



# Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to all of our families. We hope you had a fun and relaxing break and that the children were excited to be returning to Sacred Heart for the Spring Term.



2024 is an Olympic year where sport, and sporting attitudes, will feature heavily. We know it is one which will sprint by – let's hope it isn't too much of a marathon! In a year where sport will be celebrated across the globe, we hope to continue our strong start by emulating our successes in the upcoming Sportshall Athletics Competition on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

If you are able to help out as a parent helper for the afternoon then please let the school office know.

It is at this time of year that we start to think about booking a holiday. Just a reminder that P7 (St David's) residential camp at Lockerbie Manor is on ParentPay. P5/P6 residential (Benmore) deposit payment item is also listed on ParentPay. The balance payment item will be available from next week. Making small regular payment, and spreading the costs, can ease the financial burden. In the newsletter you will also find some information about the proposed P3, P4 and P7 (Penicuik High) residential camps.



At our Coffee and Chat sessions, parents have expressed an interest in looking at fund raising opportunities which could help towards the financial cost of residential camps. Offering a residential camp to all pupils from Primary 3 to Primary 7 is a tradition which Sacred Heart is very proud of but we are aware that this is an added expense for many families. We are hoping – with your help - to co-ordinate some fun events, which families can participate in, to raise much needed money. Further information will follow via class representatives.

If you have any ideas of fun, fund-raising ideas, please speak to your class rep and ask them to pass them on to the Parent Partnership or email the school directly [sacredheart\\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk)

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

- ★ Klara (P1) – responsible citizen
- ★ Eleonora (P2) – successful learner
- ★ Kacper (P3/4) – effective contributor and successful learner
- ★ Evie (P4/5) – effective contributor
- ★ Leon (P5/6) – effective contributor
- ★ Aoife (P7) – effective contributor and confident individual

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

### French update- Janvier 2023



Bonjour-et Bonne Année, Mme Sargison here!

It has been a little while since we had a separate French update, so I thought you might be interested to know about some plans for this term.

Above all, this term we are going to continue building on what we know, mainly using Midlothian's French resources and plans. I have been delighted by the enthusiastic response from all classes this session, with special mention going to Primary 7 as their willingness to try spoken French is wonderful at an age when many begin to feel self-conscious. Félicitations, Primary 7!

All classes will continue to use special French white boards on a regular basis throughout the week so that, for example, dates, weather and common topics can be used frequently. We will build on this as the term goes on.

This term Primary 6 are going to reply to the fantastic set of letters (in French and in English), pictures and videos from our French partner school in L'Isle sur la Sorgue. These have provided all classes with a wide range of learning resources and opportunities, but best of all, they let us feel that we are really using our French to keep in touch with French friends! We will of course follow all guidelines about exchanging information outside school and P6 parents will be contacted directly regarding permission.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of our learning! I am aware that quite a few learners are enjoying working independently to develop their French outside school- so thank you for encouraging your children to do this! Merci!

Bon weekend!

Mme Sargison



### **Sportshall Athletics - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

A team of 20 pupils will attend Midlothian Council Primary Sportshall Athletics on Tuesday. Children who have been selected have received a letter. Please ensure all forms are returned to school no later than **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January**.

Pupils will require a packed lunch on this day, please either send from home or order from school (£2.10 is payable via ParentPay or is free if your child is entitled to free school meals). Pupils will change and have their packed lunch prior to us leaving school. Your child will also require to bring their gym kit, suitable footwear and a warm, waterproof jacket (for travel). A water bottle is also required.

### **P3/4 and P4/5 Swimming**

Swimming lessons will restart on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit to school and wears a warm jacket with a hood or brings a hat to keep their head warm whilst walking back to school from the pool. You may also wish to encourage your child to wear a swimming cap in the pool to keep their hair from getting wet.

### **P2 Assembly**

Parents are welcomed to join our Assembly on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am. Primary 2 will be leading this and sharing what they have been learning this year. Please sign in at the foyer from 11.20am so we can start promptly at 11.30am. Looking forward to seeing lots of family there!



### **Friday Lunch Opt Out (P1-P5 and those receiving FSM)**

As always, we are trying to reduce waste where ever possible. If your child DOES NOT require a school packed lunch on a Friday, then please opt-out using our online form. Please click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/ggfhZ5bUxbKukjnW8>

You can opt-in again at any time by contacting the school office should your circumstances change.

### **Milk - January to March 2024**

If you wish your child to have mid-morning milk and have not already requested this, please complete and submit the online form - click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/AeRcaAThczt1otD77>

Payment should be made via ParentPay as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. (If you requested milk on an annual basis at the start of the school term then no further action is required)



### **Active Schools - Community Clubs**

Please see attached Community Club flyer for this term.

The information can also be accessed via Active Schools website - please click link: [Active Midlothian | Midlothian Community Clubs](#)

All booking information is included within the flyer but if you have any difficulty please contact: [activeschools@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:activeschools@midlothian.gov.uk)



### Primary 3 and Primary 4 – Fordell Firs Residential Camp

We have been very busy trying to secure a residential camp for our Primary 3 and Primary 4 pupils. The children from these year groups who choose to go on residential camp will head to Fordell Firs Scout Camp on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and return at lunchtime on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. We are still awaiting a final cost per person for this two-night residential and will confirm this in a separate letter next week.

If this is something you would like your child to participate in then please be aware that reserving a place will require a £50 non-refundable deposit. This is set up as an item on Parent Pay. Places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

### Primary 7 Residential Camp

Many of our families were extremely disappointed when the P7 Transition Camp, for those children attending Penicuik High School, was cancelled. Since then, we have been working behind the scenes to see if we could find an alternative – which proved to be challenging – but we have found a solution.

We have secured accommodation at Fordell Firs on the same week as the P3/P4 camp. Having spoken with the Fordell Firs Activity Leaders we have selected a range of challenging and fun activities for our Primary 7s to give them that full ‘camp’ experience.



Further information on the cost of this two-night residential will follow in a separate letter. If you wish to reserve a place for your child then this can be done through Parent Pay by paying a £50 non-refundable deposit. This camp is only open to Primary 7 pupils who ARE NOT going on the St David’s residential to Lockerbie.



### Extra-Curricular Club - Final call

There has been an incredible amount of requests for pupils to join the extra-curricular clubs on offer this term.

There are limited spaces remaining in all the clubs except P1-P3 Football which is full.

This is the final call for anyone wishing to request a place for their child - access our online form by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/13DQKvdxRgtzQ2rN9>

### Holiday absence during term time

Although we appreciate that holidays can be substantially cheaper during term time, there has been a significant increase in families taking children out of school for this reason. Missing long periods of education is extremely detrimental to the academic progress that your child makes. Holidays should not be taken during term time. In the event this cannot be avoided, may we remind families to email or write to school in advance to request to advise us of your plans.



### 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.

### 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.

### 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

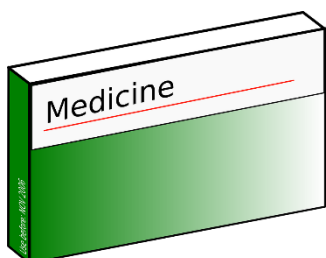


The school will be more than happy to support you in completing the necessary paperwork so please do not let that put you off applying. Remember, the more families who register, the more funding the school gets and ultimately this benefits the children.



### 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](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

#### 2024

- Tues 16th January - Catechesis for Reconciliation Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> January – P2 Show and Tell Assembly – 11.30am
- Sun 21st January - Rite of Illumination for Reconciliation children 11.00am Mass in SH Church
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> January – Coffee & Chat in school 9.00am
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January – P7 Show and Tell assembly – 11.30am
- Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – P3/4 and P4/5 excursion to Sky-Up Academy Studios

- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> February – NSPCC Numbers Day
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – P1 Show and Tell Assembly – 11.30am
- 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
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March – P5/6 Show and Tell Assembly – 11.30am
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Big Walk and Wheel to School
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March - Catechesis for Confirmation Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March – Rag Bag Collection
- 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 29<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May – P7 St David's High School Residential Camp – Lockerbie Manor
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June – P3, P4 and P7 Residential Camp – Fordell Firs
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June – P5 and P6 Residential Camp - Benmore
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June – Eucharistic Adoration P4 FHC 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June - SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 7.00pm (Place TBC)
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup> 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**

- 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)**

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you all had a lovely break. This week has seen us explore numbers through dot patterns, numicons and finger patterns. We have been developing our understanding that numbers represent a quantity.

Outside we have continued this using loose parts and hoops to signify quantity. We have also started to explore directional language and positional language, up, under on, forward, back beside. We have introduced the story of What the Ladybird Heard to explore direction. In the coming weeks we will continue to explore these concepts in greater depth. Why not look at our floorbook to see some of the opportunities and experiences we have been engaging in.

### **P1**

Happy New Year! It has been great to have the children back in school this week and to hear all about the fun they had during the holidays! We had a go at writing a bit about the Christmas holidays on Wednesday morning which was a great way to find out what everyone had been up to. We have been getting back into the habit of self-assessing our writing and setting a target for future pieces of writing. The children are enjoying seeing the progress that they are making each week when they look back at their previous writing to check their target. We have been learning the poem 'My Wee Doggie' by J.K. Annand and have been enjoying learning some words in Scots. We will be getting back into our phonics groups on Monday and will begin to work on addressing the areas for improvement that were highlighted during our recent assessments. Please continue to use sound boxes to practise sounds and word building as this really helps the children to feel confident in class.

We have been practising our counting and numeral recognition again to make sure we are still confident with numbers after some time off. Next week we will move back into our groups and will continue learning new concepts and strategies.

We also wrapped up our learning on electricity on Thursday as we shared what we had learned about it and put this into our floorbook to evidence our learning. We have been getting better at remembering to charge our iPads once we are finished with them and as well as turning the switches off at the end of the day. Some of used our iPads to explore Google Maps and were very interested in making our way from school to our houses. It was a great way for the children to find their homes on the map without being sure of the address.

Next week we will be starting a block on ball skills in PE, we will be writing an imaginative story in literacy and will begin to learn about data and analysis in maths.

Have a lovely weekend!

### **P2**

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful holiday and enjoyed time together. We are happy to be back in P2 and have had a busy 4 days. We are enjoying the Scots theme in literacy as we remember

Robert Burns and his poetry. We have read "Neeps and Tatties" by Carey Morning which is written in rhyming Scots. The Neeps and the Tatties have been fighting for so long but can't remember why; luckily the wise old Haggis arrives and helps them to change and live together. We are using the story to think about different types of questions as well as the meaning of the Scots words. We are going to continue to explore this text and will act it out next week. Looking ahead we are



learning the poem "Twa Leggit Mice" by JK Annand. I've posted the text on seesaw so it would be great if you can support your child to learn it at home. Of course we are still doing our daily RWI lessons and our home reading has been sent home.

In numeracy we are looking at multiplication and have been putting numbers into equal groups; we are using lots of resources to do this and explore the patterns that make up numbers. We will continue with this next week.

In HWB we were excited to start gymnastics in PE and have been working on balancing and forward rolls. In French we have been looking at festivals and events during the year in France and what they like to celebrate together. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

### **P3/4**

We have had a great start to the year in Primary 3/4! Our focus this week has been on Scots poetry, in preparation for Burns Night later in the month. In literacy, we have been looking at different Burns and Scots poems. We took time to highlight different Scots words and then found out what they meant. We have also been learning the Scots Poem 'Elephant' by JK Annand and saying it together in a choral voice.

As well as this, we have been using Burns as inspiration for our art this week by creating pictures of a red rose, after the famous poem 'A Red, Red, Rose.' We looked at shape to create the rose shape and then took a mixed media approach to colour it to give it some texture.

In numeracy, we have been looking at arrays. We have been finding out what we know about arrays and how these can help us with our multiplication calculations.

Finally, in health and wellbeing we have been revising the Zones of Regulation. We created new cards for our display and spoke about how we can use this in class to help regulate our emotions and make sure we are ready to learn. In PE, we started to look at the Gay Gordons dance as part of our Scottish Country Dancing block.

Next week, we will be starting our new novel study on 'The Iron Man' in literacy, and looking prediction skills and similes. In numeracy, we will be exploring arrays and finding halves of shapes. In PE, we will continue Scottish Country Dancing and returning to our swimming lessons. We will also discuss who looks after us at home and at school.

### **P4/5**

Happy New Year and welcome back to all! I hope you all had a lovely holiday.

We have jumped straight back into our learning from Tuesday this week, it's almost like we've never been away! In literacy, we have been taking part in the school wide poetry week. We have learned a Scots language poem and have worked in groups to read out and memorise a verse with expression. We have also started to write an ode. Next week we will finish our odes before editing and improving them.

In numeracy we carried on our fractions topic. We have been learning to work out unit fractions of amounts and next week we will look at answering fractions of amounts over the times tables amounts and working out non-unit fractions of amounts. We also started a new topic looking into Chance and Uncertainty. We did some activities in class to help us understand more about chance and we will be doing more work on this each week.

In other areas of the curriculum, we have had some good discussions about who makes decisions in our lives and how our decisions affect others. We have also started to practice Scottish Country dancing in PE, starting with the Virginia Reel. It was great to see the enthusiasm and effort the children put into their dancing. We will look at more dances next week for this. We also introduced our Easter show to the children and auditions and rehearsals will begin shortly.

Have a lovely weekend all :-)

## **P5/6**

Happy New Year, everyone! We hope you had a restful break, and we are so glad to see everyone back this week.

We've had a brilliant start to our term here in P5/6. In Literacy, we began by looking at Scots poetry. We had a Scots word hunt, translating some common words into English. We discussed how the Scots Language came about, and how we hear it in our everyday lives now. We learned how we can analyse not just Scots poetry, but any poem, breaking it down into three steps. We annotated our copy of *The Sair Fingir*, and were able to put forth our ideas about the author's meaning. Next week, we will begin to plan our own limericks using Scots words. We will also continue reading our class novel, *The Desperate Journey* - linked to our Scotland topic.

In maths, we had lots of active learning this week! We headed outside with measurement tools, meter sticks and trundle wheels, and measured the perimeter of our playground. We used lots of collaborative skills, and had some problem solving along the way as we figured out how we could fairly share the equipment. We applied this learning within the classroom, drawing our own accurate floorplan of the playground. We also began to look at place value, playing a dice game together to practice our rounding skills. Next week, we will move onto area in maths, continuing with place value and rounding in numeracy.

In our topic, we began delving into many aspects of our Scottish topic. We began to learn about the causes of the Highland Clearances in our novel, discussing our predictions to what might happen to the characters within the novel. We also had a look at Scottish geography, testing our knowledge of place in the country - we found that we have a lot to learn about our sense of place! Next week, we will experience the emotions of the crofter being evicted in the Clearances through some role play, and look at the traditional clothing of the Highlanders during the 1800s.

Have a lovely weekend, and we will see you all on Monday.

## **P7**

Happy new year to you all! I hope you had a lovely festive break and enjoyed some time with family and friends. It's been great to have the children back this week and get started on another term of learning.

In Literacy this week, they have been busy learning how to spell words with the sounds '-dge' and '-cian' as well as identifying what makes a good poetry recital and summarising the main idea of a short text. Next week, we will be getting stuck into our novel study, *'Divided City'* by Theresa Breslin where we will be learning to answer literal, inferential and evaluative questions using reflective reading grids. The children will also be involved in a 'poetry slam down' in the lead up to Burns Day. This will involve the children learning to translate Scots words into English, pronounce Scots words and perform part of the poem *'Street Talk'* by J.K Annand.

In Numeracy, we have been continuing with our learning about fractions as the children identified unit and non-unit fractions of a shape. Next week, the children will be learning to convert proper

and improper fractions and count in unit fractions on a number line beyond 1. We have also begun our TTRS and Maths Basic Facts (MBF) this week. This gives the children the opportunity to learn and mentally recall number facts using the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). TTRS and MBF will be ongoing and part of our daily Numeracy and Maths lessons for the coming term. In Maths, the children have completed a Time 'brain dump' which allowed them the opportunity to share what they know about time and what they would like to learn. Next week, we will begin looking at analogue time.

Our topic this term is 'Diversity and Discrimination'. The children will explore aspects of discrimination through the context of the holocaust (WW2) and through the use of our novel study. They will also be linking this closely to health and wellbeing as we explore children and human rights. Next week, we will be learning about the meanings of diversity and discrimination.

P.E will continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday so please ensure your child brings their kit with them - they should not be coming to school in their kit. This term we will be focusing on gymnastics and Scottish dancing.

X-----X

Lilly Learmonth  
Acting Deputy Headteacher