



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



Acting Headteacher: Mrs Síobhra Cran
<http://sacredheart.mgfl.net>
@sacredheart_ps

22a Crockett Gardens, Penicuik, EH26 9BB
0131 271 4665
sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

19th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

The thing that everyone is talking about this week is our scheduled summer residential trips for pupils from Primary 3 to Primary 7. Offering residential trips to so many year groups is a tradition which Sacred Heart is extremely proud of. The benefits to the children are huge but we are also aware that, in these challenging times, this can add an extra pressure to parents whose budgets are already stretched.

We would reiterate that children do not have to attend every camp. You may decide, as a family, to prioritise certain year groups. Please refer to the table below for payment dates. Payment items are now ready to go on Parent Pay. Please be aware that the payment schedule is determined by the provider – not the school. Some support is available for families who are keen to participate but cannot manage the full cost. Please advise the school as soon as possible if you are not able to make scheduled payments.

Class	Location	Residential Dates 2024 (no. of nights)	Payment Amount	Payment deadline
P3 & P4	Fordell Firs	5-7 June (2 nights)	Deposit £50.00 (non-refund) Balance £100.00 approx plus transport (amount tbc)	Deposit: 09/02/2024 Balance: 03/05/2024
P5 & P6	Benmore	10-14 June (4 nights)	Deposit £75.00 (non-refund) Balance £300.00 plus transport (amount tbc)	Deposit: 09/02/2024 Balance: 03/05/2024
P7	St David's ASG Camp Lockerbie Manor	29 April - 3 May (4 nights)	Deposit £50.00 (non-refund) Balance £ 346.00 plus transport (amount tbc)	Deposit: paid 05/2023 Balance: 09/02/2024
P7	Fordell Firs (for those not attending Lockerbie Manor)	5-7 June (2 nights)	Deposit £50.00 (non-refund) Balance £100.00 approx plus transport (amount tbc)	Deposit: 09/02/2024 Balance: 03/05/2024

To further support with the costs of the trips, many parents are engaging with the idea of fundraising. The school is happy to facilitate these conversations. If you would be interested in joining a Teams meeting to find out more about how fundraising could be used to reduce the costs of the residential then please join us on **Tuesday 30th January at 8.00pm**. Link below.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODAyYwVvKmjMtYtE5ZC00ZGQ5LWIyOTQtMmQxNGE0MzgwZjM4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ccc32c6-1a4f-403c-973f-66aaf96842e3%22%7d

Sportshall Athletics Competition

On Tuesday Sacred Heart fielded a team in the Midlothian Sportshall Athletics Competition which was being held at Gorebridge Leisure Centre. Due to us being such a small school, our team was made up from P6 and P7 pupils. This could have been to our detriment as we were battling against schools who have huge numbers of pupils to choose from.



Miss Hardie worked extremely hard with the team to get them 'match fit' and they entered the competition with a winning attitude. Therefore, we are delighted to announce that Sacred Heart placed 2nd overall with only 9 points between us and the winners. This is a huge achievement for a little school and we are so proud of everyone who took part. Amongst our pupils there were many who place first in their individual events. Well done everyone!!!

Sacred Heart Stars

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

- ★ Logan (P1) – effective contributor
- ★ Savannah (P2) – confident individual
- ★ Harri (P3/4) – confident individual
- ★ Hallie (P4/5) – successful learner
- ★ Jasper (P5/6) – successful learner
- ★ Connor (P7) – responsible citizen

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

Our RERC learning this week...

Primary 7 have been exploring the role and rights of woman in first century Palestine. We then completed a comparison study activity identifying what women could and couldn't do in the time of Jesus and then considering what women can and can't do in modern day life.

Primary 5/6 have been exploring the idea that true happiness lies in being concerned with what matters to God. In groups, they discussed what makes them happy, what makes their parents/carers happy, things that bring short-term happiness and then things that were more long-term. We discussed the idea of Faith and how it can bring true happiness for the believer.

Primary 4/5 have been learning about informing their conscience, by reflecting prayerfully on the Word of God. We discussed what a conscience is, using Jiminy Cricket as an example! Next, we talked about what affects our conscience and whether we always listen to it. We began to look closely at some of our daily prayers and what the words are asking us to do, for example, Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Primary 4 have started to learn the Nicene Creed. They discovered that a creed is a statement of your beliefs, and this prayer was written a long time ago by followers of Jesus at a place called 'Nicaea' which is in Turkey. Over a period of time, the children will pray the Nicene Creed in class during prayer times.

Primary 3 are continuing with their Reconciliation preparation. Lesson 2 is all about belonging. The children talked about belonging to a family and that their family is made up of people who live with them and some people who live elsewhere, e.g. grandparents. Jesus also belonged to a family and they were Jewish. Jesus prayed to God and called Him 'Abba', meaning Dad.

Primary 2 have been learning about the Sacrament of Baptism. This week we talked about the children's own experiences of Baptism, either personally or as a guest at the Baptism of someone else. They also learned that Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan

Primary 1 have been discussing the many 'Gifts' which God gave us. We linked this to our science by learning about the 5 senses. We have thought about our favourite thing to do with each sense and how having our 5 senses, in our God-given body, makes our lives even happier and more blessed.



Sacramental Preparation Reminder

The Rite of Illumination for Reconciliation children will take place on Sunday 21st January at 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church

Parent Partnership

Hi

The Parent Partnership would like to invite all interested parents to join us monthly, via Teams, to work together to support the school in delivering the best opportunities for our children. These meetings are informal and hopefully informative.

The first proposed date is on Tuesday 30th January, where we will discuss fundraising ideas to support the costs for those families who are sending their children on residential camp. Further dates – which will be on Thursdays - are as follows:

- Tuesday 30th January @ 8.00pm – Fundraising for Residential Camps
- Thursday 29th February
- Thursday 21st March
- Thursday 25th April
- Thursday 30th May
- Thursday 20th June – Final Preparations for Summer Fayre

I hope to see as many of you as possible at these meetings.

Jemima
Chairperson of the Parent Partnership



Burns Day Lunch – Wednesday 25th January

To celebrate the birth of Scotland's Bard, Robbie Burns, there will be a change to the planned lunchtime menu on Thursday 25th January. Instead of the chicken meatballs option, the children will be able to select haggis, neeps and tatties instead. All other items on the menu remain unchanged. Further information is attached.

We have also attached the primary school menu and the supporting nutrition information to this week's newsletter. This is the same menu which was put in place by Midlothian Council in April 2023 and will continue to be so until we return from the Easter holiday in April.

If your child has a food intolerance/allergy or dietary requirement, please contact school if you require a further copy of the menu or to update us should there be any changes.

Class Act

Sacred Heart has joined with Class Act to offer the children an opportunity to win a 3-month scholarship at Make Believe Theatre School. The team at 'Make Believe' have already been in school to introduce Class Act to the children and will be coming back to work with the classes to perfect their performance skills.

This is an opportunity for our children to show-case their talents - every child who participates will be given the opportunity to attend 'Make Believe' taster classes for free. The child / children who wins will be given a 3-month scholarship to attend the theatre school on a Saturday to develop their talents further. The show will take place, in school, on **Friday 9th February**.



There is no limit to what you can show-case. We would love to see singers, dancers, musicians, jugglers, magicians and comedians taking part. We already know what a talented bunch we have at Sacred Heart! Please read the attached flyer for further information.

Skiing P4-P7

Our block of ski lessons have now been confirmed and will take place from March to May 2024. These lessons will be offered to pupils in P4-P7. Please note, places are limited and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis with priority being given to pupils in P7.

Letters will be issued to pupils at the start of the week with full details.



Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat

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.

Family Information Workshop – Social Stories

Midlothian and Speech & Language Therapy will hold an online 'Social Stories' family information workshop on **Tuesday 23rd January** from 11am-12noon. Please see attached flyer for further information. If your child is struggling with understanding a particular concept, creating a social story with them can help with this understanding.

Equipped for Learning (EFL)

With the change in the weather, pupils have been bringing their devices home at the end of the school day. Please ensure these are returned to school each day to allow your child to continue access for their learning throughout the school day.

The parent/carer information guide is attached to the newsletter as a reminder of the agreement of use.



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 31st January**. (If you requested milk on an annual basis at the start of the school term then no further action is required)



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:

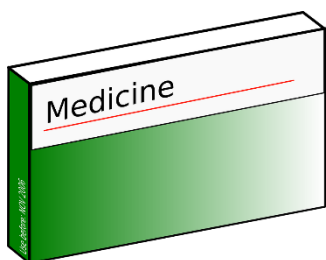
- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £726)
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

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

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.



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

2024

- Sun 21st January - Rite of Illumination for Reconciliation children 11.00am Mass in SH Church
- Fri 26th January – Coffee & Chat in school 9.00am
- Friday 26th January – P7 Show and Tell assembly – 11.30am
- Thurs 1st Feb – P3/4 and P4/5 excursion to Sky-Up Academy Studios
- Fri 2nd February – NSPCC Numbers Day
- Fri 2nd February – P1 Show and Tell Assembly – 11.30am
- Fri 9th Feb - Class Act! Whole school assembly
- Fri 9th Feb - Residential payments due - deposits for P3/P4, P5/P6 and P7 (Fordell Firs) camps / balance for P7 (Lockerbie Manor) camp
- Fri 9th February – School closes 12.25pm for February break
- Wed 14th February - Ash Wed - Parish Mass 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church
- Mon 19th February – School reopens 8.50am (8.00am Breakfast Club)
- 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
- Fri 8th March – P5/6 Show and Tell Assembly – 11.30am
- Mon 11th – Fri 22nd March – Big Walk and Wheel to School
- Wed 13th March – Wednesday 1st May – Ski Lessons P4-P7 - afternoons
- 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 29th Apr – Fri 3rd May – P7 St David's High School Residential Camp – Lockerbie Manor
- 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 5th June – Fri 7th June – P3, P4 and P7 Residential Camp – Fordell Firs
- Mon 10th June – Fri 14th June – P5 and P6 Residential Camp - Benmore
- 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)

Wow what a week of learning we have had.

We have been consolidating our understanding that numbers mean an amount through a variety of opportunities and experiences, including games, a number hunt, tally recording and daily at our rolling snack.

Our interest in the story "What the ladybird Heard" by Julia Donaldson has been extended and reflected on. We used story spoons so our learners could play a part and have also created a mind map with our own recollections of the story.

This story has developed an interest in maps so we have looked at real maps and explored the key's using our observation skills to locate and find familiar features. We have also been developing our positional language using a beebot and map. We have programmed the beebot to carry out our instructions. Next week we will continue to develop these positional skills while also looking at Burns Day and Scottish traditions.

P1

What a busy week we have had in Primary One! We started off on Monday by taking our maths learning outside and finding dot patterns which we then had to convert into tally marks. As we have practised tallying throughout the week we have slowly become more confident in remembering to cross over the tally marks once we have five of them but we will keep practising until we are experts! In numeracy we have all been focusing on different areas but as a whole class we have been working really hard on our number formation and ensuring that they are all written the correct way.

In literacy we have started working in our new phonics groups and I have been so impressed by the focus that all of the children are showing and the enthusiasm that they have all shown towards developing their reading and writing skills. On Thursday we wrote down our New Year's Resolutions and most of them were linked to our learning in school which I was super pleased to see!

In PE we have been developing our ball skills by rolling the ball to a partner and controlling the direction and speed that it is moving at.

Next week we will be beginning our topic on the human body, continuing with our maths focus on data by gathering our own information, and we will also be starting a short block on Scottish country dancing in PE.

Have a great weekend!

P2

We have had an exciting week preparing for our assembly and we hope you enjoyed it if you were able to join us. It has been great to see everyone so enthusiastic about our Scottish moral tale of neeps and tatties and enjoy performing to a big audience. I was so proud of how quickly we engaged with this learning in less than 2 weeks! We were also delighted and lucky to have a visitor on Thursday. Claire is an actress who shared her skills and ideas with us in a drama workshop. She read the story to us in a fantastic Scots accent and helped us think about how we can express ourselves and the story. Thank you to Brodie for sharing your friend with us! We will continue to think more about the Scottish vocabulary and different types of questions next week.

We will also be learning our Scottish poem, "Twa Leggit Mice" next week ready for our performance assembly that is coming up.

In numeracy we are having fun making multiplication calculations and saying how many groups there are, how many are in each group and how many there are altogether. Next week some of us will go on to describe our group in terms of rows and columns.

In French we are learning the months of the year and using our days of the week calendar in the classroom. In PE we are adding more skills to our gymnastics, this week our focus was balance, forward roll and teddy bear roll. Enjoy your weekend everyone.

P3/4

In literacy we started our class novel, 'The Iron Man'. We have been looking at choral reading to help us with the story. We have also been learning about similes and how they can help us compare one object to another using the words 'like' or 'as.' We all took part in a simile slam down to help us practise these.

In numeracy, we have been looking at multiplication by exploring arrays. We spoke about how we can use arrays to help us with multiplication questions. We have also been looking at fractions, and focussing on halves of shapes and quantities in particular.

In health and wellbeing we have been learning about what makes a role model. We spoke about what skills and qualities our role models have. The class all joined in in a great discussion about this topic and came up with lots of great suggestions.

Finally, we have also started to learn about Judaism. We learned about the story of Abraham and Sarah and are looking forward to learning more about it next week.

Next week in literacy we will be using similes to help us write a monster story. In numeracy, we will be looking at the bar model to help with multiplication, and also looking at thirds and quarters in fractions. Finally, in health and wellbeing we will be thinking about who helps us.

P4/5

In literacy this week, we have continued working on poems. We have looked at writing without listening to the editor in our heads, changing the structure, improving the language and adding some Scots words. We created an ode together as a class which helped us when looking at our own poems to improve them. We have also been working in our reading groups, looking at characterisation in the books we are reading. Next week we will be starting work on exposition

texts through the context of advertisements. In reading, we will continue to look at how authors build a picture of a character for the reader.

In numeracy this week we have been working hard to consolidate what we know about finding fractions of amounts, as well as learning how to find non unit fractions of an amount. We then moved on to finding fractions on a number line. On top of fractions, we were learning about chance and probability using a probability line, which runs from impossible to certain. Next week we will continue working on finding fractions on number lines and look at finding the probability of rolling a certain number on a dice.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have had some interesting discussions about the choices we make and about the meaning of work in Health and Wellbeing. We enjoyed getting back into our swimming block this week as well as continuing our Scottish Country Dancing on Thursday. We will continue with these next week while also discussing the world of work in the local area and beyond.

Have a lovely weekend all.

P5/6

Hello, everyone! We have had a wonderful week here is P5/6, full of excellent learning!

In Literacy, we were introduced to our poetry writing workshop. We learned what an Ode was, and what elements are important to think while writing one. We used post-it notes to assess how structure impacts our final project, and did lots of collaboration work with our tables and partners in order to gain some valuable feedback on how our poems could be better. We also have begun to edit our poems. Next week, we will finish our final draft, looking at adding an impactful final line that rhymes. We will perform these to our peers. We will also be practising our Scots poem in order to perform it.

In Numeracy, we have been rounding numbers to 10, 100, 1000 and beyond. We reviewed how we know what digit to look at when rounding, and how to check our answer. We also learned how we can use rounding in order to get an estimate answer when completing a calculation. We also began to look at ordering decimal fractions with 1, 2 and 3 decimal places. We raced against each other to place our range of numbers in orders - practising our mental maths skills. Next week, we will continue to practice this, while beginning to work on using bar models during addition.

We had a super exciting week in our topic! We experienced our own 'Clearance' in our classroom, as we were evicted to make room for AI and technology that can work more efficiently - very similar to what happen when the Highlanders were replaced with Cheviot sheep in their clearances! We worked together to piece together the important events of the Highland Clearances, and pled our case as to why it is important that we are the ones to keep learning about our history so that the same mistakes aren't made again. Plus, we got our classroom back! Next week, we'll look at the clan structure used in Scotland during this time.

Have a lovely weekend, and we'll see you on Monday!

P7

Primary 7 have really enjoyed reading some more of our novel study, 'Divided City'. They have worked really hard on their reflective reading grids to answer literal, inferential and evaluative questions as well as identifying the main idea and summarising key events. Next week we will be focusing on characterisations as we compare the main characters - Joe and Graham. We have also been refreshing our memory on figurative language. The children have been looking at a poem called 'I Don't Like Poetry' to explore and identify similes, metaphors, alliteration and onomatopoeia

examples. Next week, they will be creating their own examples of these as well as using them in Calligram poems.

In Numeracy, the children have been continuing to learn about fractions. They have been counting in unit fractions on a number line and converting mixed and improper fractions. Next week, we will be continuing to count in unit fractions beyond 1 and converting equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. As part of our maths work, we have been learning to note time in 12 hour formation and as written words which we will be continuing with next week.

As part of our topic, we have been learning about Robert Burns. The children have been researching key events from his life and placing them on a timeline. Next week, they will be considering the impact he has had on our lives and sharing their findings at an action packed assembly! It would be great to see you all there.

Our P.E will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The children have been desperate to do gymnastics and football so we have compromised and will be doing a bit of both from now until the Easter break.

X-----X

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Depute Headteacher