – Tuesday and Thursday  
P7 – Tuesday and Thursday

PE kit should include a fresh T-shirt, shorts / leggings and trainers.

If your child's PE session is to be outside, they can wear joggers/leggings and a sweatshirt.

The children should, for hygiene reasons, have clothes to change into.



### Medication

If your child is taking any form of medication in school - whether it be prescribed or over the counter - **we will require a medical form to be completed by an adult on site. No child should have any medication in their bags or be self-medicating.** It is vital that all medicines are held centrally and carefully monitored to ensure that the children are kept safe. We would appreciate your support with this matter.

### Friday Lunch – Opt out to save waste

All Friday lunches will be reset for the start of school term. If you wish to opt-out of Friday school packed lunches for the new 2023/2024, please click the link below to confirm:

<https://forms.gle/BLHJ519GpjFThe4w8>

Should your circumstances change, you will be able to opt-in again at any time by emailing the school office.

### Mid-Morning Milk – Session 2023/2024

Mid-morning milk is available to order for all pupils who will be in P1 to P7 for the new session. Orders should be requested by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Payment should be made on ParentPay no later than 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. (If you are new to our school, logon details will be provided at the start of term.) If you wish to order milk for your child, please click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/mrFMT7LEVeJYTN7M7>

**Remember, if you apply for Free School Meals – your child will get milk for free.**



### Coffee and Chat

Our first Coffee & Chat for the new term will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 9.00am. We look forward to meeting with as many parents / carers as can manage to come along to Sacred Heart that morning.

*Coffee & Chat*

Going forward, our plan is to alternate between ‘in-person’ and ‘virtual’ get togethers so, if other commitments prevent you from coming along in person then hopefully we will be able to meet virtually next time.

### Reporting Absences

Please ensure that you call or email in to school to report your child absent. You do not need to wait until the morning to do this, as you can leave a message in the dedicated telephone mailbox as soon as you are aware that your child will not be attending school. You can also email this information to [sacredheart\\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk)

Please ensure that all messages clearly state your child's name, class and the reason (advising symptoms where appropriate) for his/her absence. Your support with this matter is appreciated.



## 48-hour rule

We would remind parents that if your child has been sick they cannot return to school for 48 hours. This guidance also applies to those who experience an upset tummy. This is to give them time to recover and to ensure that any virus is not spread around our community. We appreciate your co-operation to help us keep everyone safe.



## 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 your child.

## Dates For Your Diary

- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Meet the Teacher – more information to follow soon

## Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – All Saints
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June – Feast of the Sacred Heart

## Class Updates:

### ELC (Nursery)

Welcome back. It was lovely to greet all our returners on Wednesday and we enjoyed sharing our summer stories.

We have been re-visiting our routines and developing our friendships once more. This year we will be developing links across Our Early Years hub which involves our learners working more closely with Primary 1. We will be sharing learning and experiences together through play.

In the next few weeks we will be settling some new friends in before welcoming you into the setting for a 'Stay, Play and Away' session at the start of October. As always we welcome your input so if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to speak to a member of our team. We look forward to sharing our learning with you.

### P1

What a fantastic group of Primary 1's we have at Sacred Heart this year! It has been lovely spending the last few days getting to know the children and learning all about their likes and interests. I have been so impressed by how quickly P1 have adapted to their new routines and their new setting. We have been familiarising ourselves with the classroom and its layout this week and there has been some incredible play taking place in all areas of the room. We have really enjoyed break and lunchtimes with our buddies in P5/6 as well as eating our lunch in the dining hall and developing more independence in choosing what we'd like to eat. The children have learned so much about being in school already and I can't wait for our first full week together next week!

Have a fantastic weekend!



## **P2**

It has been lovely to have the children back in school and to see their excited and happy faces. As we are getting used to a new classroom we are reminding ourselves of school routines and thinking about how we work together in the classroom.

We have read some picture books together and particularly enjoyed "Baby Brains" and "A Giraffe and A Half". We thought about our dreams and goals and how we can achieve them.

We have started doing some assessments and will continue with these next week. Our PE days will be Tuesday and Thursday and will start next week. I hope that your child will enjoy the year ahead and give their best in all that they do. If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or the school office.

## **P3/4**

A big warm welcome back to all of Primary 3/4. It has been lovely to see so many happy faces back in the classroom and engaging with different activities. The children have been keen to show how well they can listen, follow instructions, and take part in group activities. Based on this, I can already tell that we are going to have an amazing year this year in Primary 3/4 and we are all really looking forward to it!

## **P4/5**

Welcome back to P4/5! It has been lovely to get to know the class this week and hear about everyone's summer. It is also fantastic to see that everyone has come back refreshed and energized. I have wholeheartedly been impressed with the attitude of the entire class who are raring to go. I know, if we keep up this positive attitude, we will have a great year. Have a lovely weekend everyone and I look forward to our first full week back next week.

## **P5/6**

Welcome back! We are all a little bit tired after our busy week, but very glad to be back here together. We started our year by going over how to show that we are safe, ready and respectful, and looked more in depth at our Children's Rights. We identified which articles are most important to us in P5/6, and used these to create our Class Charter. We will revisit this after the October break to see if we would like to change anything. We also began learning about our topic this week, the Sustainable Development Goals. We discussed problems that the world is facing, and are beginning to discover what we can do to help. Next week, we will delve deeper into the first theme of the goals.

Just a reminder to everyone that we have **PE** on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** - it is important that we are bringing our PE kit with us on these days.

Have a lovely weekend, and we are looking forward to our first full week together!

## **P7**

Welcome back Primary 7! It has been lovely to see you all this week and hear what you have been busy doing throughout the holidays. We have had a very positive start with the children working together to create the rules and routines of our classroom for the forthcoming year. The children have had opportunities to share and consider what they would like to learn and achieve in their FINAL year of primary school. From this, the children were able to set personal targets for themselves and I look forward to helping them achieve these in any way that I can. It has been a pleasure seeing the children grow over the course of Primary 6 and I can't wait to help them flourish even more in Primary 7!

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Again, welcome back. If you have any points you wish to raise, please feel free to either email the school [sacredheart\\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk) or call the office on 0131 271 4665.

Have a great weekend!

Lilly Learmonth  
Acting Deputy Headteacher