



Sacred Heart Primary School

“Aspire Nurture Learn Achieve”



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Dear Parent/Carer,

The Primary 7 pupils continued their learning about electoral systems by visiting the heart of the Scottish government at the Scottish Parliament. The children had a guided tour as well as meeting MSPs and spending time in the debating chamber where the decisions get made.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parent helpers who supported P7 on this excursion. There are lots of opportunities for parents support in this way and we are always so grateful for volunteers.

Sacred Heart Star Award

This week the following children have been acknowledgea as 'stars' witin our school community:

- ★ Hugo (P1) – successful learner
- ★ Deborah (P2) –successful learner
- ★ Harri (P3/4) – responsible citizen
- ★ Oscar (P4/5) – successful Learner and effective contributor
- ★ Sharifa (P5/6) – successful learner
- ★ Aoife (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 discussing the “Origin of Species” by Charles Darwin and his idea of evolution. We looked at the similarities and differences between Creation in Scripture and scientific theories. The children then made a class poster of all the questions they had about Creation and how humans came into being.

Primary 5/6 were practising finding bible verses independently within the book of Exodus. This can be challenging, but they will become more confident by doing it regularly. We discussed (Exodus 12:1-28) and talked more about the Passover. We watched a short film explaining how Passover is still widely celebrated today in the Jewish religion.

Primary 4/5 have been continuing to explore Christian heritage. We used what we learned last week about the Pictish stones and Celtic crosses to design our own. The children researched the meaning of the different symbols and then used them to make their stone or cross. We also investigated the Christian origin of some Scottish place names such as: Kilmarnock, Tobermory, Motherwell, Ladywell and St. Andrew’s

Primary 3/4 have been talking about forgiveness. Jesus is compassionate and loving and He wants us to forgive others even when this is difficult. We discussed how when we find it challenging to forgive, we can pray the Our Father to remind us of what we are called to do.

Primary 2 have been continuing to explore how Jesus showed compassion and love to others through the story of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17: 12-19). We talked about how Jesus valued everyone, even those rejected by society. The story also reminded us of the importance of showing gratitude to God because only one of the men came back to say thank you to Jesus.

Primary 1 have been building on last week’s theme of using our talents. We remembered what happened to Gerald in the story “Giraffes can’t dance” and talked about how the grasshopper had helped him to discover his own talent. This led to a discussion about people who help us by using their God-given talents, for example, parents, grandparents, doctors, priests and emergency services. The children were keen to share how they have been helped and what they have learned from these people.



The Parent Partnership

Many thanks to all the parents who have come forward to become class reps - very helpful to have you on board with me! I am also encouraged by parents who approach me on the school grounds and talk to me about various things.

Updates from me:

- Halloween Disco preparation work is underway!
- This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is next in the pipeline.
- In the process of creating the PP programme/meetings schedule for this academic year.
- Meeting with the support officer from Midlothian Council and School Head Teacher together in the coming weeks.

Have a great weekend - Jemima



Halloween Disco

Wooooo! The Halloween Disco is on **Monday 30th October**. As usual there will be two different sessions Nursery – P3 (3.30-5.00pm) and P4 –P7 (5.00-7.00pm). Purchase your child's online ticket via ParentPay: £2.00 per child entry fee and a further £1.00 per child, if you wish to order a hot-dog for your child. A meat free alternative will be available.

Family Wellbeing – Contemporary Families, Adult Learning Course

The Family Wellbeing Service have provided a flyer for an upcoming course on Contemporary Families being run by Midlothian Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability (CLLE) commencing 26th September.

Ask Dad

We have been asked to share information about a project called *Ask Dad* for Dads/father figures. A drop-in session is being held on Wednesday 20th September from 1-3pm at Ladywood Leisure Centre, to find out more and to get feedback about what you would like to get from the group. Free tea and biscuits will be available!! See poster for further information.

Early Years Flu Vaccine Programme

All children who attend nursery (regardless of age), must attend one of the Midlothian 2-5yr Nasal Flu Clinics. Please see session details attached and attend the best session to suit your family or call the flu line number on 07070297939 and speak with one of the nurses. This information is also displayed in nursery for your attention.

Midlothian Advertiser - P1 Souvenir Edition

The special edition of the Midlothian Advertiser featuring all the new Primary 1s will be going to print soon. Letter have been sent home this week and we ask that permission slips are returned to school by **Tuesday 19 September**. Further details will be advised once permissions are received.

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.

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

Music Instrumental Lessons - Primary 6

Letters have been issued to P6 pupils from the Midlothian Council Music Service. Our music teachers, Ross (Brass) and Heather (Clarsach) have started their visits to P6 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.



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!

P7 Bikeability

P7s will undertake their Bikeability course from Tuesday 26th to Thursday 28th (the same week as Cycle to School). Pupils are required to bring their bicycle and helmet to school each day. Please note the school is not responsible for any bikes left on the premises. We recommend your child brings a lockable bike chain with a combination lock (ensure your child knows how to lock/unlock it and can remember the combination). If you child is unable to bring their bicycle or does not have a helmet, please advise the school office as soon as possible.

Letters have been issued to all pupils; these must be returned by Tuesday 19th September.

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.

National Entitlement Card for free public travel

Information was issued 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 your 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.

PE Days

P1 – Monday and Wednesday

P2 – Tuesday and Thursday

P3/4 – Monday and Wednesday

P4/5 – Tuesday and Thursday

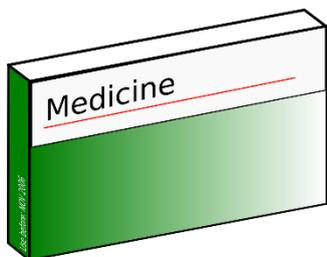
P5/6 – Tuesday and Thursday

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

- Mon 25th to Fri 29th September – Maths Week in school
- Tues 26th September - School photographer - pupils individual and sibling photographs (for those attending SHPS and ELC only)
- Tues 26th to Thurs 28th September – P7 Bikeability course – *please note change in date*
- Wed 27th September – P2 Visit to Rosslyn Chapel
- Fri 29th September – MacMillan Coffee Morning – more details to follow
- Tues 3rd October – P7 pupils to St David's HS for transition tour and information session
- 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)
- Tues 7th November – St David's HS Open Evening for P7 pupils and parent/carers
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Scottish Book Week – book fair will be in school
- 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)

Building on our learners observations and interests we began our week demonstrating our skills as Responsible Citizens. We went back to the park donned our gloves and began to litter pick, so proud of all our children taking an active role in our community. Last Friday we harvested our Potatoes which we planted last session, our bumper crop stimulated discussion around where vegetables come from so we explored this using the story Oliver's Vegetables. We discussed how vegetables grow and also set up a small shop to stimulate role play and discussion around food. We had the opportunity to make some fantastic vegetable print pictures.

We have been working on both our gross motor and fine motor skills in a variety of ways. We practiced our gross motor skills in the school playing field, running, jumping, climbing and balancing. Our fine motor skills have been challenged using tap-a-shape, magnetic shapes, scissor work, linking cubes and finger rhymes, both the gross motor and fine motor activities help to prepare our learners for mark making and subsequently help to enable writing when we are ready.

Hope you have a lovely long weekend.

P1

We have learned so much in Primary 1 this week! It has been so nice to see the children really enjoying their learning and getting excited about learning a new sound each day! This week we have learned three new sounds: 'd, t, i', and we have been trying to find things that start with these sounds in our classroom. Our handwriting of our sounds is improving each day as we practise more and more. We have been taking part in some fine motor activities to support with our handwriting too such as using hama beads, threading and tracing patterns.

In numeracy we have been continuing with our letter formation, practising a new number each day. As a class we found 3 particularly tricky to write so we have been doing some extra practise of this. We have been counting every day, forwards and backwards and sometimes starting from different numbers. In maths we have been learning more about shape, using words such as curved and straight to describe 2D shapes. We have also been looking for shapes in our environment. We built our own shapes with colourful lolly sticks too.

In PE we have been working on our space bubbles and making sure we have enough personal space to exercise. We have been practising good listening in the gym hall and I have been very impressed with the listening skills that P1 are demonstrating each PE lesson. We are really enjoying learning new games in PE and are so excited to learn more!

Have a fantastic weekend!

P2

This week we have had a lot of children bringing in things to do with our learning. I am delighted to see how engaged we are with our reading together; we have many examples of paper dolls and Pedro the mouse linking to our work. We used our paper dolls in literacy to write a diary about someone or something they meet. We are using our sounds to help spell our words and remembering to write in sentences. Our dolls met tigers, Pedro, crocodiles and even teachers! Mrs Shaw and I can see how hard everyone is working in our RWI groups every day. We are

building our skills in blending / writing sounds and holding a sentence in our head and writing it independently.

In numeracy we have shown we really know our odd and even numbers - and keep reminding ourselves when we find pairs in our activities. This week we used numicon to identify numbers and they provide a simple visual prompt to immediately recognise if the number is odd or even. Well done everyone!

We are enjoying singing together in class; you might have heard a jazzy version of "This little light of mine" and also "You are my sunshine"; we are hoping to share some singing on Seesaw this week, so check your devices! Finally a gentle reminder that we do not encourage toys in school, so please remind your child to leave precious items at home. Have a great long weekend everyone.

P3/4

We have had a busy writing week this week in our literacy lessons in P3/4! We started the week by finishing our plans for our very own limerick, focusing on using rhyme. We then worked hard to write our own limericks using the structure that was part of our success criteria. At the end of the week, we were able to type these poems on our Chromebooks and then also read them to the rest of the class. We hope you enjoyed watching the performances of these on Seesaw! As well as our limerick, we have also been working on diary entry writing. We write a diary entry based on Charlie Bucket finding the golden ticket in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have used this to set targets for our writing that we will focus on after the September weekend.

In maths we have focused on time this week. We have been looking at o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. This included on analogue clocks at the beginning of the week and then we introduced the times on digital clocks. We will return to the topic of time later in the year to explore converting between times more and telling the time in 5 minute intervals.

In PE we have completed our work on Benchball. We played a full scale game with the whole class. Some also took turns to take on the role of referee to make sure that all rules were being followed. It was lovely to see good sportsmanship from both teams, despite winning or losing. After the September weekend we will move on to Athletics in our PE lessons.

Finally, we have enjoyed having a full week of using our Chromebooks this week. Everyone has shown respect and care for their Chromebooks, and many take time out of using theirs to help a friend who is finding something challenging. We are looking forward to using them to help with her learning more and more as the year goes on.

P4/5

It has been a pleasure to teach this week in P4/5 and the children have worked extremely hard. In Literacy we have continued reading Perry Angel's Suitcase and we have used this as a context for beginning to write an Information Report about the characters in the story. We have learned about the main features of an Information Report, including 'third person' and 'present tense'. Together we have created a Success Criteria using example Information Reports to support us. Furthermore we have developed our prediction skills in reading to support our comprehension of texts.

In Numeracy we have been working on our addition strategies, particularly focusing on word problems and the Bar Model strategy. P4/5 have also been practising their basic maths facts through collaborative games.

In Health and Wellbeing we have been learning about our support network and discussed who our trusted adults are within school. In PE we have continued with our cricket sessions. P4/5 displayed

great teamwork and coordination skills when batting and fielding. In IDL our class have investigated where certain foods come from using our Chromebooks to research. We have also identified the characteristics of living, non-living and once living things.

I hope you have a lovely long weekend everyone!

P5/6

A short week in P5/6! We have been kept busy, however.

We have been finishing up with our Global Goals topic, learning this week about Goal 15: Life on Land. We learned about the native forestry of Scotland - did you know that the Scots Pine tree is one of the only trees that came originally from Scotland? We went outside to soak up the last of the sun and investigated the nature in our own playground. We were able to identify what species of tree and plants are around us, using group work and investigative skills to decipher what characteristics the sample had in order to figure out what species it was. We found lots of beech and sycamore trees! We are looking forward to applying the skills and knowledge we've gained during this topic to our next one - farming!

In literacy, we have been applying our knowledge of information report writing to a new medium - leaflets. We identified the purpose of leaflets and brochures, and analysed an example of a travel leaflet. We co-created our success criteria, making clear what we have to include in our own leaflet. We were introduced to a new graphic design program, Canva, in order to create our leaflets about our local nature. We showed lots of resilience when learning this new skill, and created some beautiful and informative leaflets in the end.

In numeracy, we looked at different strategies we can use in order to complete subtraction - the column method was very popular! We spoke together about common mistakes that we might be making, and how we can prevent these from happening. We also did some more practice on how we can clearly lay out our numeracy work in jotters to make it clear to the reader. We continued some small group instruction, with the Shiel group being introduced to a brand new strategy for subtracting 5 and 6 digit numbers. Next week, we will begin looking at multiplication, so will be practising our times tables!

In HWB, we have been revising our expectations and routines in school, reminding ourselves of the importance of our class charter. We finished up our Athletics unit with a long jump tournament, using a bracket to display how the tournament works. Congratulations to Maya who was our final winner! We will continue with our Rugby training each Thursday, and begin Netball in PE on Tuesday.

Have a lovely long weekend, and we will see you on Tuesday!

P7

Primary 7 enjoyed a trip to the Scottish Parliament as part of their topic learning this week. They learned about all the different roles and jobs within the parliament. Moving forward, the children will be learning about the history of the parliament and our right to vote. They will be comparing peoples' voting rights in the past to the present.

In Literacy, the children have successfully identified the key features of leaflets and have been working on their note-taking skills. Next week, they will be using their note taking skills to collect information from a range of sources about the Scottish Parliament. They will also be building on their spelling and grammar as they look at words ending in -sion/-tion and different sentence types.

In Numeracy, the children have been working well on their place value knowledge as they have been rounding numbers. Next week, they will begin their learning of addition and subtraction strategies including the jump and written methods.

Next, week will be our last session of cricket but we will be continuing with tennis on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the October break

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

We hope that you have a fabulous long weekend.

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Deputy Headteacher