



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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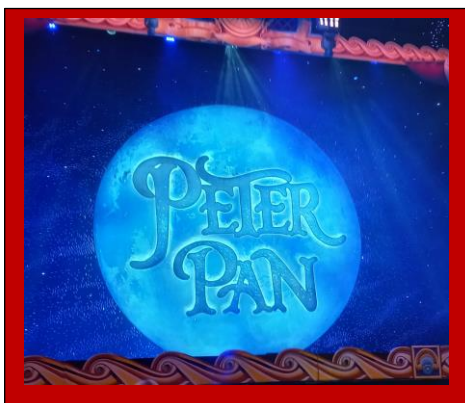
Dear Parent/Carer,

What a fantastic trip we had to the Panto on Wednesday. The children were super excited as we clambered on to our buses. As always their behaviour was impeccable and we were proud of Sacred Heart. Here are a few photos of the day to enjoy.

Off We Go...



Fun, Fun, Fun...



It's All Too Much...



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

- ★ Ramona (P1) – effective contributor
- ★ Amber (P2) – responsible citizen
- ★ Zara Br (P3/4) – responsible citizen
- ★ Gabriella (P4/5) – successful learner
- ★ Riley (P5/6) – successful learner
- ★ Damien (P7) – effective contributor

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 focused around Advent. Here is a link to an online Advent Calendar which can be used at home:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/advent-calendar-for-children>

God of love, you sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us how to live. Help us to be ready for when he comes again. Amen.

P7 have been learning that God has given all of us the freedom to make choices and the ability to resist temptation. We explored Jesus' temptation in the desert (Luke 4: 1-13) and discussed how we will experience temptations in our lives which are contrary to Gospel values. The children were able to list lots of different ways in which they would resist

temptation if faced with it and we highlighted the importance of Reconciliation during Advent.

P5/6 have been deepening their understanding of Advent as a season in the Liturgical Year, where we especially think about getting ready to welcome Jesus, when we remember his birth at Christmas and when he comes again in glory. They discussed the meaning of the word "Gospel" and learned about how each Gospel paints a different portrait of the same Jesus.

P4/5 have been learning that the liturgical colour during Advent is purple and the liturgical colour for Christmastide is white. They have also been exploring the meaning of some signs and symbols of Christmas (such as crib, star, Advent wreath). We used the themes of waiting and preparing to identify things we could do over the course of the next few weeks. These were then made into our Advent promises.

P3/4 helped to dress the altar with the purple cloth and we discussed why these colours are used during Advent. They have been deepening their understanding of Advent, using the themes of waiting and preparation. The children looked at the features of an Advent wreath and the significance of each of the candles.

P2 helped to dress the altar with the purple cloth and we discussed why these colours are used during Advent. We talked about preparing for something and listed the things that we do when we are getting ready for an exciting event. Then the children looked at an advent wreath and we discussed the names of each of the candles.

P1 have been introduced to the colours which represent Advent. They discussed what a 'countdown' was and how we use the advent wreath to countdown to Christmas. The children learned about the meaning behind each candle and that the green holly represents Gods love - which never fades or



dies but is there all year round like the evergreen holly. The class created beautiful black line drawings of the wreath which we shall complete next week.

The Parent Partnership

Hi

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Christmas Fayre and to all of the families who attended it and made it such a success.

We shall have a little rest over the Christmas holidays but will be back in the New Year with lots of fun events for the children.

Jemima

Running Club

Running Club returns to its usual Wednesday lunchtime slots this week. This will be the last session for this term but Miss Hardie and Mrs Cran are keen to continue the club next year and possibly enter the squad into a Park Run or 5K – so watch this space.

To celebrate the final session – the children will be having a Santa Run so please look out Christmas T-shirts and Santa hats for Wednesday! Remember to bring a packed lunch too.



Carols By Candlelight

This is a really special night in the Sacred Heart calendar and never fails to put us all in the Christmas mood. Please keep the evening of **Wednesday 13th December** from 6-7pm free so that we can all join together to share the Christmas story and listen to the children sing their Carols. We very much hope to see every family there as we come together as a community celebrate.

P1 and P2 Nativity

Our youngest learners have been working extremely hard to learn the songs and words for this year's Nativity. There will be two performances on **Thursday 14th December** at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. All families will have a 2 person ticket allocation. We are aware there is a 'day' error on the ticket form – it should read Thursday (not Wednesday). The date and information provided in the letter is correct.

We would ask for a cash donation on the day or, if you prefer, a donation via ParentPay – the payment item is now live. All monies raised go towards promoting the expressive arts across Sacred Heart.





Christmas Dinner

Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 20th December** this year. The children have already selected their lunch choices in school. A full list of allergens will follow soon. For pupils who have an allergen or intolerance known to school, an email will be sent in the coming days to advise you of the set menu and a link to a google form for you to confirm if your child will have a school lunch on this day. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school office as soon as possible to allow time for them to be addressed in advance of the day.

Christmas Jumper Day

To coincide with Christmas lunch, the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on **Wednesday 20th December**.



P1 and P2 Toys

Some of the pupils in P1 and P2 have begun to bring a huge number of soft toys in to school. This has led to some disagreements and is extremely distracting as the children often make excuses to go to their bags to see the toys which reduces their learning time. We would appreciate your support in curbing this behaviour by ensuring that your child is not bringing toys in to school.

Amazing News - Read&Write Free for Families

You may be aware of the literacy toolbar Read&Write. We use this toolbar in school to support learning and it is installed on all pupil iPads and Chromebooks. This toolbar is exceptionally useful for children who are developing their literacy skills as it has so many applications which can support all children, including those with additional support needs.

Midlothian Council was part of a video case study on the positive impact of Read&Write. You can watch the videos and find out more [here](#). **The very exciting news is that Midlothian has negotiated a world-first deal that means you can now download the Read&Write toolbar at home, on up to 5 devices, completely free!**

Please [use this link](#) to download. You will be asked for the school's postcode and then be given instructions on what to do next. Have a look at this [feature tour](#) to see all the things Read&Write can do and ask your child to show you how they use Read&Write in school!

PE Days –

- P1 – Monday and Wednesday
- P2 – Monday and Tuesday
- P3/4 – Monday and Wednesday
- P4/5 – Wednesday 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.

P7 Transition

As the Christmas holidays approach, this is a good opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to the exciting things ahead. Many of our P7 pupils will be thinking a lot about moving on to high school at the end of the academic year. This could be causing them some anxiety and so we are working closely with both Penicuik High School and St David's High School to support all learners in making a successful transition.

Penicuik High School have provided the following link for the children to use to help them prepare for this transition. Please have a look and share with your child if PHS is their preferred high school option.

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcompasslaunch.scot%2F&data=05%7C01%7CLilly.Learmonth%40midlothian.gov.uk%7C04c3077332ed4b0ee78e08dbf7cca2d7%7Cc91025ed4c064329af7ce7ca8df9b8c5%7C0%7C0%7C638376230499060395%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sHZOHFQBbHxR%2BrMzem4VpJjaem76Wxa7Nj6ZU%2BdtILE%3D&reserved=0>

Those pupils, who are intending on attending **St David's High School** will be bringing their Chromebooks home with them this weekend as there is information on the Google Classroom about their new teachers and some transition activities to complete.

Courses At Newbattle Abbey College

Newbattle Abbey College would like to draw your attention to three new courses starting in January 2024.



For parents: IMPACT at Newbattle Abbey College

Working with Improving Midlothian Parent and Care-givers Time (IMPACT) and Midlothian Council, we are offering a free ten-week employability support programme for eligible parents and caregivers in Midlothian. The programme will result in an SCQF credit-rated award and is aimed at parents who are facing barriers to employment and are currently not in employment or education. Free travel to Newbattle Abbey College can be provided from travel hubs across Midlothian.

For 16–19-year-olds: Preparation for Next Steps

Working with Y2K and Midlothian Council, we are offering a free 10-week programme covering a range of activities that will focus on increasing confidence, improving transferable life skills, and working towards an accredited award. Participants must have a national insurance number and must not currently be enrolled in college/school and not employed. There will also be some independent travel required.

For over 16s: Preparation for Learning and Work

Are you looking to take your first steps toward college or university education or jumpstart your career? Whether you're a school leaver or an adult contemplating a return to education, this course is tailored to empower individuals with limited prior qualifications. This is a full-time college course at SCQF level 4 and successful completion will result in an accredited award, with the chance to progress to further study. Funding is available for eligible students. Applications from mature candidates are particularly welcome.

For further information on any of the three courses, please contact studentadmin@nac.ac.uk

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. <http://efraising.org/UyvUbB8c95>

Parent partnership WhatsApp Groups

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/H9gf5JvswmHH6WmFGpfpkP3>

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

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

P4/5: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HEKnp8kJk82oq68OCcwPy>

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

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



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

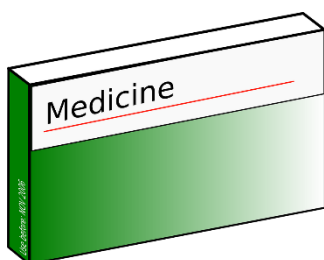
The school will be more than happy to support you in completing the necessary paperwork so please do not let that put you off applying. Remember, the more families who register, the more funding the school gets and ultimately this benefits the children.



Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend our Coffee and Chat today. Our next planned Coffee and Chat session will be in person and will start at 9.00am to coincide with drop-off times. We would love to meet as many parents as possible. 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 26th January** 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

- Wed 22nd November to 13th March – P3/4 & P4/5 Swimming (every Wed except holidays)
- 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 26th January – Coffee & Chat in school 9.00am
- 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

- 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)

Well the Christmas Spirit has certainly been evident in the ELC this week with lots of discussion about what Christmas means for our learners. We have undertaken mind maps in relation to what we know and in the coming weeks we look to expand our learners' knowledge of customs and traditions surrounding this festive celebration. We have decorated our tree and are enjoying re-decorating it almost hourly!!!!

We have been working on our dice pattern recognition both inside and outside and are practicing our skills in identifying these without counting the dots. The games have enabled us to practice turn taking skills.

The Panto was a great success and can I say on behalf of the whole team your children were a joy to share this experience with. We are so proud of them and the instruction following and listening was fantastic.

The frosty weather has allowed for more exploration in our garden looking at the properties of water in its different states

P1

It has been a very busy week full of Nativity rehearsals for Primary One! We have been practising every morning and it is really starting to come together now. The songs are sounding fantastic and the children are becoming more and more confident with their speaking parts too. We still have a few more practises ahead of us so please keep working on lines at home if you aren't already - it is hugely appreciated!

We had the best time ever at the pantomime on Wednesday afternoon and I was so impressed with the behaviour of the children when we were at the theatre. They loved sitting with their buddies too and being able to share the experience with them. It was a long day though but the children really managed so well and there were some very sleepy P1's on the bus home!

We have been working hard on creating clay advent wreaths this week too. We shaped them on Monday before painting them on Wednesday and Thursday and adding the final touches on Friday - the children can't wait to bring them home!

Next week will be all about the Nativity with some symmetry and number work squeezed in as well as reviewing our Set 1 sounds to make sure we don't forget anything!

Have a lovely weekend!

P2

This week we have been checking our learning through assessments in reading, spelling, writing and numeracy. We are excited to see how our skills and knowledge are building over time. We have finished writing our fact files on owls and are going to share our information. We were sad to hear that Spock, the long eared owl we met on our trip to the Owl Centre has died, so we decided to write cards to our friends there to say we are thinking about them.

We also decided to build a warm fire in the classroom and make it part of our cosy reading area. We got this idea from the library last week and took time to add lots of Christmas decorations to our fireplace. We have lots of stockings, gifts and things for Santa and the reindeer to snack on.

In PE you will have seen our recordings of the Virginian Reel and the Circle Jig – we are very good at dancing with partners and remembering our steps. We are going to try a Dancing White Sergeant next week.

We have enjoyed the pantomime and the drumming performance this week. Next week we have our own Nativity performance with P1. We have been making some props to make it even more special and we look forward to sharing it with you. Have a lovely weekend.

P3/4

Primary 3/4 have had an exciting week this week, especially with our trip to the Pantomime to see Peter Pan! The children were so well behaved on the bus and during the show. It was great to see everyone join in with the performance and have a good time.

The next day, we used the story of Peter Pan as our setting for our newspaper article, all about a volcanic eruption in Neverland. This week we planned the characters involved, what happened, and also who was going to give a direct quote about the event.

In maths, we finished our work on measure. We have been learning about area and how we can count whole squares and half squares to find the area of a shape. We also had a go at drawing shapes with different areas.

In health and wellbeing, we looked at what a role model was and why they are important. We took turns to think of who was a role model for us and why. As well as this, we worked in our groups during swimming. Both groups had a go at swimming forwards and backwards as well as floating.

Next week we will be writing our newspaper articles, finding out what we already know about shape, and reflecting on how we can be more like our role models.

P4/5

It has been another busy week for P4/5 which has shot by in a blur. In numeracy we continued working with time and division with a little bit of fractions thrown in. Next week we will be continuing with time and fractions. In literacy, we have continued with writing a newspaper article but haven't quite reached the end of that yet. We have also nearly finished the preparation for our presentation. Next week we hope to get both finished.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we continued with our block of swimming on Wednesday, as well as going to the panto at the Festival theatre in the afternoon. On Thursday, we had our drumming performance in front of the school and parents. The children had practiced hard for this and did a great job.

Next week is another busy week, with a trip to the Navaar to sing for the Sacred Heart Church Community which will be followed on Wednesday by our Carols by Candlelight concert at Sacred Heart Church. We hope to see you all there.

Have a lovely weekend.

P5/6

What a busy week for us in P5/6!

In Literacy this week, we have completed spelling assessments so that we can figure out what we need to learn next term. All of the class were very focused and worked extremely hard during their assessments - well done! We also discussed our reading tasks we will be working on in the coming

weeks. These use all of the skills we have been working on with Ms Wilson, such as predicting and analysing, and apply them to our chosen reading book. Next week, we will work on a mini-writing project that will use our instructional writing skills.

In numeracy this week, we also were completing some assessments to wrap up the term. We went through the questions together, and discussed the strategies that we would use to successfully answer the questions. We discussed the importance of reading word problems carefully and underlining the key terms of each question in order to figure out what operation we should use to complete the calculation. Next week, we will be looking at chance and probability.

The class had a wonderful time at the panto! They were accompanying their P1 buddies, and did a great job at showing them how to be safe, ready and respectful even when we are not in school. They also had their drumming performance on Thursday, which they did an incredible job in! I was sorry to have missed it, but from all reports they were brilliant. The learners also did a fantastic job in attending their Pope Francis Faith Award Enrolment Mass, and are looking forward to continuing their journey in their award.

A reminder that Carols by Candlelight is taking place next Wednesday evening in the church - the learners have been working hard to practice their songs, and would love to see as many of you there as possible! Have a lovely weekend, and we will see you on Monday!

P7

What a super start to December we have had! The children thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime on Wednesday and were a delight to take out. They were so responsible and did a great job of looking after their buddies - well done and thank you everyone! Next week, the festivities will continue as we prepare for our Carols by Candlelight. It is great to have so many P7s volunteering to sing solos and take on reading parts as well as being so enthusiastic with all the singing.

This week we have been learning about the Battle of Dunkirk. The children have been looking at fact files, websites, documentaries and books to gather information about the historic event. We have also begun planning our newspaper article which we will be writing next week. The children have been focusing on prefixes as part of their spelling and next week will be learning about suffixes.

In Numeracy we have been learning about equivalent fractions which the children have grasped well. Next week we will be learning to simplify fractions and placing fractions on a number line. We will also be continuing with our work on area.

In P.E we have been learning to do some Scottish country dancing. This will continue next week as we focus on the Virginia Reel, Dashing White Sergeant and Strip the Willow.

X-----X

Looking forward to seeing you all at Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday or the Nativity performance on Thursday – or maybe both!!!!

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Deputy Headteacher