



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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17th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Primary 2 went Twit-Twoo!!! Our Primary 2 pupils joined with the children from St Matthews Primary School on a joint visit to the Scottish Owl Centre. Both classes have been learning all about owls as part of their topic work. The children had a fabulous – if slightly damp day – meeting a range of owls and learning first-hand about their habits.

The classes will now be keeping in touch by sharing fact files and information videos based on their learning from the visit.



We are also proud to share a story about one of our young learners who did something rather different for charity. Roza (P4/5), recently had her long hair cut off so that she could donate it to charity! This charity makes wigs for children who have lost their hair due to ill health or the effects of treatment for life threatening illnesses.

Roza was inspired to do this after she received so many gifts for her First Holy Communion. She realised that she was very blessed and wanted to do something for those less fortunate than herself. Mum arranged for her to have her hair cut into a lovely bob – which suits her perfectly – and her long hair has been sent off to the charity to begin the process of converting it into wigs. Well done, Roza – we are so proud of you!

This week we have had the pleasure of welcoming some work experience pupils from Penicuik High School. It was great to have Katie, an ex-pupil, back in school. Katie has been building upon the foundations set, when she was at Sacred Heart, and is aspiring to study psychology as part of her plan to become a lawyer. It is so wonderful to hear how well our ex-pupils are doing and to know that we played a part in their journey to success. Go Katie!!!!



Sacred Heart Stars

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

- ★ Fraser (P1) – responsible citizen
- ★ Ariel (P2) – effective contributor
- ★ Layla (P3/4) – responsible citizen & effective contributor
- ★ Vanessa (P4/5) – confident individual & successful learner
- ★ Adam (P5/6) – effective contributor
- ★ Louis (P7) – successful learner

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

Our RERC Learning

Primary 7 have been learning about Heaven and how we can use our free will to enter, but that our decision is not forced by God. We explored the terms Heaven and Hell as living with God or living without Him. We learned the Fatima prayer and discussed the meaning of the words in more detail.

Primary 5/6 have been reflecting on the story of the Ascension and its relevance to us today. We discussed how God wills everybody to have eternal life with him in Heaven, and that we can live forever because, now that Jesus is risen, He will never die again. We are continuing to practise the Eternal Rest prayer.

Primary 4/5 have been continuing to look at remembrance and praying for those who have gone to Heaven. We explored the funeral Rites of the Church and the respect and care shown for the bodies of those who have died. They have learned the following terms: vigil, liturgy, eulogy, music and the rite of committal.

Primary 3/4 have been learning the Eternal Rest prayer and adding to their book of remembrance. We discussed our own ideas of Heaven and how we can live there forever with God.

Primary 2 are continuing to explore the idea of Heaven and their own understanding of this. We discussed how we are preparing to go to Heaven our whole lives and we talked about the different ways we could carry out good deeds to ensure we are prepared.

Primary 1 are continuing to develop their understanding of the sequence of the events within the Christmas story. They have been working hard on their Nativity songs; which are helping them to understand the true message.

Rite of Enrolment Sacramental Mass

A Rite of Enrolment Mass for all sacramental children will take place on Sunday 19th November in Sacred Heart Church at 11.00am. All families are welcome to share in this special celebration.



The Parent Partnership

Hi

Thank you to all of those people who have volunteered their services at the Christmas Fayre - which is only two weeks away on Saturday 2nd December.

We are still looking for a few more pairs of hands for on the day so get in touch either through your Whatsapp group or you can contact The Parent Partnership Team directly via our new email address sacredheartparentpartnership@gmail.com

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/H9gf5JvswmHH6WmFGpfp3>

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>



Book Fair

The Book Fair was a great success – thank you to Mrs Halliday and Mrs Howat for their support with this endeavour. Sacred Heart receives a percentage of the money raised in the form of book credit. We shall be able to order lots of books to add to our new library area so all of the children, across the school, will benefit!

The book order has been placed and we are hopeful that they will arrive at the start of the week.



Children in Need - Be SPOTactular!

Thank you for all of your donations. As a school we raised £100.71 which will be sent to Children in Need to support a range of children's charities.

Parents Night

What a turn out! We were delighted that we had almost 100% attendance at our Parent Consultation Evening. The partnership between home and school is vital and the teachers said it was a delight to have the opportunity to share successes, and next steps, with both parents and learners.

Thank you also to the parents who spoke to myself and Siobhra to express how happy their children were and their confidence in the school as a whole. After a challenging few months, getting positive feedback is so reassuring.



Parent Feedback Group

As part of our school improvement programme, the Local Authority will be visiting the school on Thursday 30th November to monitor progress in the raised during the recent HMIe. The team would like to speak with a range of parents to get their views on the school. If you would like to be part of that process, and are free on Thursday 30th November at 2.30pm, please email the school to let them know.

A Request from Primary 7

As part of their learning about World War 2, Primary 7 will be 3D model making in the next few weeks. To facilitate this, they will need lots and lots of cardboard. They are hoping for a mix of brown cardboard boxes - to create sturdy bases for their creations - as well as the more flexible cardboard that is in food packaging such as corn flakes boxes. If you are able to provide some of this material, Primary 7 would be extremely appreciative!

Hockey Taster Session

P3 – P7's hockey taster sessions are continuing on a Tuesday over the next 2 weeks. The children loved their first session and I know are looking forward to learning more from their coach over the coming weeks.



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.

Head lice

We have again had an outbreak of head lice. Could we ask all parents to be extra vigilant by checking your youngster's hair on a weekly basis. If you see signs of head lice such as scratching, eggs or lice themselves - we would ask that you act promptly to treat the problem before the lice spread.



Regular combing through of your child's hair using conditioner and a head lice comb will catch lice in their early stages. Once head lice are more established, you may need to use an over the counter medication. This can be obtained free from the pharmacy. Please ensure that you follow the instructions fully to ensure the most effective results. Let's all work together to keep Sacred Heart head lice-free!

Registration for P1 for August 2024 (update)

Registration week will take place from **Monday 20th - Sunday 26th November**. Please ensure you register for ONE of your catchment schools - details on these schools and how to register online are listed within your letter from Midlothian Council.

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/879/school_places/32/apply_for_a_school_place



Stay and Play for Future Primary 1 Pupils

If you know of any families who have a child who is starting P1 in August 2024, please recommend us as a school. We are happy to provide school tours both in school hours and in the early evening. Families who are interested in registering with Sacred Heart for August 2024 are most welcome to join us for a Stay and Play session in the P1 classroom on **Saturday 18th November between 10am and 11am.**

Registration for P7 to S1 High School for August 2024

Registration week will take place from Monday 20- Sunday 26 November. You should have received a letter from Midlothian Council advising St David's High School in Dalkeith is the catchment school for your child and details regarding registration. If you intend for your child to attend an alternative school, you are required to complete a placing request for the school you wish them to attend. Please note this does not guarantee them a place and decision will be confirmed in late Spring 2024.

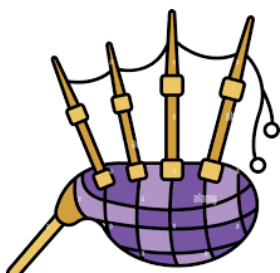


Homework Survey

We are extremely keen to get a clear picture about how our families feel about homework. This can be a very divisive subject as some families are keen and others feel that a day at school is enough and home time is to be shared with the family, not doing more work.

Before we make any changes to our present homework policy, we would like to know your views. If you have not already done so, please follow the link below to fill in the survey and let us know your point of view.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH9_MHbsYoWaETjaBhsYufIKjOZIFv9RqTls6vLmoJIZURiQ/viewform?usp=sf_link



Penicuik & District Pipe Band Open Day for children/ young people interested in learning bagpipes, snare or tenor drum

Penicuik & District Pipe Band Open Day for learners interested in learning bagpipes, snare or tenor drum. Try the chanter, drum pad/sticks or Drum Major Mace! Open Day **Saturday 18th November 12:30** Shottstown Miners Club.

"Gear Up For Winter" Road Safety Awareness Week 2023

Active Travel Team are hosting a *Dr Bike Maintenance Event* in partnership with Road Safety Awareness Week 2023! for adults and children. Come along to Lasswade High School/Leisure Centre on Friday 24th November from 2-4pm. We will have Dr Bike present to offer bike maintenance services- so you can ensure your bike is ready for winter.

Police and Fire Service will also be there to offer their guidance and expertise on how to stay safe on the roads during the darker nights. Those who attend will benefit from a free bike service, Bike register, cycling equipment freebies and have greater confidence for cycling during the winter months.

Youth Day at Gillis Centre (children from P4-7)

On **Saturday 25th November**, Father Martin Eckersley is leading a Youth Day for our children which will be a fun filled day with games and treats and a focus on preparing to meet Christ the King at Christmas. It is a free event and families can book a place

by emailing fmartin.eckersley@staned.org.uk and completing a consent form at [Fun and faith at our Youth Day! - Archdiocese of Edinburgh \(archedinburgh.org\)](https://www.archedinburgh.org/our-youth-day/)

Mass will also be celebrated on the day with Archbishop Leo.

Please click on the link below to watch a video for further information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe_OSLY6We8

We know at this time of year families are very busy but it really would be a lovely opportunity for children across the Archdiocese to come together

RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood) Consultation

In August 2023, draft statutory guidance was published around the delivery of relationships, sexual health and parenthood education in Scottish schools. The draft guidance is an update to [guidance originally published in 2014](#) and a public consultation has now been opened to ensure that all views are considered before the guidance is finalised.

As the primary educators of their children, it is important for parents and carers to offer their views on the content of this guidance, particularly within the context of upholding Catholic beliefs.

In particular, views are sought on whether:

1. the content of the revised guidance is clear in its aims
2. the guidance provides the necessary and relevant information to guide teachers on their delivery of RSHP education
3. the specific guidance contained is accurate and relevant in providing factual and meaningful learning on the specific topics it covers
4. the resources and signposts are relevant, up-to-date and useful in supporting teachers and school staff to provide meaningful RSHP learning

Please take some time to engage with the new guidance and share your views within this consultation by following the link below:

https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/teaching-guidance-for-relationships-sexual-health/?fbclid=IwAR0ONJ8Ct6t6HTY10XHc-trxbz5AsFcatL_VSv5hcnUdviYmy9OWFortyl4

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](https://www.easyfundraising.org) 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 flyer sent last for further 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

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, Tuesday 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.

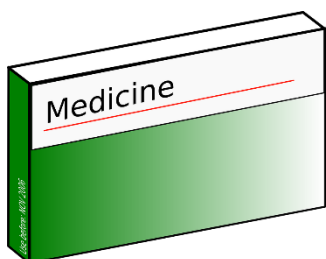
The children should, for hygiene reasons, have clothes to change into.



Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat

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 24th 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

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

- Sat 18th November – Stay and Play Event for future P1 pupils
- Sun 19th November – Rite of Enrolment for all sacramental children 11am Mass at SH Church
- Wed 22nd November to 13th March – P3/4 & P4/5 Swimming (every Wed except holidays)
- Sat 2nd December – Christmas Fayre 10am–12pm

- Wed 6th December – Panto trip – returning to school at approximately 5.15pm
- Thurs 7th December – Drumming performance to parents of pupils in P4/5 and P5/6
- Wed 13th December – Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
- Thursday 14th December – Nativity Performance @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 14th December – Nativity Performance @ 6.00pm
- Wed 20th December – Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumpers
- Fri 22nd December – Christmas Parties
- Fri 22nd December – School closes 12.25pm for Christmas holidays

2024

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

Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

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

Class Updates:

ELC (Nursery)

A very cold and damp week this week. Can I remind parents to bring in a change of shoes for their child - thank you in advance. Monday saw the discovery of ice in our ELC garden which involved lots of experimentation in relation to melting and freezing and discussion around the cold and frost. We also have been exploring light and dark in a variety of contexts. For many of our learners light and dark relates to night and day so this brought about discussion about what we see in the night sky. Have a look at our floorbook to see some of our discussions. We are using torches in the tent and enjoying "hiding" from everyone.

We have been reading "Fill My Bucket" this book talks about our feelings, kindness and respect.

P1

It was lovely to chat to so many of you for our parent appointments on Thursday night and let you know about all of the fantastic progress that Primary 1 have made in such a short space of time! We have been hard at work on our learning again this week and I am constantly blown away by how eager to learn this P1 class is!

In literacy we have been continuing to practise reading our tricky red words. We have been working hard on reading from left to right and will keep practising this as much as we can but any support with this at home would be greatly appreciated. We completed assessments this week to show how many of our sounds we can recognise and were amazed to find out how many sounds we have learned and can keep in our heads at the one time!

In numeracy we also completed assessments to show how well we can recognise numbers to 50. Number recognition has been our main focus but with the progress being made we can start to move onto other things such as doubles and addition soon! In maths we used the Autumn leaves to create patterns by printing using red, brown and yellow paint. We have discovered that it is easier to focus on only two or three colours when creating patterns as it means that we won't get confused about which order they go in.

Next week we will be rehearsing our Nativity quite a lot! It would be great if children were able to practise saying their lines at home so that we can really focus on the acting part in school. We will be learning 4 sounds instead of our usual 3. We will be learning 'qu' 'x' 'ng' and 'nk'. In maths we will be looking at creating patterns using numbers.

Have a fantastic weekend!

P2

Yes every week is busy, but this was action packed! We started the week with Julia Donaldson and James Robertson who shared books in Scots and English with us for Scottish Book Week. We enjoyed singing the songs and listening to familiar stories in a new language. We have read our next chapter about Plop where he met a little girl who told him that dark is necessary. We talked about what is necessary and not necessary and went on to think about what we are grateful

for. We wrote about things we are grateful for and added them to our poppy art that we made for Remembrance Day last week. On Thursday we were delighted to get back to our local library and find lots of new books to enjoy. Next week will continue with our novel and think about why dark is fascinating.

In numeracy we have been continuing with subtraction and removing items. We have been looking at how we write a subtraction calculation and some of us are able to do with independently with numbers up to 20. We have also been using scales to compare things; we have asked each other what is heavier and what is lighter. Next week we will try to calculate the number that is removed in a subtraction question.

In HWB we have been thinking about how we stay safe and identifying adults who we know we can trust to help us stay safe. We have finished learning our circle jig and it is a fast dance that keeps us moving. We are learning to keep simple movements in our head and to repeat them in order. We will record this one for you next week.

And finally we had our special day with the owls ... it really was a fantastic experience on a dreich day! I will post photos on seesaw to let you see some of the highlights. The guides commented on how well behaved and engaged the children were – they had a lot of great questions, which show the power and impact of reading Plop's story together. Have a great weekend.

P3/4

We have had a great week in Primary 3/4. In Literacy we have continued our focus on Narrative writing. P3/4 have created our own warning stories using the success criteria to support us. To help us write our Narrative story, we have been learning about time connectives and descriptive language and many of us have been able to apply these to our writing. We have spent time reflecting on our targets and using the blue pen to improve our writing. Our reading this week has been focusing on reading aloud with fluency and phrasing. We have been practising stopping at the full stops and using expression in our reading.

In Numeracy we have been finishing our unit on subtraction by consolidating our work using empty number lines and missing number calculations. We have started our Maths unit on measure and have been learning about the different instruments we use to measure length and height. We have been estimating the length and height of object in the classroom and using the correct instruments to check our answers. We will continue our maths topic on measure next week.

In IDL this week P3/4 have continued our extreme earth topic. We have been learning about natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes and the impact these have on humans and the environment.

Finally, in Hockey this week we were learning how to tackle. We played hockey games and learned how to play together as a team to score a goal.

Next week in maths we will exploring measure. We will be estimating the length of different objects in our classroom and then using tools such as rulers to check these estimations. In literacy we will be developing our reading comprehension skills by looking at inference using pictures to help us. Finally, in topic we will be learning about volcanic eruptions and using this to help plan a newspaper article.

P4/5

What a hectic week it has been in P4/5. We have worked hard in literacy to finish our warning story. Next week we will be looking to edit and improve our story. We have also been working on using the correct punctuation for speech this week and we will be practising this more over next week to help us. We will also be starting to look at procedural writing next week where we will be looking at writing through science. For science we will be looking at the properties of different materials and changes of state for different materials.

In numeracy we continued looking at time where we were learning about the different ways we can say and write the time. Next week we will be looking at calculating the length of time to do something as well as am/pm. We have also continued looking at different ways to multiply numbers. We have all been using the bar model to visualise the question and some of us have been using empty number lines to calculate the answer and others have been using the grid method. Next week we will be starting to look at division, using the bar model to help us visualise the problem and learning different methods to calculate the sum.

Elsewhere, we continued our investigation into different religious celebrations which we will turn into presentations to give to the class. We will carry on with this next week. In PE we had another session of hockey where the children learned how to tackle and played a fun tackling game. Next week we hope to get a hockey game for the first time. On Thursday we had another drumming session which Mr Hutchinson had a go of leading with the aim of working towards a performance in the future. We will carry on our practice next week where we will be working on some new rhythms.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

P5/6

What a busy week we've had in P5/6 - again! It was lovely to meet you all at Parent's Evening this week, thank you again for taking the time to come and chat.

In Literacy this week, we have been continuing our work on creating a warning story. We've put all of the skills we have been learning about in our lessons into practice as we did our Hot Task this week. We made sure to put a lot of detail into our plans, following the warning story structure that we now know so well. We created our success criteria together, discussing each element of it together to ensure we all understood what we needed to include in order to be successful. I was very impressed with the focus and determination shown by all of the class during our writing time, all of our hard work has paid off! Next week, we will assess these together and identify next steps for ourselves and others. We continued our spelling work this week, expanding our knowledge of dictionary skills in order to increase our understanding of vocabulary. In our Literature Circles, we are developing our discussion skills, responding to the texts that we are working through. The groups are using their inference and prediction skills in order to discuss what they have taken from their novel. We will continue to do this next week, and discuss together what is needed in order to make a 'Book Club' discussion successful and meaningful.

In numeracy, we have been participating in some assessment in our groups as we prepare to finish up with fractions, decimals and percentages for now. We finished off with finding a fraction of an amount, making sure to follow the rule of 'divide by the bottom, multiply by the top'. Whenever we complete two step calculations, we are making sure that we are taking it slow and evaluating our work at each step to be certain that we are confident in our calculations. Next week, we will expand upon our knowledge of money - we will be learning how to create a budget, something that will be in everyone's minds as we get closer to Christmas!

In our topic this week, we used our research about the destruction of Pompeii to create a news report. We had to put our 'journalist hat' on, following all of the features of a news report. We had to make sure we had a catchy headline, wrote chronologically and include witness statements within our article. The learners were also challenged to meet their deadline - a skill that they will definitely use in the future! Next week, we will investigate the two different types of volcano eruptions, and begin to plan for our own volcano project.

Just a reminder, the children will continue next week to have their Hockey session on **Tuesday** - these will potentially be outside, so please make sure that they bring warm clothes that they can participate in PE comfortably e.g. joggers, leggings, jumper etc.

Have a lovely weekend and we will see you again next week for a great week of learning!

P7

This week the children have been making good progress in their writing as they up levelled examples of diary writing. We have begun planning our writing but time has ran ahead of us so the diary writing will take place next week. The children will be focusing on including a range of openers and conjunctions as well as explicitly and implicitly describing their feelings.

In Numeracy next week, the children will be continuing with multiplication and division as they solve word problems using the strategies they have been learning over the past few weeks. They will also be looking at incorrect examples of multiplication and division calculations and explaining the mistakes before solving them correctly. In maths, we will be continuing to work on perimeter.

Our P.E lessons next week will be on Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesday, the children will continue building their hockey skills and on Thursday they focus will return to basketball skills. In health and wellbeing, P7 will be considering their skills and qualities and linking this to what type of learner they are.

We will be continuing with our WWII topic which the children seem to be really enjoying. Next week, they will be looking at the Blitz in more detail and will have a go at building Anderson and Morrison shelters. **Please could I ask that you send in any waste cardboard from your homes next week to make this lesson possible.**

X-----X

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the Stay and Play on Saturday!

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Deputy Headteacher