



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all of the parents and staff who worked together to give the children an amazing Halloween Disco. The children had the best time and that is down to the hard work which goes on behind the scenes.

There were some new aspects to the disco this year and the children particularly enjoyed the photo-booth. The Parent Partnership is always looking for constructive feedback to help improve these types of events. They are also keen to have new members to support with this type of event.

Thank you to Miss Dunleavy and P5/6 for sharing their learning in such an entertaining format. We enjoyed our own personal version of Gogglebox as we learned about farming, 3D model building, persuasive writing techniques and rugby. What a busy term they have had already - and it's not over yet.

Thank you to all of the parents for coming along too. I hope you enjoyed the assembly and your time in class - where you were able to look at some of the things your children have been doing this term.

## Parents Consultation Afternoon/Evening

We would remind all parents that Parents Evening is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November** and the link for signing up for timeslots is below.

Parent's consultations will be held between 3.30pm and 8.30pm. We would also like to survey parents about their views on homework so please take a few moments to fill in the electronic survey on the night. Your views matter and we want to try to get it right for every child.

<https://forms.gle/9fSLfsYZdQyghZEz9>



## Sacred Heart Stars

This week the following children have been acknowledged as 'stars' within our school community:

- ★ Naqeeb (P1) – responsible citizen
- ★ Alex (P2) – successful learner
- ★ Gabriel (P3/4) – effective contributor
- ★ Ella-Dawn (P4/5) – responsible citizen
- ★ Jack (P5/6) – successful learner
- ★ Thomas (P7) – responsible citizen

Well done to all of our Sacred Heart Stars – you have shone brightly this week.

## Our RERC Learning

Our RERC learning this week has been focusing on the lives of the saints, in preparation for our Holy Day of Obligation, All Saints' Day

**Primary 7** were learning the story of St Stephen. We discussed the term martyrdom and explored the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. We listed the qualities displayed by St Stephen and talked about how we can apply some of these when we are dealing with situations in our school daily life.

**Primary 5/6** have been learning about the power of the Holy Spirit in their own lives and how God sends us his Holy Spirit to help us to be "the salt of the earth and light of the world." (Matthew 5: 13-16). In groups, they began to research their own house saint and we will be sharing these findings next lesson.

**Primary 4/5** have been learning that we are called to be Saints and that God sends us his Holy Spirit to help us. We discussed the process to canonisation and then made a list of as many saints that were already known to us. The children then designed a logo which contains symbols pertinent to their chosen saint.

**Primary 3/4** were learning about St Teresa of Avila and how she inspires us to be true to ourselves. She tells us to focus on being the best version of ourselves. We explored a prayer that she wrote:

**Primary 2** have managed to take part in a simple decade of the Rosary. We focused on saying the Hail Mary's and carefully counting the beads to help us keep track.

**Primary 1** have continued to discuss Blessed Mary, mother of Jesus. We have begun to practice the Hail Mary and spoke about Mary as the mother to everyone who is always there to listen to you through prayer.

*Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but  
yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which  
he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which  
he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with  
which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are  
the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his  
body.  
Christ has no body now but  
yours,*

## Sacraments – CHANGE OF DATE



The meeting to discuss Sacramental preparations has now been changed to **7.15pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** at St Margaret's Church Hall. If you intend for your child to participate in any of the sacraments – reconciliation, first holy communion or confirmation – then please ensure you attend the meeting.

## The Parent Partnership

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The Halloween Disco was a great success and the children had an amazing time but we cannot rest on our laurels as Christmas is just around the corner.

The Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, with the bulk of the set-up happening on the afternoon of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. If you are free to give a hand to set up then that would be wonderful.

We are also looking for lots of stall holders. You may have crafts which you wish to sell or know a friend who has their own business and is looking for a new outlet. The table cost is extremely reasonable and we know that the Fayre is always well attended.

This year we are hoping to have a choir of Sacred Heart pupils singing to make the event even more festive.

Please either contact me, a member of the Parent Partnership or your class rep if you want to get involved or wish to book a table.

Jemima

Please click the appropriate link below to add yourself to your class WhatsApp group. When you join, please introduce your name and your child's name so your class rep knows who has joined.

Alternatively, you can also send a text message to your class rep and request them to join you in the group. Please contact Jemima on 07438369168 for your class rep's name and contact number.

ELC (Nursery): <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LX0zGNIJMQC40piWCOGnXh>

P1: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/H9gf5JvswmHH6WmFGpfkP3>

P2: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JM5QzNrl5DI3TN3tARna3X>

P3/4: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KG4j8ghD8PvFF1bwtHd8IO>

P4/5: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HEKnp8kJkb82oq68OCcwPy>

P5/6: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JiH4od1GML6FkIqmjL5UJw>

P7: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BcqbRSsruLFmEj72HBfn8>



### Hockey Taster Session

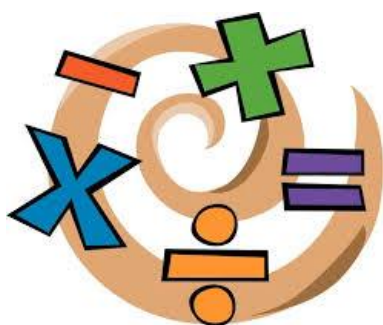
P3 – P7 will be taking part in hockey taster session over the next four weeks, starting on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Depending upon the weather, these sessions could be held outdoors so joggers/leggings and a sweatshirt should be brought in to school on a Tuesday.

The children **are not permitted to wear their PE clothes to school** as, if working outdoors, they could become wet/dirty and then the children would have nothing to change into to keep them dry and comfortable for the rest of the day.



### P7 St David's HS Numeracy Event - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November

All our P7s have been invited to take part in a fun numeracy event on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** at St David's High School. This is an annual event which is enjoyed by all pupils whether they intend to attend St David's or not.



Pupils are required to be in school for **8.30am** wearing **full school uniform**. Please bring a packed lunch (this will be provided if requested from school or if eligible for free school meals). If you require a packed lunch from the school, we will need to be advised of this on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** to ensure that the kitchen staff have time to prepare it prior to departure.

### P7 visit to Dalkeith Palace - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

P7 are beginning their topic on World War II and as part of their learning will visit Dalkeith Palace on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. Pupils are required to wear full school uniform. Please bring a warm waterproof coat and wear sensible shoes. Pupils require a packed lunch (this will be provided if requested from school or if eligible for free school meals) – see above.



### Penicuik High School Parent/Pupil Tours

Penicuik High is inviting parents to come for tours of the school next week. If you would like to be shown around the school and have an opportunity to ask questions then please go along to PHS on the following dates:

- 🌟 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- 🌟 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 1.00pm – 2.00pm



### St David's High School Information Evening

Families of pupils in P5/6/7 are invited to attend an information evening being held at St David's HS on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** from 6.00-7.30pm. You will also be able to visit areas within the school on the evening. Please see letter which has been emailed to these families

### Breakfast Club

Please be mindful that Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am and there is no capacity for children to be looked after prior to that time. The staff on site are often engaged with setting up the food and are not available to look after the children before 8.00am. If you arrive early you are welcome to come and sit in the foyer with your child until 8.00am but no child should be unsupervised before that time.

## School Uniform

In the past few weeks we have seen a drop in the standard of school uniform which some of the older children are wearing to school. Uniform develops a sense of unity and group identity as well as reducing bullying due to comments over fashion 'labels'

If you are finding it challenging to meet the costs of school uniform then please let the school know as we are able to help with this.

It is an expectation that all children will wear school uniform.



## Poppies

We are once again supporting the Scottish Poppy Appeal to raise money for veterans. From the beginning of next week (Monday 6 November), our P7 pupils will come to all classes and pupils are invited to bring a small donation to school. Poppies will be available until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November or whilst stocks last.



## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be arriving in school from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The classes will all have an opportunity to browse the books on sale. There is of course absolutely no obligation to purchase a book.

The Fair will also be open on the night of the Parent Consultations. We are only able to accept cash when purchasing so, if you wish to reward your youngster for an excellent report, then please remember to bring cash on the night.

## Family Information Workshops – Social Stories and Emotional Regulation

Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian are offering a workshop to support parents, carers, and other family members to understand how their young people communicate and regulate and explore strategies to support this across the day. This will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023** from 11am-12noon at Newbattle Medical Centre, Group Room. For booking details, please leaflet attached to last week's newsletter.

## Children in Need - Be SPOTactular! - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Be SPOTactular! and show us your spots! Come dressed in spotty or bright clothing (no costumes please).

This will be a non-school uniform day for all pupils at Sacred Heart. If you are able to, please send a coin donation on the day and we will send all money raised onto Children In Need.



## Parent Partnership - Easy Fundraising

Parent Partnership have now registered Sacred Heart Primary School on [easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org)

If you don't already use [easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org), it is a way to support local causes simply by doing your normal online shopping. You can get an extension for your web browser on your computer or on your mobile device that will prompt to approve a donation from your normal shopping purposes. Over 7,500 brands including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Sacred Heart Primary School - Parent Partnership, Penicuik for FREE when you use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org) to shop with them.

We would be very grateful for any new supporters. Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do your Christmas online shopping this year. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. [#MakeItCount](#)

For a short period of time, we are also able to access an extra bonus donation from easyfundraising. Please see the attached flyer with more information and an easy access QR code.

Please click on the link to learn more about how to show your support:

<http://efraising.org/UyvUbB8c95>

### 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.

## 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.

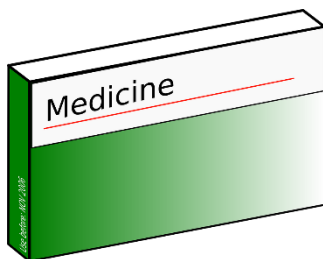


## Coffee & Chat

### Coffee and Chat

The minutes from the last session held in school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October are attached for your information.

Our next planned Coffee and Chat session will be virtual and will start at 9.30am to allow time to get home after drop-off times. We would love to meet as many parents as possible online. This is an opportunity to connect with other parents and to give your suggestions regarding how to make Sacred Heart even better. Please put **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** in your diary.



### 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.

## 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.



## Dates For Your Diary

- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> November – P7 pupils to Numeracy Event at St David's HS
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> November – Sacrament Registration Meeting 7.15pm St Margaret's Church Hall
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November - P7 trip to Dalkeith Palace
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Parent Tour of PHS 4.00pm-5.00pm

- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November – St David's HS Open Evening for P5-7 pupils and parent/carers 6.00-7.30pm
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Sharing Assembly
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November – P7 parent tour of PHS 1.00pm -2.00pm
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Scottish Book Week – book fair will be in school
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-bullying Week – Respect Me
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccination Programme in school
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> November – Children In Need Day – spotty clothing
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> November – Rite of Enrolment for all sacramental children 11am Mass at SH Church
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> March – P3/4 & P4/5 Swimming (every Wed except holidays)
- Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> December – Drumming performance to parents of pupils in P4/5 and P5/6
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December – Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumpers
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Parties
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December – School closes 12.25pm for Christmas holidays

## 2024

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – New term starts for pupils- 8.50am (8.00am Breakfast Club)
- Tues 16<sup>th</sup> January - Catechesis for Reconciliation Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> January - Rite of Illumination for Reconciliation children 11.00am Mass in SH Church
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> February – School closes 12.25pm for February break
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February – School reopens 8.50am (8.00am Breakfast Club)
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Ash Wed - Parish Mass 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> February - Rite of Signing of the Cross for Reconciliation children 11.00am Mass in SH Church
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> February - Catechesis for FHC Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March - Catechesis for Confirmation Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> March – P6 Bikeability
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March - Reconciliation Practice 10.45am in Sacred Heart Church
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> March - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 6.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March – School closes 3.15pm for Easter Holiday
- Tues 16<sup>th</sup> April – School reopens 8.50am (8.00am Breakfast Club)
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> April - Rite of the Presentation of the Gospels for Confirmation children 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart Church
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April- Rite of the Presentation of the Our Father for FHC children 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May – May Day - School closed
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May - Rite of the Presentation of the Creed for Confirmation children 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May – School closed to pupils
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> May - FHC Practice 10.45am in Sacred Heart Church
- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June - SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 1.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June – Eucharistic Adoration P4 FHC 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church



- Fri 14th June - SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 7.00pm (Place TBC)
- Wed 26th June - P7 Leavers' Mass 11.00am in school
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June – Term ends 12.25pm

### Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – All Saints 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Thursday 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June – Feast of the Sacred Heart Parish Mass at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Church

### Class Updates:

#### **ELC (Nursery)**

The children were still super excited about Halloween at the start of the week so we ensure that we used this as the stimuli for lots of learning. We had lots of opportunity to develop our numeracy skills when we were measuring to make potions and counting when we make scary biscuits. The children also enjoyed colour mixing during these activities – a very important skill.

The children have really expressed an interest in reading this week so we have shared lots of stories and enjoyed sitting together; using our listening and predicting skills. Listening to stories is so important as this is what helps the children develop their imagination and language.

Next week we shall continue to look at the seasonal changes as we move deeper into autumn. When walking to school, it would be great if you could discuss the colours you see on the trees. We hope everyone has a fabulous weekend.

#### **P1**

Wow! We have been so busy in Primary One this week! We have learned three new sounds this week and were introduced to our first special friend 'sh'. We came up with lots of words containing this sound and realised that it can be at the end of the word as well as the start. We are becoming more confident at using our magnetic boards to spell words but any practise of blending using sound cards at home would also be very much appreciated to help build the children's confidence even more. We continued our Drawing Club journey this week and our focus story was Room on the Broom. It really helped that so many of us knew the story so well as it helped us to understand the new vocabulary that we have been learning. We learned words such as passenger and addition this week and have been very ambitious in using them during our storytelling sessions.

In numeracy we have all been learning lots of different things but our main focus continues to be counting backwards and forwards, recognising numbers as well as writing them correctly. As we move onto the teens numbers there has been some confusion with the order that numbers come in so we will continue to build this in for short bursts every day. In maths we have started exploring pattern and discovered that patterns come in many different shapes and forms. We discussed clothing patterns, picture patterns and number patterns before focusing our learning on patterns using colour. We created patterns using peg boards, threading beads and unifix cubes before creating our own patterns as our 'must do' teacher task. We practised taking ownership of our learning when completing this task as we were allowed to choose the time we came to do our task but had a specific window of time in which to complete it. The children enjoyed ticking their name off on our chart to show that they had finished the task.

In PE we have been learning about balances and have been practising holding different balances and using our hands and feet to help us. In French we learned about doing the register and how this is done in France. We also started learning the songs for our upcoming Nativity on Monday and have already confidently learned two songs and the actions to go along with them!

Next week we will be learning the sounds 'v', 'y' and 'w'. In maths we will continue to explore pattern with a focus on creating Autumnal patterns which will hopefully take us outside if the weather is on our side!

Have a great weekend!

## **P2**

We have had a very busy week once again! We continue to focus on addition in numeracy and have been working with the abacus and dominos to write addition sums. Some of us have been learning to add doubles up to 20. Next week we will continue to do this and think about 5 and 10 plus facts. In maths we are looking at measurement with Mrs Wilson and enjoyed time outside using metre sticks and rulers.

In literacy we met Plop, the main character in our novel "The owl who was afraid of the dark". We have used a word bank to share our thoughts about Plop and we will write about other characters next week.

For HWB we celebrated Mass together on Wednesday. We decided what Pupil Voice groups we would like to join and look forward to being part of them. In PE we learnt the Superman dance which is a great way to listen and follow directions. We now know all the steps for the Canadian Barn Dance and manage to work with a partner and dance together. Next week we will start a circle jig. We were very lucky to have some visitors from the Penicuik Rotary group who helped us to weed some of the planters in the nursery playground. We prepared the soil, added some compost and planted bulbs together. We are going to work on the other planters and look forward to seeing some colour in the coming months. If you have any bulbs or seeds you would like to donate with us we would be very grateful.

Finally we have started to learn our Nativity songs with P1 and they sound great already... You might have heard about the big, big story? Have a restful weekend.

## **P3/4**

Primary 3/4 have had a challenging week as, unfortunately, Miss Anderson was ill and so they coped with a great deal of change. It is a testament to their increased maturity that they manage so well and everyone who taught them commented on what a delight they were.

In maths the children were working on subtraction using the 'jump strategy' which can be a little tricky. Even those children, who were finding their learning quite challenging showed great resilience and perseverance. The children worked well with their group partners and supported others in their learning.

In literacy the children were developing their prediction skills. They had fantastic prediction ideas for the monster picture which showed how imaginative they all are. I'm not quite sure why one pairing decided that the monster came from Ohio! Maybe they know something I don't know.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend and we are looking forward to a more 'normal' week next week.

## **P4/5**

What a quick week it has been! It has just shot by for P4/5, who managed to fit in a lot of learning in that time. On Wednesday, the whole school visited Sacred Heart Church for All Saints Mass and as usual the children represented their school brilliantly. We also had a visit from the Drumming for Excellence people who led the first of a series of lessons which will end with a class performance in December.

In literacy this week we have been practicing our description writing a lot, using noun phrases and speech. We also did a refresher of when to use question marks and exclamation marks correctly. Next week we will be applying what we have learned by writing a story with interesting descriptions of characters and setting.

In numeracy we have carried on building confidence and fluency in our times tables. We have also started to look at using bar models to help us visualise multiplication problems. On Monday, we started a block where we are learning time. Hopefully the class will be able to tell me how long it is until lunch/home time from now on! We will continue working on multiplication using the bar method and worded problems.

For PE, we continued our gymnastics block, working on balance using benches to balance on this time. There were some tricky and imaginative balances attempted! Next week we will look at different types of jump. On Monday, we learned about reliable and unreliable sources of information in technology and had an interesting discussion about what happens to information that we post on the internet. It was surprising to see how quickly information, good or bad, can spread on the internet. Next week we will be using technology to find reliable information about religious celebrations.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

## **P5/6**

Happy (belated) Hallowe'en everyone! We hope you have had a great week - we've had a very busy one, again!

In Literacy, we have continued with our Talk for Writing unit and explored more sophisticated punctuation together. We learned how to appropriately use semicolons within a text, ensuring to link only sentences that are related. We then analysed our example story together, identifying together the specific structure that warning stories used. We used voice and actions to help us remember. Finally, we applied what we learned in our Cold Write - this is when we write our story without any planning, and try our best to create the most effective piece we can. We can use the peer, self and teacher assessment from this to identify next steps for after we plan our final piece. Next week, we will analyse the example text further, and begin to learn it off by heart in order to help us in our own writing. We also began Literature Circles this week - we got into groups to discuss a book, and began to make some initial predictions about what could happen within the plot. We are really excited to get stuck into this!

In numeracy, we have had a great week! We are finishing up with our fractions, this week speaking about adding and subtracting fractions. We learned what 'like' fractions are, and the appropriate way to complete calculations involving these. Some of the groups went further and began to think about how we could add and subtract fractions when they are not like. We used equivalence to do this, relying on our previous times tables knowledge in order to find a common denominator in order to make it easier for ourselves.

Next week, we will move on to decimals and percentages, relating this to our knowledge of fractions.

In IDL this week, we have been investigating continental drift and plate tectonic theory! We revised what we learned about the structure of the Earth, and spoke about how the Earth's crust floats on the mantle. The crust is split into tectonic plates, and we identified the name of each of the plates on a blank map. We then investigated how these plates interact with each other, discussing what the consequences of these would be on the Earth that we can see. We used biscuits and icing in order to demonstrate each type of boundary: convergent, transform and divergent. Next week, we will continue to build on our learning from this week and look at volcanoes more in depth!

In HWB, we were very sensible when discussing how to be safe around fireworks and bonfires. We looked at the Firework Code, and went through some safety protocols that are important to know about when being near open fires. We discussed what we would do if there was ever an emergency, and who we can ask to help us. We know that we will keep all these in mind over the weekend and on Bonfire Night!

Have a lovely, restful weekend and we will see you again on Monday!

## P7

Primary 7 have been learning to spell words with 'qu' in them this week as well as words ending in -ture. Next week they will be spelling words with soft 'c'. The grammar focus this week has been on compound sentences and next week we will build on this by looking at compound sentences. In writing this week, the children have completed their cold writing assessments of diary writing and from this we will be learning to use adverbs of time and including our thoughts and feelings. We will also be continuing with our novel study 'Fireweed' and using this as a basis for our reading focusing on characterisation and setting.

In Numeracy this week, the children have been identifying multiples and factors of numbers as well as solving multiplication and division word problems. Next week, they will be learning to multiply and divide whole and decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. Our maths focus this term is measure and the children have been measuring classroom items to the nearest cm and m and converting their answers into given forms. Next week, we will be calculating the perimeter of 2D shapes.

The children have really enjoyed our lessons so far on WWII. They have had the opportunity to share what they know about WWII and what they'd like to find out. They have also learned about the key events which led to the start of the war. Next week, we will be focusing on doing our assembly based around WWII and Remembrance Day. The children will be going out on a trip to Dalkeith Palace on Wednesday to reinforce their learning.

This week in Science, we have begun learning about the respiratory system. The children were able to label all the organs and parts of the body involved in this process. Next week we will be learning about the purpose and function of each body part.

Our P.E days will be alternating on a Wednesday and Thursday to accommodate for timetable clashes. Next week, our P.E days will be Tuesday and Thursday and the focus will be on basketball.

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I hope you have a great weekend and that the weather dries up so the children can get outside to play.

Lilly Learmonth  
Acting Deputy Headteacher