



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

8th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,



‘Election Fever’ hit Sacred Heart this week as the P7s battled it out to become elected as House Captains and Vice House Captains. These elections were embedded within their learning about the electoral processes in the UK.

The class invited our local MSP, Christine Graham, to join them to give more insight into the roles and responsibilities of an elected member. She hosted a Q&A session so the children could get to know more about the process through the eyes of someone who is doing the actual job. Next week the P7 pupils will be off to the Scottish Parliament to watch the process of governing first hand!



We are delighted to announce the following children will be representing their houses for the rest of the year...



House Captains and
Vice House Captains
2023-2024



Sacred Heart Star Award

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

- ★ Maya (P1) – successful learner
- ★ Mila (P2) – effective contributor and confident individual
- ★ Oran (P3/4) – responsible citizen
- ★ Orla (P4/5) – successful Learner
- ★ Manahil (P5/6) – effective contributor and confident individual
- ★ Aleksandra (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 are continuing to explore Creation, bringing in its origins in the Bible and influences from scientific research. We have started to debate the question “Can God and science co-exist?” and will be looking more closely next week at Charles Darwin and his “Origin of species” as we discuss evolution.

Primary 5/6 have started looking at the book of Exodus. We discovered that this is in the Old Testament and that Exodus means exit or leave. The children worked in groups to discuss what the stories might be about and the main themes that emerged were moving on and escaping to freedom. We briefly looked at the Passover (Exodus 12:1-28) and the children were able to share their prior knowledge and what they still wanted to find out about this

Primary 4/5 have been investigating some Christian imagery in the history and art of Scotland. We looked at some early Pictish stones and how these developed as more Christian influences were incorporated into their designs. We also looked at Celtic crosses and The Honours of Scotland (Scottish Crown Jewels) and the children did a fantastic job of picking out symbols and pictures which reflect their Christian heritage. We are hoping to continue this next week and have a go at designing our own stones or crosses.

Primary 3/4 have been continuing to discuss the idea of “free will”. We talked about how we can ask help from our friends, parents, teachers etc, and that they can help guide us when making good choices. We can also ask God to help us to make good choices. The children then wrote down ideas for what they would ask God to help them with and we collated these into a class prayer.

Primary 2 have been exploring the story of “The five loaves and two fish” (Mark 8:1-10). We talked about how Jesus showed love to others by helping and caring for the poor, the sick and those in need. He asks us to show love to our family and classmates, just as He did.

Primary 1 have been exploring the book “Giraffes can't dance” and we have been using it to discuss our talents. We have been building on last week's work on “what makes us unique” and that we all have our own God-given talents. The children were keen to share their skills, such as singing, playing football, jumping on a trampoline, drawing, playing rugby and doing front flips. They really are a talented bunch!

Primary 3/4 Class Prayer

God, give me the wisdom to make good choices....
Help me to be a good listener,
Help me to choose safer things to do,
Help me to behave in a positive way,
Help me to be patient on the football pitch,
Help me to try hard with my sums,
Help me to make a friend,
Help me to get better at reading,
Help me be more confident at making friends,
Help me be a kind and patient best friend,
Help me to cope when days are difficult.
Help me to keep on trying to get things right
Amen



The Parent Partnership

I want to thank all the parents who have given me a warm welcome to the role! Special thanks to parents who have already come up with ideas, sharing views and are excited to support the team.

I am keen to identify existing or new parent representatives from each of the class groups. The Parent Representative of the class will help the Partnership Team by bringing forward any opinions, ideas or any concerns for the academic year. If you could please email the school (Sacredheart.PS@midlothian.gov.uk) for the attention of Jemima Vetha, it will be super helpful!

Meantime, feel free to speak to me in person when you see me!

Jemima



Your Parent Partnership Needs You!

This year we are looking for parents to volunteer to become class representatives. This would involve feeding back comments and ideas to the leadership team of the Parent Partnership and rallying supporters for some of the fun events which are planned for this year already. You would not, as class rep, be expected to attend, or help, at every event but you would be a point of contact to ensure that our parent voices are heard and new ideas are brought on-board. This is also a great opportunity to get to know the wider school community and make some new friends.



If this is something you feel you would like to do, please either let the school or Jemima know. It is community minded people like you that can make this school even more amazing.

Help With School Lunches

If you are registered for Free School Meals (FSM), you are able to access the following support over the September Weekend. If you are not yet registered for FSM, then follow the link below or have a look at the section of the Newsletter titled 'Registering for Free School Meals' to see if your family could qualify.

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

Payment	Paid to Bank Accounts	Notes/Comments
September Weekend Holiday Friday 15 th September & Monday 18 th September 2023	Thursday 14 th September 2023	£4.20 per Primary School pupil £4.80 per Secondary School pupil

Primary 7 visit to Scottish Parliament – Wednesday 13 September

Our primary 7 pupils will travel by public transport to the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday. Pupils are required to wear full school uniform, comfortable walking shoes and a waterproof jacket. They should bring one small healthy snack, refillable water bottle and a packed lunch (unless a school packed lunch has already been requested). Pupils and our parent helpers are required to come to the main school entrance (located at Crockett Gardens) at **8.30am** so we are ready to leave at 8.45am. Please ensure your child brings their travel pass – please take some time to look for it over the weekend so it is ready to go – or £2 in cash (small coinage).

National Youth Choir Recruitment Workshop

Those of you who have attended any of our events will know what amazing singer we have at Sacred Heart. We are a school that tries to foster a love of expressing yourself through the song and we know how much joy it brings to the children and the audience. The National Youth Choir are actively recruiting and are hosting a workshop on Wed 13th September – see leaflet attached. This could be a great opportunity for the children. so why not take your youngster along.



Primary 7 transition to High School

Transition plans are already in progress for our Primary 7 pupils. A letter has been issued this week to ask parent/carers to indicate which high school they are considering for their child to progress to. We ask these are completed and returned to school BY RETURN to ensure your child is included in all transition arrangements for that school.

Music Instrumental Lessons - Primary 6

Letters have been issued to P6 pupils this week from the Midlothian Council Music Service. Our music teachers, Ross (Brass) and Heather (Clarsach) will be visiting P6 soon to introduce themselves and the instruments they teach. Spaces for lessons are limited so our instructors will carry out some simple aptitude exercises to test for suitability on instruments & music lessons, for any pupils that are interested. Please see the letter for more information.

Pantomime Deadline

There are still a number of unsettled payments. The theatre payment deadline date is here so we require all payments to be settled BY RETURN. If this is a concern for your family, please contact the school to discuss alternative solutions. If you have still to return your child's PC form, please also complete and return to school as soon as possible.

Slow Down, You're Going Too Fast!

Again, we would remind parents that the roads around the school including the Sports Centre Carpark, Crockett Gardens, Bellman's Road and Greenhill Park are main access routes for children and families walking to school. It has come to our attention that cars are driving too fast, especially after dropping off, and this is putting lives at risk. Please do not rush - even if you are running late. We would rather that everyone gets to school safely.



Cycle to School Week

Cycle to School Week is back! This national initiative is led by The Bikeability Trust. We shall be encouraging as many children as possible to bike or scoot to school on the week commencing **25th September**.

This weekend could be the perfect opportunity to get the bikes out of the shed; adjust the seat heights, oil the chains and ensure that you child has appropriate safety gear so they are ready to go!

National Entitlement Card for free public travel

Information was issued earlier this week to all pupils in Primary 1 and those who have not requested their travel card via school. We are keen for all our pupils to have access to free public transport so if you child does not yet have one, please complete and return the form provided. Take care to add your home address and not the school address (this is not particularly clear on the form). If your child has already received their travel card, please complete and return the reply slip at the bottom of the letter.

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.

PE Days

P1 – Monday and Wednesday

P2 – Tuesday and Thursday

P3/4 – Monday and Wednesday

P4/5 – Tuesday and Thursday

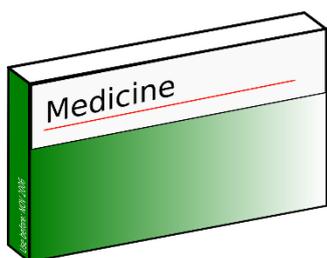
P5/6 – Tuesday and Thursday

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.



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.



Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat

Thank you to those parents who attended our Coffee and Chat on Friday morning –it was so nice to see so many people. Thankyou also to Jemima from the Sacred Heart Parent Partnership for coming along to speak about the fundraising efforts and events which the SHPP will be organising this year.

To keep those people who were unable to attend up to date with the topics discussed, minutes from the meeting will be shared. Last month's minutes were shared by email on the 6th September. If you did not receive a copy then please let the office know.

Our next Coffee and Chat will be a virtual one to allow those parents who find it challenging to attend in person. Please put **Friday 29th September** in your diary.

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

- Tues 26th September - School photographer - pupils individual and sibling photographs (for those attending SHPS and ELC only)
- Wed 27th September – P2 Visit to Rosslyn Chapel
- Wed 27th to Fri 29th September – P7 Bikeability course
- Thurs 5th October - P3/4, P4/5 and P5/6 visit to National Museum of Rural Life
- Thurs 5th October - 12 x P7 pupils to Active Schools Cross Country Championships
- Mon 16th - Fri 20th October - October holiday
- Mon 23rd October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Scottish Book Week
- Thurs 16th November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 22nd December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm
- Tues 9th January – New term starts for pupils

Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

- Wed 1st Nov – All Saints
- Thurs 9th May – Ascension
- Fri 7th June – Feast of the Sacred Heart

Class Updates:

ELC (Nursery)

Wow what a fantastic week of weather. We went on our first outing to the shops, with money in hand and a mission to find fish for the water tray, we sadly found none, however on our way back to the ELC we had a play in the park and our children noticed lots of litter. Next week we are going to organise a litter pick to look after our local park. We had our first visit to the library this week enjoying our book bug session with Katrina.

In the ELC we have been discussing our emotions and have made our own "Colour Monster" inspired emotional check in, there has been lots of discussion in relation to our emotions and we

have begun to create our class charter for our ELC. The Colour Monster treasure hunt in the garden was very popular and prompted discussion on how we were feeling in the moment.

We have been doing a lot of activities to develop our fine motor skills, wooden gears, tap-a-shape, interlocking cubes and some pegs, these fine motor activities help to strengthen our fingers which in turn will help us to write when we are ready.

P1

What a busy week we have had in Primary 1! We started our phonics journey on Tuesday and have so far learned the sounds 'm, a, s'. We have been practising hearing the sound, saying the sound and writing the sound. Any practise with this at home would be great - new sounds will be added to sound boxes every Tuesday when boxes are returned to school. We will be learning our next three sounds on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. In numeracy we have been practising counting, numeral recognition and number formation and we will be continuing with this next week. In French we have been learning to introduce ourselves in French and have also been practising when doing the register in the morning. We have enjoyed learning more about rhyme this week too and will be focusing on this during our Monday literacy lessons. We have read some fantastic rhyming stories this week and are looking forward to reading more next week.

Have a great weekend!

P2

We have been learning to identify odd and even numbers this week and to understand why they are odd or even. First of all we used gloves in the classroom to make a pair; if they made a pair they were even, if one was left over then they were odd. We went on to use animals, counters and even ourselves in PE games to identify odd and even numbers. You might even hear about Odd Todd and Even Steven, a story we read together to reinforce our learning.

In literacy we have finished reading our "Adventure Mice" story which we were introduced to at the Scottish Book Trust event. The children have really enjoyed the story and would like to read the next adventure together. We will use this to support our literacy work and we continue with our daily reading and writing lessons. We have learnt how to write instructions to make a paper doll and are going to write a recount of a memory the dolls have from their adventure. We use our dolls in our free-play sessions as well, they have been a huge hit in the classroom!

In PE we continue to learn games to work together, follow rules and play fairly. This week we have introduced the games number tig, cat and mouse and tidy my room. In French we continue to with our days of the week and have a very fun new routine to help us remember them. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the amazing weather.

P3/4

We have had another busy week in Primary 3/4! In literacy, we finished our limericks based on Rumpelstiltskin. We really enjoyed writing these and have even written them out neatly to be displayed in classroom. We have also started to plan a new limerick based on a topic or object of our choice. The planning process involved coming up with a topic and then brainstorming lots of rhyming words and adjectives that go with it. We will be using this plan to help write our limerick next week.

In numeracy, we have continued our work on place value and number structures. In our groups, we discussed counting forwards and backwards in 1s and in 10s with the help of the hundred square. We also tested our skills on addition strategies and will be exploring these in more detail after the September weekend.

In PE, we have started to play Benchball games. We have been working in teams and taking on various positions such as the keeper, defender and attacker. Next week, we are hoping to continue this with our very own Benchball tournament.

Finally, our Chromebooks arrived this week (yippee!) and so we have been busy getting familiar with them. We will be using them daily in class moving forward to help build our digital literacy skills.

P4/5

We have had a fun week in P4/5 and managed to cram lots of learning into each day. In literacy we have continued reading Perry Angel's Suitcase as well as finishing off writing and editing our diaries. Next week we'll be learning about information leaflets and looking at creating our own leaflet giving information about the main family of the novel study.

In numeracy we have been lucky to have Mr Weedon in class for a couple of days and he has been leading some fun and interesting sessions on addition activities. The children worked very hard and enjoyed these sessions. We also continued working with measure, looking at larger units of size after working with centimetres last week. Next week, we will continue working on addition and using strategies to help us solve addition sums.

We started a block of cricket in PE this week, with Gary from Penicuik Cricket Club coming in to lead the sessions. Gary was impressed with some of the skills on show and the children really enjoyed the quick game of cricket at the end. The session will continue for the next few weeks. As well as cricket, we also continued with our athletics block. We are still focusing on throwing, looking at the technique needed for the shot put and the javelin. Next week we will look at the different running events.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we were using library books and our chromebooks to help us identify some of the plants we found in the playground. We found that this was not an easy task and will be doing some more investigation next week.

Have a great weekend all.

P5/6

Our focus in IDL this week was Global Goal 5: Gender Equality. We learned about how women have been treated unfairly in history, and how times have changed to fix that. We did an Equ-bingo game, which tested how many famous women we knew of - can you name a famous female scientist? Or when women in the UK got the right to vote? Now we can in P5/6! We learned about the story of Malala Yousafzai, and how she stood up for girl's right to an education. I was very impressed by how respectful the class were when learning about how brave Malala is, and how inspired they were by her.

In literacy, we are continuing to hone our report writing skills. We took on our feedback we received last week, from either our peers, selves, or Miss Dunleavy, and applied this to our writing this week. We set ourselves a new challenge to improve on our writing from last week. Inspired by our topic, we wrote a factual report about Malala, and again used our writing groups to give each other and ourselves feedback and compliments on our work. In spelling, we focused on common spelling rules and were able to apply these to making our own crosswords. We even had our own personalised Wordle for our spelling groups! Next week, we are being introduced to our next class novel, Charlotte's Web.

In numeracy, we were very lucky to have Mr. Weedon in with us again to show us the importance of having a reliable strategy when adding. We applied this knowledge to do some code-breaking together, and even worked out the value of our own names - in more languages than one! We will continue this work on addition in the next week, while moving onto subtraction and using a similar method of identifying a strategy that works for us. In maths, we worked on our concept of time. We worked together as a class to describe the time using words and numbers, specifically working on our speed. We played a game of P5/6 .v. Miss Dunleavy - the class won this week, but there's always next week for my comeback! Next week, we will continue to investigate time, and apply this to real world problems we might come across.

The class had a really exciting day on Thursday - we started the day with Rugby training with Josh from Penicuik rugby club - we'll have this every Thursday for the next 5 weeks. We also responsibly used our right to a voice, and voted in our house captain elections. Best of luck to the P7s, we know that any of the candidates would have been great at the job!

Have a lovely weekend, and soak up the last of the warm weather before autumn hits!

P7

Primary 7 have had a very busy week in the run up to the house captain election. I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to each and every one of them. They have worked extremely hard to prepare their posters, letters and speeches as part of their canvassing process. They have also enjoyed setting up the polling station in the gym hall and inviting each class along to vote. I wish you all the best of luck for the results and know that all of you would make fantastic leaders.

Next week, the children will be learning about the key features and language used in informative leaflets. They will also be learning to use primary and secondary resources to find out information about the Scottish Parliament and make notes. We will be making a trip to the Parliament on Wednesday for a tour of the building and we'll also have the opportunity to ask questions about the building and the work that's done there.

This week in Numeracy we have been learning about the place value of decimal numbers and learning how to place them on a number line. Next week we will be progressing on to rounding whole and decimal numbers to different amounts. In maths, the children have been continuing to create bar charts which display data from more than one group. Next week, we will be building on this as we learn to create line graphs.

In P.E the children have been enjoying their cricket sessions with Gary which will continue next week. They have been practising their serving in tennis and will continue with this as well as learning how to volley.

X-----X

Please remember that next Friday is the beginning of the September weekend and so there is no school on Friday 15th or Monday 18th September.

Let's hope this glorious weather continues for a while longer.

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Deputy Headteacher