



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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15th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy week for all of the school community this week. Many parents have been at both the Carols by Candlelight and also the Nativity. I am sure you will agree that both were fantastic and showcased what talented and confident children we have at Sacred Heart.

Mrs Cran and Ms Hardie finished off this year's Running Club with a Santa Run in the local area. Running Club will resume later in the New Year – when the weather has improved.



We are also delighted to announce that **three** of our ex-pupils just won the prestigious ASPIRE Award at St David's High School for their dedication to modelling the schools core values. We are immensely proud of the children and we hope that their time at Sacred Heart was the foundation upon which they continue to build and thrive. Well done to Raj Baines, Logan Hogg and Archie Wilson who are all in S1.

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

- ★ Safa (P1) – confident individual
- ★ Charlie (P2) – responsible citizen
- ★ Murray (P3/4) – effective contributor
- ★ Karol (P4/5) – confident individual
- ★ Sophia (P5/6) – responsible citizen
- ★ Max C (P7) – successful learner

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

Our RERC Learning

Our RERC learning this week, links to our second week of Advent, the week of Peace.

Primary 7 have been continuing to learn about the importance of Reconciliation during Advent. We explored how John the Baptist talks about “repentance”, and how this describes a change of mind and heart. We revised the Act of Sorrow (Veritas) and then looked at the traditional Act of Sorrow.

Primary 5/6 were learning about the role of John the Baptist in preparing the way for Jesus. John told everybody that Jesus was coming and that they needed to get ready. John warns the people coming to be baptised that they need to change their lives for the better. This will help them to be ready for Jesus. We discussed how during Advent we too are asked to repent and ask for forgiveness in preparation for Jesus coming and revised the Act of Sorrow.

Congratulations to all the P5/6 children for participating in the enrolment service for the Pope Francis Faith Award. I am really looking forward to supporting you on this faith journey.

Primary 4/5 have been learning about the Incarnation and that it means that God became a human being through the person of Jesus. We can learn more about the Incarnation from the Gospels. We read John 1:14 and discussed what John means by the Word. We also talked about why Jesus came to us in human form to live amongst us.

Primary 3/4 have been reading the story of the Wise Men from the East (Matthew 2: 1-12). They could recount that the Wise Men followed the star and recognised it as a sign of a very special person being born. We also looked more closely at the gifts that the Wise Men had brought with them when they went to worship Jesus.

Primary 2 have been learning more about the Nativity story. This week we focused on the Angel Gabriel bringing God's special message to Mary, asking her to be the mother of God's Son and recognising that Mary said 'Yes' to God. We discussed how Angel Gabriel gave Mary the good news that she was going to be the Mother of Jesus and used the words: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,”, We wondered how Mary must have felt to be told this news by an angel and the children correctly recognised that these words make up our Hail Mary prayer.

Primary 1 have been learning about the meanings behind the different candles on the advent wreath. WE have spoken about what these words mean to us and developed our understanding of Peace, Love, Joy and Hope. We completed the drawings of advent wreaths which we shared on Seesaw for our families to enjoy.



P3/4 and P4/5 Swimming

There is no swimming lessons next Wednesday. Lesson will resume on Wednesday 17th January.



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 has been sent out to all families. For pupils who have an allergen or intolerance known to school, an email has been sent to advise you of the set menu and an updated link to a google form for you to confirm if your child will have a school lunch on this day. £2.10 is payable for all pupils in P6 and P7 via ParentPay unless entitled to Free School Meals. 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**.



Disabled Parking Spaces

Could families please be mindful that the disabled parking space in the leisure centre carpark are reserved for people who have a disability and blue badge. These spaces tend to be most conveniently located to allow for persons, with a disability or mobility issue, to gain easy access to the schools or leisure centre. Could we ask that parents do not park in them unless you are eligible to do so.

Active Schools – Children’s Holiday Programme

Please see attached flyer from Active Sport & Leisure with details of their Children’s holiday programme for the New Year. Bookings close this coming Monday, 18th December, so if your child is interested in attending any of the activities please sign up as soon as possible.

Support With Cost of Lunches Over Christmas

For those families who have registered for free school meals, the following support is available during the Christmas break. If you have not yet registered for free school meals, you are unable to access this financial support. Please go to the section of the newsletter titled **Registering For Free School Meals** to check whether you are eligible and to find out about the other support you can access.

[Help with school meals during school holidays](#) | [Free school meals and clothing grants](#) | [Midlothian Council](#)

Payment	Paid to Bank Accounts	Notes/Comments
School Christmas Holidays Monday 25 th December 2023 to Monday 8 th January 2024	Tuesday 19 th December 2023	£23.10 per Primary School pupil £26.40 per Secondary School pupil

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.

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 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/H9gf5JvswmHH6WmFGpfpP3>

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>



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

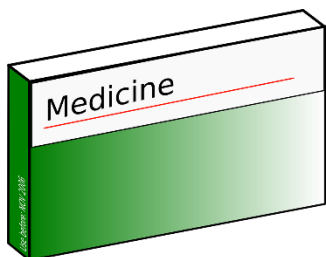
https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants

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 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 20th December – Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumpers
- Fri 22nd December – Christmas Parties
- Fri 22nd December – School closes 12.25pm for Christmas holidays

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- 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
- Mon 18th March – Rag Bag Collection
- 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)

The ELC has had a busy week enjoying making Christmas crafts. We have created shiny Christmas trees using triangles and explored how triangles could be used to create a star to go in top!

The children were really excited to join the rest of the school at the Primary 1 and Primary 2 Nativity performance. The children demonstrated amazing listening skills and concentration as they sat and enjoyed the entire performance. Lots of our children were so excited to see older brothers and sisters in the show.

Next week we shall be sharing our Christmas celebrations with our families during our Christmas Singalong on **Wednesday 20th December**. If you want to come along to our sing along, please arrive at the Nursery for **2.30pm so that we can start at 2.45pm promptly**.

Next Wednesday is also the day of our Christmas party and special visitor (Shhh!). More information about this will follow soon.

P1

What a week we have had in Primary One! Nativity took up much of our time and the children were fantastic during all of our rehearsals. I'm sure you will agree that they put on a brilliant show on Thursday and gave their all when it came to performing their lines, singing the songs and doing the actions to go along with them! We could not be prouder of the children and the hard work that they put into 'The Big Little Nativity'.

Elsewhere this week we have been completing numeracy assessments to show our progress from August until now. The children themselves have been surprised with how much they are now able to do with numbers and many have commented on how proud they feel of themselves and how clever they think they have become since starting P1. It is fantastic to watch the children's confidence growing week on week and to see how enthusiastic they are about their learning.

We also learned about Christmas in France with Mrs Sargison, drew beautiful Advent wreaths with Ms Learmonth and revisited what it means to share with Ms Wilson.

Next week we will be creating Christmas tree decorations and exploring symmetry by creating our own symmetrical drawings. We are, of course, very excited for our Christmas lunch and party too!

Have a great weekend!

P2

We hope you enjoyed our Nativity Performances as much as we did – it has been such a privilege to watch every child in P1 and P2 take part and gain so much confidence through speaking parts and singing. We have loved working together and want to thank the Learning Assistants for their help with our fabulous costumes. Well done everyone!

This week we have also been finishing off our assessments in literacy and numeracy. We have also been exploring light and dark with our topic and started to make some shadow puppets.

In French we have been learning our numbers to 30 and are enjoying using our advent calendar each day. Next week we will be making some Christmas crafts and learning about electricity to finish off our topic. We also have the Christmas lunch and parties to look forward too. Have a lovely weekend.

P3/4

Primary 3/4 have had another busy week this week! Our big focus was working on the songs for our Carols by Candlelight concert. We spent a lot of time going over the words to the songs and practising singing them without any help. It was great to see all of the children try hard during rehearsals, and a special well done to those who took part at the concert on Wednesday night. We will be working on singing and performance skills a lot more next term with our Easter show.

As well as this, we have been busy in other areas. In literacy we have been working on writing our newspaper articles. We looked back at our targets and used our plans to help us write a newspaper article about a volcanic eruption in Neverland. There were lots of great headlines and quotes from characters from the Peter Pan pantomime that we went to see.

In Maths, we have been completing assessments. We also looked at our new topic, shape. We explored the names of the different shapes that we know and how we know that they are those shapes. It was interesting to hear the discussions that the children were having and we will explore this in more detail after Christmas.

Finally, in our swimming lesson this week the children worked in different groups. Each group had a go at putting their faces under water. It was great to see even those who struggled with this really challenging themselves to overcome fears. One of the groups focused on floating and the other focused on how to use their arms and legs effectively when swimming in a front crawl. The children will continue to build on these skills next week and next term, too.

Next week, we will be focusing on our Christmas Around the World research projects. We will also have time to share what we have discovered with the rest of the class in a presentation. In numeracy, we will be revising some problems in place value (specially looking at hundreds, tens and ones) as a lot of children found this tricky in the assessment. Finally, in health and wellbeing we will be looking at some Christmas mindfulness activities.

P4/5

This week has been very quick in P4/5 due to how busy we have been. We spent the start of the week trying to finish off our newspaper reports and get ready for our presentations in literacy. We managed to get a couple of presentations done but next week we still have a bit of work to do on this. Hopefully we will get them all finished before the holidays!

In numeracy we have continued working on division and have also started learning about fractions. We can now name the top and bottom numbers of a fraction, what the size of the denominator tells us about the size of the share and how to work out the unit fraction of an amount. Next week we will continue working on unit fractions and perhaps look at not unit fractions as well.

Elsewhere in the curriculum we had our Carols by Candlelight concert on Wednesday which was a great success. The children sang and read beautifully. We also had our last swimming of the year on Wednesday which we will return to the first week back after the holidays. Please note that after the holidays, PE will be on a Wednesday (swimming) and a Thursday. On Thursday for PE we worked in groups to create a gymnastics routine. On Friday, we were lucky enough to have a visit from the good people at Lighting up the Curriculum who set the children a challenge of designing a Christmas card using a light circuit.

Have a lovely weekend all.

P5/6

What an exciting week in P5/6! We have been working so hard this week, and are all starting to feel very festive in the class.

In literacy this week, we discussed our spelling journey so far, and created a jamboard full of ideas for spelling activities that we could include on an activity grid for next term. We were all very creative, and are looking forward to seeing these in action next term. We also began our procedural writing project. We took notes on the 1966 film version of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, making sure to only include what was relevant to our own writing. We looked at a good example of a set of instructions, and then began writing our own version of a guide on how to steal Christmas! We will finish these next week - hopefully, no one will follow them!

In numeracy, we worked on our understanding of how to approach word problems. We used bar models and Think Boards to identify the important parts of the question, and used this to figure out how to approach the task. We also practiced our mental numeracy, playing Splat together to develop our estimation and problem solving skills. We will play this again next week, practising our explanation of our strategies.

We will wrap up our Extreme Earth topic next week, as we finally complete our volcanoes and erupt them! We will complete a full investigation, identifying our hypotheses and recording the final results. In HWB, we will complete a mini-project about a future career that we would like to do in the future, identifying the skills and qualities needed in order to achieve in their chosen career.

Lastly, a big well done to the learners for their wonderful performance at the Carols by Candlelight concert! They sang beautifully, and did themselves very proud. We will see you next week for our final (!) week of term!

P7

Primary 7 have been busy creating newspaper articles this week to report the key events of the Battle of Dunkirk. It has been great to see them so engaged and enthusiastic about their writing - well done everyone. Next week we will be working on punctuating direct speech, including split speech and conversations so that we can include this in our story writing next term.

In Numeracy, the children have been finding unit and non-unit fractions of a number and next week will be progressing on to finding percentages of amounts and placing fractions on a number line. They have also been learning about perimeter and area and will be given some fun challenges to create pictures and shapes with certain perimeters and areas.

This week, we have continued with our science on body systems as the children learned about the digestive system. They have successfully managed to label the key body parts involved in the digestive system and next week they will be describing the process in detail. The children will then have the opportunity to carry out an experiment which helps them explore the function of the stomach in digesting food. This will then be written up as a science report.

P.E will continue on Tuesday and Thursday next week and the focus is Scottish dancing. So far the children have done really well to learn two dances (the Virginia Reel and the Dashing White Sergeant), and next week they will progress on to their third dance, Strip the Willow.

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Acting Deputy Headteacher