

Sacred Heart Primary School

"Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve"



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26th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this email finds you all well after a rather stormy week. Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn were rather scary so we hope that you managed to weather them unscathed. Let us hope that the weather is on the turn and that Spring is not too far off.

Could we remind parents that, in this changeable weather, it is vital for all pupils to bring a waterproof coat, preferably with a hood, and waterproof shoes. Although we do keep the children inside during break times when the weather is particularly bad, we are also keen to get them in out in the fresh air if the rain is light. We have noted a number of children coming to school wearing only a school hoodie; which does not provide any protection from getting wet.



This week we are holding an online meeting to discuss possible fundraising ideas to off-set some of the costs of residential camps — which we appreciate are not insubstantial for many families. We would like this fundraising to positively impact on as many families as possible and so we would love to reach out to the whole Sacred Heart community to join us and share ideas.

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 camps then please join us on **Tuesday 30th January at 8.00pm.** Link below. https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-

join/19%3ameeting_ODAyYWVkMjMtYTE5ZC00ZGQ5LWIyOTQtMmQxNGE0MzgwZjM4%40threadd.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c91025ed-4c06-4329-af7c-

e7ca8df9b8c5%22%2c%220id%22%3a%229ccc32c6-1a4f-403c-973f-66aaf96842e3%22%7d

Sacred Heart Stars

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

- 🟂 🛮 Jacob (P1) responsible citizen
- 🟂 🛮 Ali (P2) successful learner
- ★ Jaxon (P3/4) successful learner
- 😕 🛮 Zander (P4/5) successful learner
- ★ Hollie (P5/6) responsible citizen
- 🟂 🛮 Cameron (P7) successful learner

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

Our RERC learning this week...

Primary 7 have been continuing to explore the lives of women in first century Palestine. This week we looked at various references from the Bible, where Jesus challenged the treatment of women at his time. The children looked up the Bible verses and tried to unpick the main messages from each one. For example, He accepted woman in his inner circle (Luke 8:1-3) and He told parallel male/female stories (Luke 2: 25-38)



Primary 5/6 have started work on their Pope Francis Faith Award. This week we have been looking at the Gift of Knowledge. The children discussed that knowledge is the gift that helps us to know ourselves, God and the world around us. We imagined it being a map which tells us where our faith is leading us and what our Church is about. They then chose an activity from the list, enabling them to share their knowledge with others. Over the next week, the children are going to work in groups to dramatise their chosen Bible story, using puppets or pictures and this will be performed to the younger pupils.

Primary 4/5 have been reflecting on Exodus 34: 1-5 & Exodus 34: 29-35. We talked about the importance of having rules and boundaries to keep us safe. In a similar way, the Ten Commandments were given in love by God to be obeyed and followed in our lives so that we may live in a right relationship with God and others.

Primary 3/4 have been learning about the sacrament of Baptism in lesson 3 of Reconciliation preparation. Baptism is the first sacrament we receive. Baptism is the beginning of our faith journey. In Baptism, we become a member of God's family; His son or daughter. We also looked at the symbols associated with Baptism:

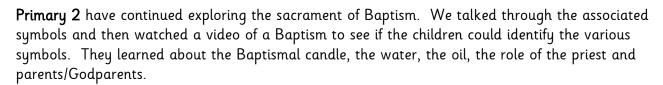
The Sign of the Cross: a welcome to the family of God.

Anointing with Oil: shows we are chosen by God and given strength against wrong.

Water: symbolises our cleansing from sin.

Baptismal candle: a symbol of receiving the light of Christ. White

garment: shows we are cleansed from sin.



Primary 1 have continued to look at the gifts which God has given us. As well as the gift of our God-made bodies, He has also given us the gift of seasons which help to make our plants grown and nourish us both physically and emotionally. We learned the song 'The Lord Is Good To Me' (Jonny Appleseed). Please use the link below to sing along.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=533cTycs6SQ



Residential Trip Schedule

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

Class Act

We hope that the children are getting excited about sharing their talents with the school at the upcoming Talent Show. Class Act will be in school to work directly with the pupils on **Monday 29th January**. After that it is up to the children themselves to rehearse, organise props and plan costumes.

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.



P3/4 and P4/5 Visit to Sky-Up Academy — Thursday 1st February

On Thursday 1st February, P3/4 and P4/5 will be visiting the Sky-Up Academy where they will be learning about how news reports are made. This dovetails with their learning in class, as they work towards producing newsreels.

The children will leave at 9.00am and return before the end of the school day. A packed lunch is required. Pupils are required to wear full school uniform and ensure they have a warm waterproof jacket and comfortable footwear.



P7 Rotary Quiz – Thursday 1st February

Good luck to our Rotary Quiz Team who are representing Sacred Heart on Thursday evening. We have a strong group again this year and so hope to regain the trophy.

We hope the boys and girls have a great time, do their best and showcase their knowledge. If anyone wishes to support our team, the quiz is being held in the main hall of Penicuik High School and starts at 6.30pm. Those children who are on the team should be at PHS by 6.15pm.

NSPCC Numbers Day - Friday 2nd February

On Friday 2nd February, the whole school will be taking part in lots of fun activities based around numbers. The children are welcome to come to school on that day in non-school uniform. **Please be advised that no football strips should be worn** as this can be very divisive. We ask that children bring a coin donation on the day which we shall initially use as part of our number activities before sending this off to the NSPCC so they can continue the fantastic work they do to keep children safe.

Skiing P5-P7

Our block of ski lessons have now been confirmed and will take place from 13 March to 1 May 2024. 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.



In last week's newsletter it was stated that this opportunity was open to P4s — this was an error and we are sorry if this has caused any confusion. Skiing lessons are open to P5-P7. Completed paperwork for those interested must be returned to school by **Friday 2nd February**. We will confirm places after this date and a payment item will be set up on ParentPay at this point. **Payment must be settled by Friday 8th March**.



Coffee and Chat

Our next planned Coffee and Chat session will on-line and will start at 9.30am to allow for parents/carers to get home after drop off 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 23rd of February** in your diary. A link will follow nearer the time.

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.

Scottish Book Trust - P1 Bookbug Bags

The Scottish Book Trust are eager for to receive feedback for the recent P1 Bookbug family bags which were issued in November. The findings really help them report to their funders and develop the programme. They have set up a survey to get feedback and we would be grateful if you could take some time to complete the survey before **Friday 2nd February**. Completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw to receive a £100 book token. Please click on the link below: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBP1Parent2324

Penicuik Cricket Camp - February Holiday

Penicuik Cricket Club have asked us to share details for the cricket camp they are offering for pupils from P4-P7 during the February holiday. Please see attached poster for further information.



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

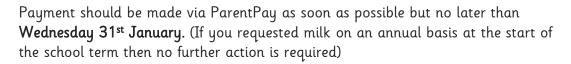
As always, we are trying to reduce waste where ever possible. If your child DOES NOT require a school packed lunch on a Friday, then please opt-out using our online form. Please click the link below:

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





You may be eligible to get free school milk. Please look at the section below 'Registering For Free School Meals' which will help to find out whether your child could be eligible.

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:



- Access to clothing grants
- O 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 than any virus is not spread around our community. We appreciate your co-operation to help us keep everyone safe.



Dates For Your Diary

2024

- Thurs 1st Feb P3/4 and P4/5 excursion to Sky-Up Academy Studios
- Thurs 1st Feb Penicuik Rotary Primary School Quiz Penicuik HS Doors open 6pm
- 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
- Mon11th Fri 22nd March Big Walk and Wheel to School
- Wed 13th March Wed 1st May Ski Lessons P5-P7 afternoons
- Wed 13th March Catechesis for Confirmation Parents 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
- Mon 18th March Rag Bag Collection
- Tues 19^{th} Thurs 21^{st} March P6 Bikeability
- Wed 20th March Reconciliation Practice 10.45am in Sacred Heart Church
- Thurs 21st March Hockey Tournament @ Lasswade High 9.30am 12.30pm
- 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

<u>Term Time Days of Obligation — whole school mass</u>

- 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)

Our next Stay and Play and Away will be the week of the 5th February see staff to make your appointment.

This week has seen us look at Burns day and Scottish traditions. We have been singing Scots songs, tasting Scottish fayre, and making our own tartan, this involved us looking at patterns. We even had our own mini Ceilidh in the gym hall.

Our shared learning experience with Primary 1 this week involved sorting and matching and an introduction to data handling using tally marks. We have further explored data handling in different ways making charts to record our likes and dislikes in relation to Scottish traditional food and also recording how many times we could spot the letters of our name around the school.

We will continue to explore, pattern and familiar letters in the coming weeks.

P1

What a busy week we have had! We started learning about our new topic this week which is the human body. On Monday we learned about our five senses and our sensory organs. We also drew around one of the people in our class and labelled our different body parts.

In literacy we have been working hard in our groups to read and write words using our sounds as well as practising with the magnetic boards. On Thursday we read a story called 'There Was an Old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight' and discussed all of the crazy things that the dragon had eaten. We then wrote our own stories about our own dragons and what they were eating. One of them even ate Miss Maxwell! We have been learning all about capital letters, full stops and finger spaces and where to put them in our writing. We are all trying really hard to include them where they should go.

In maths we have been continuing to learn about data and analysis. We have been practising tally marks when doing our counting and have also started looking in pictograms. On Friday we created our own class pictogram showing our eye colours.

Next week in maths we will continue to explore pictograms and the different data that we can gather. In literacy we will be having a go at writing some instructions. We will also be getting ready for our first class assembly!

Have a great weekend!

P2

This week we have been digging deeper into story of "Neeps and Tatties" by Carey Morning. We have been looking at Scottish words, summarising the story and answering different types of questions. We have really enjoyed this book and have made mini-worlds where we retell the story using play; some of us have changed the setting and our characters are in space! Some of us have decided to tell the story of what happens next to the haggis, neeps and tatties. Finally we have also been reciting our poem "Twa Leggit Mice" and we will upload this to Seesaw. In your home learning reading pack it would be great to focus on the 'red' word bookmarks and support your child to read and write these words. Next week we will be writing a recipe for shortbread and hope to make some in class.

In numeracy we have been building our skills in multiplication. We are experts in identifying the number of groups, the number in each group and the total number. We are also able to write this as a calculation. Some of us have been building an array and can see how many rows and columns they have. Next week we will be looking at division.

In HWB we have thinking about help and realising that we all need help. We thought about what we might need help with at home and at school. Next week we will think about what help other people might need. In PE we are enjoying our gymnastics lessons. This week we worked in pairs to make a routine using balances and rolls and have uploaded photos to share with you. We played some music on the speaker and that really helped us to focus and feel like Olympic gymnasts! Can I ask you remember to send in suitable PE kit on Mondays and Tuesdays for gymnastics, please. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

P3/4

In literacy this week P3/4 have been continuing their work around the Iron Man. Inspired by the character of the Iron Man, we created our own monsters for a story. We then thought carefully about a suitable setting to find a monster and wrote some similes to describe both. We then wrote these in a story. A big focus for us for this story was up-levelling our work. This meant we spent a lot of time re-writing parts of our stories to make sure they were as best as they could possibly be.

In numeracy we looked at how we can use arrays to help with division and how we can split shapes into different parts equally using various numbers. We found splitting squares and rectangles equally was a bit easier than splitting circles but we managed to give it a go and discussed different strategies that could help.

As part of our Judaism topic, we learned about the story of Moses this week. We found out that he lived as a prince before leaving Egypt and helping to free the slaves. It was interesting to hear about what the 10 plagues were and we discussed which would be the worst one and why.

Finally, in swimming this week the children showed their ability to adapt after finding out that we had to use a different part of the swimming pool this week as the floor was being repaired. It did mean that we were in deeper water than usual, but everyone tried their best and showed lots of great listening in the learning.

Next week, we will continue our work on the Iron Man by looking at persuasive writing techniques. In numeracy, we will be looking at bar models in multiplication and measuring fractions on number lines. In PE, we will continue our work in Scottish Country Dancing and swimming.

P4/5

It has been another busy week in P4/5 with lots of great learning going on. In literacy we have been learning about coordinating conjunctions and using them to link sentences together. Next week

we will continue to look at coordinating conjunctions as well as starting to learn about subordinating conjunctions. We have also been looking at the features of advert writing and we will be applying what we have learned to create an advert next week.

In numeracy we have been learning about finding fractions on a 0 - 1 number line and we will carry on with this next week as well as looking at number lines beyond one and fractions of shapes. On Wednesday, we did a probability investigation using dice which led to an interesting conversation about the possibility of things happening. We will look at doing other investigations to find out more about probability.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have had lots of interesting discussions about the world of work as well as the values we hold, which led to us choosing the values we think are most important in the class. On Thursday, to celebrate Burns Night, we held a ceilidh with P5/6 and P7. There was lots of great dancing (as well as lots of chaos) on show and everyone had a good time. Due to popular demand we did some Scottish Art where we drew what we think a wild haggis might look like. Next week we will be looking more at values as well as continuing our country dancing practice. We will also be working on the songs for our Easter show along with P3/4.

Have a lovely weekend all.

P5/6

Hello everyone, and Happy (belated) Burns Night! We hope you had a great week - we definitely did!

In Literacy, we were working hard to complete our Ode poems. We created an impactful rhyming line in our poem in order to highlight a portion we felt was most important. We then were all very brave and performed these to each other in class, in our very own Feis! We continued to learn our Scots poem as well. We are now moving on to a new poetry form - limericks! We had a look at some together, and identified the key elements of a limerick. We worked on a limerick together, and then had a go at writing our own. Next week, we will continue our work on limericks, and create some all about Scottish myths and legends.

In numeracy, I have been really impressed with the progress everyone in the class has made this week! We were working on addition and subtraction strategies, using ThinkBoards in order to organise our thoughts about how we could approach a question. We had lots of practice using the column method for both addition and subtraction calculations. We also had a look at bar model questions, working together to figure out what the question was actually asking us, and identifying the steps we would take in order to do this. Next week, we will apply our knowledge in order to solve and create our own word problems.

In topic this week, we have been learning about the Clan system that was used in Scotland, especially in the Highlands. We researched the crests and tartans of some important clans, and then set about creating our own unique tartan. We worked hard while painting to create even, straight, lines and use an appropriate amount of paint in order not to smudge our previous work. We showed lots of resilience when things didn't quite go how we expected them to, and the result has been brilliant! Next week, we will be investigating the houses and buildings found commonly in the Highlands during the 1700s and 1800s.

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

P7

Primary 7 have enjoyed writing their Calligram poems (shape poems) about Scotland this week. They will be continuing with poetry next week as we begin to identify the features of Limericks by looking at some examples. We will also have a go at creating some in groups. The children will also be continuing to learn about figurative language as they try to include similes, metaphors, alliteration and personification in their writing.

In Numeracy, the children have been converting fractions, decimals and percentages as well as finding a fraction or percentage of a quantity. Next week we will be learning to simplify and create equivalent fractions. In Maths we have been learning about analogue time and next week we will be continuing with this as well as learning about the digital notation of time.

As part of health and wellbeing, the children have been learning about the legal changes that happened between the ages of 12 and 16. They have also been considering the responsibilities that come with this. Next week we will be building on this by considering what our personal values are.

In P.E the children thoroughly enjoyed a chaotic Burns Ceilidh this week with some other classes to display the dances they have been learning. Next week we will be continuing with our football skills as we move on to passing and also begin our gymnastics learning.



Lilly Learmonth Acting Depute Headteacher