



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

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Dear Parent/Carer,

What a busy week we have had at Sacred Heart. The children have all enjoyed a Pokémon themed Scottish Maths Week where the main focus has been on measure. Thank you to all of the staff for their enthusiasm and time – these larger events take a lot of organisation out with school hours but are so worthwhile in terms of creating a buzz about maths.

P2 were out and about this week and represented the school perfectly at Rosslyn Chapel. Ms Montgomery was so proud of them.

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Today the P7s hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise funds for this amazing charity. A big thank you to those of you who were able to attend; baked for the event or gave your child pennies to spend. If you look closely at the photographs, you may spot a familiar face who came back to visit us. We are astounded at the fantastic amount raised - £499.64! Thank you for making this a huge success.



Sacred Heart Star Award

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

- ★ Oreofe (P1) – responsible citizen
- ★ Aisha (P2) – responsible citizen
- ★ Ollie (P3/4) – successful learner and responsible citizen
- ★ Sophie (P4/5) – confident individual
- ★ Gregor (P5/6) – responsible citizen
- ★ Oskar (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 were exploring the idea of stewardship. We read Genesis 1: 26-28, discussing what they think is meant by, 'They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all the animals, domestic and wild'. We considered the implications of that message for us today and discussed topical issues such as extinction, pollution and deforestation.

Primary 5/6 have been learning the stories of Crossing the Red Sea and Song of Victory (Exodus 14:15-31 and 15:1-19) and The Gift of Manna (Exodus 16:1-18). We practised finding the bible references and then discussed the key message from both stories, which is that if we put our trust in God then He will provide for us.



Primary 4/5 have been learning about the Book of Psalms which contains lots of psalms praising God for the mystery of Creation. We focused on Psalm 148 and discussed all the different parts of God's creation that are being praised. The children picked out their favourite verse from the psalm.

Primary 3/4 have been learning that Jesus celebrated Jewish festivals and that the most important of these was called 'Passover'. They listened to Exodus 12: 1-14 and discussed that Passover is when Jewish people celebrate being freed from slavery in Egypt,

Primary 2 have been exploring the story of Jonah and the whale. We read the story and then talked through the key messages. The children learned that we should never try to run away from God and that God gives everyone a chance to change their ways and become better.

Primary 1 have been exploring the Bible as a book of stories which tell us all about God. We focused on the Old Testament and listened to the story of Noah and his ark. The children learned that God sent a great flood and Noah listened to God and saved lots of the animals. God sent a promise in the form of a rainbow to tell the world that he would never send another flood again.

The Parent Partnership

Hi

It was great to see some of you in the coffee and chat online meeting, as mentioned information sheets on parent partnership (commonly called as parent council) is attached along with this newsletter.

The Parent Partnership AGM is next week on **Wednesday 4th Oct at 7.00 pm** at the School. I hope you will be able to attend, it will be an opportunity for updating you on the PP's current and future work in the school and provide you with financial updates. Class representatives will be formally announced in the meeting too. I am still looking for class reps for the following classes

- Nursery/ELC:
- P1:
- P7:

I shall be grateful if you could please email the school if you would be happy to represent your class.

I am also looking for a PP secretary, who will be supporting me in my role on non-financial admin matters and taking minutes during meetings. If you are interested in joining PP, please email the school.

Jemima



Nursery – Stay and Play

There are still some slots left for parents to book in for a Stay and Play session **on the week beginning 10th October in our Nursery (ELC)**. These sessions are a great opportunity to have fun with your youngster and their friends. The staff will be around to facilitate the play and you can also have a chat with them whilst you are there.

Speak to your key worker to get booked in and then....Have Fun!!!!

P7 Open Morning – St David's High School

All pupils from P7 will be attending an open morning at St David's High School where they will take part in a range of activities. This is an opportunity for those children, who are at this time undecided about S1 school choices, to experience what St David's has to offer. The children will be returning to school by lunchtime.

Parent Partnership AGM

The AGM for the Sacred Heart Parent Partnership will be held on **Wednesday 4th October at 7.00pm** in school. All members of the school community are welcomed. This will be an opportunity to meet the team and find out more about the plans for this year.

At this meeting, Mrs Cran will also be sharing the Post Inspection Action Plan as well as the School Improvement Plan 2023-2024. These documents will show the strategic vision of the leadership team. Your input is valued and this will be an opportunity to discuss school priorities for the next few years.



Reading and Phonics Workshop

The teacher in P1 and P2 are hosting a Reading and Phonics Workshop on **Wednesday 4th October at 2.20pm**. During the workshop they will explain the rationale behind the resources we use and give hints and tips to parents on how to support the children at home.

CHILD A	CHILD B	CHILD C
reads 20 minutes per day	reads 5 minutes per day	reads 1 minute per day
hears 1,800,000 words per year	hears 282,000 words per year	hears 8,000 words per year
scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests

Children who read / are read to regularly:

- Develop a larger vocabulary;
- Are more secure in letter patterns and so tend to be stronger spellers;
- Have experience of story structures and therefore are confident in story writing;
- Have a good imagination.

There will be time at the end of the session for parents to work 1:1 with their child and practice the things they have covered within the setting. Please do come along to learn a little more about developing this vital skill.



P3-P6 Visit to Museum of Rural Studies

As part of their learning about Farm to Fork, the children in **P3/4, P4/5 and P5/6** will be visiting the Museum of Rural Studies on **Thursday 5th October**. The children will be out of school all day so **a packed lunch will be required**. If you would like the school kitchen to provide a packed lunch for your child, you will need to let us know by Wednesday – to allow for these to be prepared. The children will return to school in time to be dismissed at the usual time.

P7 Cross Country Event

Twelve runners from P7 have been selected to attend this Midlothian event on **Thursday 5th October**. The children will return to school by lunchtime so there is no need for a packed lunch to be organised, if they usually have school lunches. Good luck to all of the children who are representing Sacred Heart at this event.

P3/4 Show and Tell Assembly

The P3/4 class will be leading the Assembly on **Friday 6th October** as they show and tell about all of their learning this term so far. Parents are invited to join us at 11.30am (**please be in the foyer by 11.20am**) to find out what the children have been getting up to. The families will then be invited back to the P3/4 classroom.



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. After making payment on ParentPay, please click the link below to order your child's preferred hot dog. Allergen information will be provided soon.

Please click link to order your child's hot dog: <https://forms.gle/FYXeYVsF4wcNSux66>

Rudolph Christmas Cards and Gift Fundraiser

We have once again registered to participate in the Rudolph Cards and Gifts fundraiser this year. Further information and the Drawing and order form sheets have been sent home with pupils this week. Anyone wishing to place an order must return their child's artwork and order form by **Thursday 12th October**. Payment for items must be made on ParentPay at time of order. We will be unable to order your goods if payment is not received.

School Photograph Orders

Photo proofs Order forms have been sent home with all pupils who had their photo taken either individually or with their sibling(s). Orders should be returned to school by **Friday 6th October**. Payment should either be by bank transfer or be included with the order form. Orders will not be processed until payment is received.

Schools Out – Autumn Term Availability and October Holiday Programme

Schools Out have provided an update on availability for the Autumn Term for their breakfast and after school service and details for their October Holiday Programme. Please see the information attached to this newsletter. Please be aware places book out quickly so don't delay if you need childcare support for the upcoming holiday.

Family Information Workshops – Visual Supports at Home

Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian are offering a workshop to support parents, carers, and other family members to understand how using visuals can support their young people's communication. across the day. This will take place on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 from 2-3pm at Newbattle Medical Centre, Group Room. For booking details, please see attached leaflet.

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

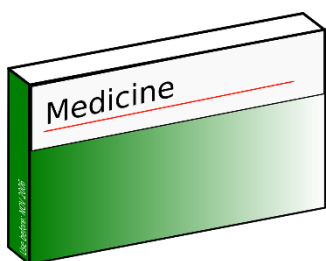
P5/6 – Tuesday and Thursday

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 everyone who attended our virtual Coffee and Chat. The minutes from this meeting are attached to this newsletter for your information.

The next time will be in person and will start at 9.00am to coincide with drop-off times. Please put **Friday 27th October** 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

- Fri 13th October – P4/5 Sharing Assembly @ 11.30am – Parents welcome
- Mon 16th - Fri 20th October - October holiday
- Mon 23rd October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Tues 7th November – P7 pupils to Numeracy Event at St David's HS
- Wed 8th 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
- Wed 22nd November to 13th March – P3/4 & P4/5 Swimming (every Wed except holidays)
- Fri 22nd December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm
- Tues 9th January – New term starts for pupils
- Tues 19th – Thurs 21st March – P6 Bikeability

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)

Maths week saw us going on a Pokémon character hunt around the school and using cubes as a means of measurement. The interest in measure continued with our learners all measuring their heights in our construction area, some of us noticed we had grown since last session. We explored wheat, peas, barley and grains which was a popular sensory experience while discussing that these were part of the farmers harvest. The harvest theme continued with us collecting some more apples and blueberries from the school field. We used some of the apples for printing activity and also made the apple crumble. We explored the elderberries in our garden, some of our learners tried to make paint, crushing and squashing them. We have been discussing the pips, seeds and stones in fruit while at snack and talking about how and where they grow. We began to explore and discuss who is in our families and any photos would be greatly appreciated to extend this discussion.

P1

Primary One have had a fantastic week full of lots of fun measure focused Maths Week activities! We started off the week with a visit from Ash from the world of Pokémon where we were tasked with locating all of the lost Pokémon that had been taken from him! This resulted in us having to find the different Pokémon around the school and measure them. We did this with our P5/6 buddies and had a so much fun and got some counting practise in too as we measured using our fingers and thumbs. On Thursday we got to bake and decorate Pokémon themed biscuits which was super exciting! In class we have also been measuring the height and length of various Pokémon using cubes and blocks, as well as ordering them in height order from smallest to biggest. We looked at the power levels of each Pokémon and learned about capacity through this.

In literacy we learned our next new sounds which were 'o, c, k'. We have now learned 12 sounds so far in P1 and we will be completing assessments next week to identify which sounds the children

are secure with and if there are any specific sounds that they need to continue to practise. We continued with oral blending this week too and worked hard at identifying the first sound in each three letter word.

In PE, we have been practising our listening skills by playing traffic lights as well as working on spatial awareness by blowing up our space bubbles and making sure they aren't touching anyone else's. We are getting much better at dressing ourselves for PE and it is great to see the children developing more independence throughout the school day.

We also had our first visit to church on Wednesday morning and I was so impressed by how well behaved and respectful all of the children in P1 were!

Have a lovely weekend!

P2

What a quick week! Every day we have been working with measure as part of Maths Week. We had many Pokémon activities ... our highlight was the Pokémon scavenger hunt. Once we had found all the characters we measured how tall they were and made some comparisons. Can you guess which was the tallest? We also enjoyed baking and measuring the ingredients to make our decorated biscuits. Don't forget to check Seesaw for photos of our fun.

Your child has brought their reading book home this week and I hope they are happy to engage with some reading at home. We are holding a workshop next Wednesday in school and this will be a great opportunity to discuss and share tips to support your child in their reading journey.

We had a wonderful day at Rosslyn Chapel this week with Sarah and Maureen. The children were very excited to travel 600 years back in time and experience the Chapel first hand. We found dragons, green men, stained glass windows and even a secret whispering doorway! Our guides told us a wonderful story about the green man as we sat on cushions beneath the Apprentice Pillar. After break we used our metre sticks to measure various parts of the Chapel and the gardens. Finally we made our own dragon in a craft workshop... Then it was time to come back to school for lunch. After lunch Sarah and Maureen led us in an expressive arts workshop where we listened to music and created different dragon experiences. Thank you to our parent helpers for joining us! Have a lovely weekend.

P3/4

In literacy this week we have been working hard on our diary writing. We have been thinking carefully about what are targets for writing are and working hard to try and achieve them in our final piece of diary writing. Next week we will move onto instructional writing. As well as this, we have been working on our novel study on Charlotte's Web. During this time we have been reading aloud in class and answering questions about the text to check our understanding. The content of Charlotte's Web has also helped us write diary entries for the characters Fern and Wilbur. Next week we will continue to use Charlotte's Web to inspire our writing.

In maths we have been having fun exploring measure as part of Maths Week. Our theme for Maths Week is Pokémon, so we have been measuring different Pokémon and comparing them with others. We then used our Chromebooks to create a Jamboard to show our results. As well as this, we explored what capacity is and solved problems around it. In our numeracy work, we have been looking at how to use an empty number line to solve addition questions. This has helped a lot of us become more confident with addition in general, and also gave us a way to explain our strategy to others. Next week we will continue to look at addition and explore new strategies.

In PE this week we have continued our work on Athletics. We have been working in groups to practice relay racing. We explored the best way to start if you are first on the team, and how we can prepare if we are in another position in the team to make sure that we are ready to catch the baton. Next week we will look at jumping in Athletics.

Finally, we have started to brainstorm ideas for our class assembly taking place next week. We are planning to share some of writing work as well as demonstrate our technology skills. We really hope that you can come along to see us at assembly in school next Friday!

P4/5

It has been an exciting week in Sacred Heart with Maths Week Scotland kicking off on Monday. We had a visit from Ash Ketchum in assembly before Team Rocket came in and stole his Pokémon. We have spent the rest of the week on the hunt for Pokémon, as well as designing new ones. Our focus for Maths Week, other than Pokémon, has been on measure. On Monday we did a scavenger hunt, looking for different types of Pokémon which we measured. On Tuesday we were working on capacity, working out how many Pokémon can fit into a box. On Wednesday we created our own Pokémon using accurate measurements and on Thursday we rounded off the week with a little bit of biscuit decorating to turn them into Pokéballs. Next week we will be working on subtraction again as well as looking at time.

In literacy this week we have been writing our own recipes for a potion. There have been some interesting ideas for potions and some very gruesome ingredients used. I don't fancy trying some of the potions! Next week we will be looking at warning stories through Talk4Writing and starting off with creating a story map.

For PE we had our last session of cricket with Gary this week and I know how impressed he was with the improvement in everyone's skills over the weeks. We will continue to play cricket on a Tuesday and athletics on a Thursday until October, although we have our trip to the Museum of Rural Life next Thursday so no PE that day.

On Friday this week we were lucky to have a video from local farmers telling us about their everyday lives and answering some questions from children. This tied in nicely to an investigation into the journey that bread takes from farm to fork.

I hope everyone has a lovely relaxed weekend.

P5/6

What an exciting (Maths) Week in P5/6! We have had so much fun together over the past week...

In literacy, we have been continuing to practice our new spellings, working in our groups to identify our strengths and weaknesses. We also began to look at writing persuasively. We watched a video together identifying the key elements of persuasive writing. Going forward, we will be planning and writing a letter based on our novel, *Charlotte's Web*, arguing that Wilbur should be saved on the farm.

In numeracy, we have been developing our multiplication and division skills. We saw which strategies we could use for our 6 and 7 times tables if we are getting stuck, including doubling our 3 times tables and splitting the factors. One of our groups also investigated multiplying decimal fractions by multiples of 10, 100, and 1000. Next week, we will move onto division and touch again on place value. In maths, we have had a very exciting maths week! We worked together with our P1 buddies to complete a Pokémon scavenger hunt, measuring using standard units of

measurement, and helping our buddies begin to understand the concept of measuring properly. We also investigated capacity using cubes.

In IDL, we had a look at how different types of life interact on the farm, specifically looking at a cow pat - lots of giggles in P5/6! We showed this using a food web, demonstrating how the energy is transferred between life on the cow pat. We were very surprised to learn the wide range of bacteria and animals that rely on the manure to thrive. We also received a very special video from Newhall Farm - Isla and Fergus answered lots of our questions about life and work on a real farm. Very exciting next week, as we investigate farm machinery and finally make our trip to the Museum of Rural Life!

We are very excited for all of our learning next week, most of all our trip over to the Museum! Please remember to bring a coat and sensible shoes on the day, as we will be outside for parts of the workshops.

Have a lovely, safe weekend and we will see you for another week of learning fun on Monday.

P7

Primary 7 have had an extremely busy time this week with lots of exciting things happening like: the MacMillan coffee morning, Bikeability and Maths Week. The children have had lots of fun and have carried themselves well during many different learning experiences - well done.

Next week in Literacy, the children will be continuing to create their leaflets about MSPs and will also begin researching and making notes about the Scottish Parliament Building. They will be continuing with their daily spelling and reading too.

In Numeracy, the children will be learning to use addition and subtraction strategies as they work on missing number calculations.

In health and wellbeing next week, we will be focusing on disagreements in friendships and how to cope with and manage these. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their cricket sessions but unfortunately these have now come to an end and we will be back focusing on tennis for the last couple of weeks.

X-----X

Hope you all have a fabulous weekend.

Lilly Learmonth
Acting Deputy Headteacher