



# 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

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Please remember that next week is a holiday and the children resume school on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

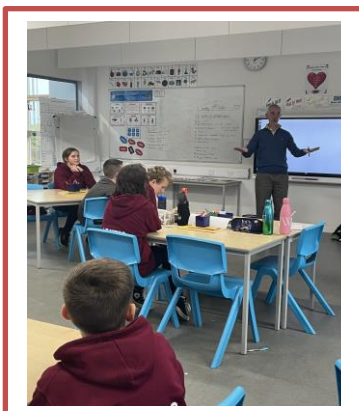
Dear Parent/Carer,

## Stay & Play

This week the Nursery (ELC) have invited the parents and carers in to Stay and Play. Lots of families took the opportunity to spend some time in the setting, playing with the children and enjoying the wealth of equipment.

The staff were on hand to support the parents in how to develop play so that the children were being encouraged to explore at a deeper level and guide their own learning with the support of the adult. Adults were encouraged to model more complex language as the children were playing, introducing mathematical and descriptive language.

The children loved having their adults in the ELC and we are all looking forward to the next opportunity as Stay and Play - which has become a firm favourite with everyone involved.



## P7 Maths Event

This week P7 had the pleasure of welcoming a member of the Maths Department from Penicuik High School. Mr Berry, spoke to the children about how maths is taught at high school and then led them in an exciting lesson on negative number and fractions. Mr Berry spoke a lot about mind-set and belief – the children finished the lesson feeling so much more confident and excited about going to high school after the summer.

## Sacred Heart Star Award

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

- ★ Jethro (P1) – effective contributor
- ★ Myles (P2) – successful learner
- ★ Logan (P3/4) – responsible citizen
- ★ Jacob (P4/5) – responsible citizen
- ★ Sharifa (P5/6) – confident individual
- ★ Philip (P7) – successful learner

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

## Our RERC learning this week:

As it is the month of October, our RERC learning has centred round Our Blessed Lady.

**Primary 7** have been reading from the book of Revelation 12:1 A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman\*clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. We discussed the Assumption of Mary and why the word may have been used when describing the end of Our Lady's life on earth.



**Primary 5/6** have been exploring why we honour Mary during the month of October and the various titles held by Our Lady.. We revised the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and also the prayers that make up the Rosary. If you wish to say the Rosary at home, a useful website to use is <http://www.comepraytherosary.org/>

**Primary 4/5** have been learning about Mary and how she is honoured as the first of all believers because she was the first person to say "Yes". We discussed the various titles for Mary, for example "Mother of the Church" and "Queen of Heaven" and explored the origins of these.

**Primary 3/4** have been learning that October is a month when we particularly honour Mary. We discussed why we have specific items on our altar during the months of Mary, for example, flowers, rosary beads, statue, and blue liturgical colours. We explored images and icons of Mary and talked about the type of person she was.

**Primary 2** have been talking about why we dress the altar in blue cloth and fresh flowers during the month of October. We discussed where we have seen Mary in school, at home and in our local church. We looked at images and icons of Mary and then had a go at drawing our own pictures of her

**Primary 1** have continued to learn about Noah as they become more familiar with stories from the Old Testament. The children discussed why God sent the flood.

## The Parent Partnership

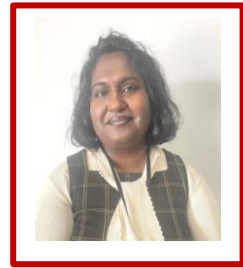
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Halloween Disco - Thank you for having come forward to help and already started doing things for the Disco! Your help is greatly appreciated!

Parent Partnership Checklist - Please may I request you to complete the checklist sent along with the AGM minutes and email it to the school when you are able to. This exercise will help us identify areas for improvement.

Parent Partnership Categories - Class reps and I will be tagging into small teams to work with the school on the below categories. I am calling all interested parents to join us, please let your class reps know!

- Education, Learning Matters, and related policies.
- Extra-curricular activities and clubs
- School improvements/developments and related policies
- Fundraising and fun events.



Next term is going to be a busy one as we have the Halloween Disco and the Christmas Fair. Please spread the word around your parent friends that we need as many helpers as possible.

Jemima

### Help With Lunches Over the October Holiday

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) then you are entitled to support over the October break. Please follow the link below to access this..

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

Payment	Paid to Bank Accounts	Notes/Comments
October School Holidays Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October to Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	£12.60 per Primary School pupil £14.40 per Secondary School pupil

If you do not receive any of the benefits of FSM, please look at the section named Registering For Free School Meals which is further down this newsletter. There are links to the application form and guidance on eligibility.



### Farewell for now and Good Luck!

During Friday's assembly we had the opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Brown who is expecting a baby girl in the next few weeks. The children will miss her very much as she has supported so many of them in the ELC and Primary 1. Good luck, Mrs Brown, we look forward to seeing you and Baby Brown back in school soon.

### Supervision

We appreciate that many families make a big effort to ensure they get their children to school/nursery on time and arrive in the playground, or outside the nursery gate, before the setting is open. We would remind you that, at these times, the children are under the supervision of their adult and that their safety is the responsibility of the person they are with. For this reason we would ask that you do not let your child play with, climb or swing on items such as our play equipment, gates, hand rails etc. We shall ensure that the doors open promptly at 8.40am for the nursery (ELC) and 8.50am for the school.



### Raising Teens With Confidence

There is an online training opportunity for any parents who are approaching the adolescent years or who is raising a teenager at the moment. This free course plans to cover the following:

- How the adolescent brain works;
- Why adolescents display risk-taking behaviours;
- The importance of communication.

Raising Teens With Confidence is on **24<sup>th</sup> October between 12.30pm and 2.00pm**. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

### Penicuik High School Transition Events

On **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**, Penicuik High School will be hosting a transition meeting for all P7 parents/carers. The meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall at Penicuik High and will start at 5.30pm; running for approximately one hour.



Penicuik High are also offering school tours for parent/carers and children on the following dates:

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 4.00pm-5.00pm
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 1.00pm – 2.00pm

A letter containing further information has been emailed to parent/carers of P7 pupils.

## Halloween Costume Drive

Our fabulous House Captains are requesting families donate previously worn Halloween costumes to the school. This will enable us to find new homes for them which will reduce waste and be better for our planet. Often costumes are worn only once or twice and children have outgrown them by the following year. Why not give them a second life by donating them so that other children can enjoy them and families are saving money too? Costumes do not need to be scary, all kinds of dressing up outfits would be welcomed.



Please send all preloved costumes in to school so that the House Captains can sort them and set up a stall. **Final collection will be Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** but you can send them in before then.

Sacred Heart continues its commitment to Reduce, Re-use, Recycle to save our planet for the next generation.



## Halloween Disco

Woooooooooooo! The Halloween Disco is on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Please see the information sheet attached with further details and allergen information.

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

## P1 Midlothian Advertiser Souvenir Edition

An email has been sent to parent/carers of P1 pupils providing an online link to order copies of the Primary 1 Souvenir Edition. **Please note the deadline for orders is 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

## School Photo Orders

The first batch of orders have been collected. Any final orders will be collected after the October holiday.

## Rudolph Cards

Orders are now closed! Thank you if you have placed an order but these are now closed and we are unable to accept any further requests. Orders received will be sent to the company today and we look forward to receiving the completed items in school soon.

## 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](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

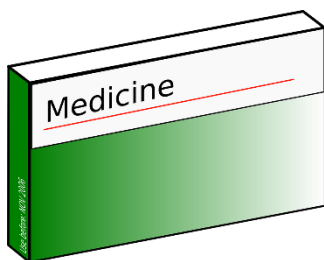
P5/6 – Tuesday and Thursday

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

Our next planned Coffee and Chat session will be in person and will start at 9.00am to coincide with drop-off times. We would love to meet as many parents as possible. This is an opportunity to connect with other parents and to give your suggestions regarding how to make Sacred Heart even better. Please put **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> October – Penicuik HS Open Evening for P7 pupils and parent/carers
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> November – P7 pupils to Numeracy Event at St David's HS
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Parent Tour of PHS 4.00pm-5.00pm
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November – St David's HS Open Evening for P7 pupils and parent/carers
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November – P7 parent tour of PHS 1.00pm -2.00pm
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Scottish Book Week – book fair will be in school
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccination Programme in school
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> March – P3/4 & P4/5 Swimming (every Wed except holidays)
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumpers
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Parties
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm
- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – New term starts for pupils
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> March – P6 Bikeability

## Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

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

## Class Updates:

## **ELC (Nursery)**

A busy and exciting week for our learners. It was lovely to see parents and grandparents in the ELC and playing with your children. Also a big thank you to everyone who contributed to our self-evaluation questions, your comments help to improve the information and opportunities we give to both you and your children.

This week saw us consolidate some of our learning experiences, reflecting on our floor-book and Seesaw with the children. We also saw an interest in Dinosaurs which some of us explored in a variety of contexts. There was a lot of imaginative play revolving around a big mound of sticks, some examples were fishing and pretending to toast marshmallows around a fire. Some learners used sticks to make some wonderful pictures.

Throughout the week we saw the exploration of trajectory and force, we used a variety of ramps, gutters and the natural hill outside to explore motion and how much force is required to start the journey of the car and ball before gravity takes over. This play exploration allows the children to learn early maths skills, learning how things drop, fall and go at different speeds helps to develop understanding of length, height and speed.

## **P1**

I cannot believe that we are at the end of our first term in Primary One! The weeks have flown in and the children have learned so much in their short time at Sacred Heart. I am incredibly proud of how well all of P1 have settled into school life and feel very lucky to have such a wonderful group of children to work with for the rest of the year.

This week we have learned the sounds 'e' 'l' and 'h'. We were all very curious about how many sounds we have learned so we counted them up and realised that we have learned 18 sounds so far!! I hope that the enthusiasm shown towards learning new sounds is still with us after the holidays! During Drawing Club this week we have learned lots of new words such as 'intelligent', 'divided', 'squabbled' and 'harmony'. I have been so impressed to hear lots of the children using these words in their conversations with one another. We have been getting so creative with our drawings and are becoming more confident in annotating them ourselves. This week we have had children using speech bubbles in their pictures, having a go at writing words and even trying out some simple addition calculations!

In numeracy we have been working on lots of different things. We have been counting forwards and backwards using videos and number lines. We have also been working on our number formation and numeral recognition and will continue to do this after the holiday week. We rounded off our learning on shape this week and the children are becoming more confident in identifying 3D shapes within the environment and naming them correctly.

In PE we talked about the different ways that our bodies might move when we are feeling different emotions. We practised these movements with a partner and then demonstrated them to the class. We discussed how we thought our classmates may be feeling following their demonstrations and were very good at describing the different signs to look out for such as facial expressions, posture and body language.

After the holidays we will have a week of reviewing and consolidating the sounds that we have learned so far before continuing to learn three sounds per week. In maths we will move to a focus on pattern for a few weeks, looking at continuing patterns as well as creating our own.

Have a fantastic holiday week!



## **P2**

This week we have come to the end of our dragon topic and we have been including technology and science in our learning. On Monday we created our own digital dragons and brought them to life with our I pads – you can meet them on Seesaw. On Tuesday we thought about how to protect our dragon eggs. We used different materials to consider what would stop them from breaking if we dropped them. We took our ideas outside and completed an experiment to test our ideas and see if they worked! We found that cotton wool and bubble wrap helped to protect our dragon eggs but tin foil and newspaper did not. Back in the classroom we wrote up our results. On Thursday we made dragon potions and were excited to see our ingredients react with each other as we made them.

After the holiday we will be starting our new topic of owls and we will be reading “The Owl who was afraid of the dark” by Jill Tomlinson. In literacy we have completed our RWI assessments and keep working hard in each lesson. We are using our sounds to help us spell words by carefully sounding out and building the words into sentences.

In numeracy we have been comparing numbers using words and symbols. We used manipulatives on our ipads and conkers in the classroom to show each other numbers that are larger, smaller and equal. Our next learning will be addition and subtraction.

Have a great holiday everyone.

## **P3/4**

We have had another busy week this week in Primary 3/4. In literacy we have continued our work on instructional writing. This has involved writing instructions to make an apple crumble, and instructions on how to get to the library. To help us write instructions, we have been learning about imperative verbs and time connectives and many of us have been able to apply these to our writing. Our reading this week has been focusing on reading fluently using our novel Charlotte’s Web to support us. It has been great to see the class grow in confidence with reading and we will be continuing this next term by using group novels.

In numeracy we have been finishing our unit on addition by consolidating our work using empty number lines and also using the bar model strategy. We were then able to look at how addition and subtraction are connected, and were able to use the bar model to write 4 different sums (addition and subtraction). Next term we will be looking at subtraction in more detail, with a particular focus on the strategies that we have already learned and adapting them.

We also had a fun end to our Farm to Fork topic this week by taking part in apple crumble making. It was great to take turns to peel and chop apples to prepare them from the crumble.

Finally, in PE we have completed our unit on athletics. This week we looked at long distance running. To help us run many laps of the gym hall we spoke about how important pace and stamina are to keep us moving for a longer period of time. We spoke about why jogging rather than sprinting helps us to run for longer. Next term we will look at different PE skills through the unit of gymnastics.

## **P4/5**

What a hectic week it has been. We have been trying to get lots of work finished, as well as preparing for our class assembly on Friday. In literacy we have started reading groups where we have been practising our reading skills, like fluency, expression and understanding. We also looked at when we should be using ie and ei in our spelling. We managed to finish our Talk4 Writing story maps and we practised saying the story out loud with expression. When we come back from our

break, we will move on to the innovation part of the story where we will make some changes to make the story our own.

In numeracy we have started working on multiplication by looking at using arrays in different ways. From laying out a multiplication problem, to working out amounts with arrays that are partially covered, we have been discussing the ways we work out answers to problems. After the break, we will continue with multiplication, followed by division, using different methods to help us work out answers. We will also be starting a block on time to help the children know when break and lunchtime is and to stop them asking how long till home time! :-D

At the beginning of the week, we were lucky enough to be able to make a fruit crumble using the apples we harvested from the apple tree in the school grounds. The children were able to use their measuring skills to prepare the ingredients and also learned new skills when they were peeling apples. So there is no excuse for them not to help with the cooking at home now! The children worked very hard and listened carefully to instructions and we ended up with some lovely crumble to try on Tuesday.

As mentioned before, we spent some time over the week preparing for our class assembly on Friday. The children put a lot of effort into their assembly and we hope you enjoyed the show. After the holidays we will be starting a new topic on extreme earth as well as beginning the preparations for our Carols by Candlelight concert.

Have a lovely, restful holiday everyone.

## **P5/6**

Happy last week of term! What a busy one it's been, too.

In literacy this week, we continued work on using our spelling words to expand upon our writing skills. More and more of us are beginning to extend our writing by using VCOP, and this will help us hugely as the year goes on. We looked again at persuasive writing this week, this time specifically investigating how advertisements use persuasive techniques. We discussed the real life applications to this, analysing adverts and providing feedback for these. We also spoke about the jobs that use these techniques in their work, like copywriters and marketing executives. After this, we created our own persuasive campaigns based on our trip to the Museum of Rural Life, making posters on Canva. We uploaded these to our digital jotter, and gave feedback to our peers, going through our success criteria and suggesting next steps. Next term, we will shift our focus to fiction writing, while applying what we have already learned this year.

In numeracy this week, we have reviewed our learning so far this year. We went through our assessments together, and learned effective exam technique e.g. underlining key words and always showing our working. We found that doing this beforehand made us much more confident to begin our assessments and allowed us to persevere whenever we got stuck. We also had Mr. Weedon in with us this week to introduce our new focus of fractions. We investigated how to split a piece of paper (or brownie!) into different, equal parts. We created a fraction sheet that showed us clearly which fractions are equal to each other - this will be really helpful for us going forward! Next term, we will dive deeper into the world of fractions, decimals and percentages.

In topic, we finished up our farming focus for the term - we have loved how hands-on this topic has been, and I know the class will really miss it! To finish, we made a crumble using the apples grown on the tree in our own playground. We learned life skills like peeling, cutting and making the crumble topping. We had to be very resilient, especially trying to get the crumble topping the right texture! We ended up with a very tasty end result - well done to all three classes! We also

investigated how butter is made, now that we know how the milk goes from a cow to a creamery. We found that the fat molecules begin to stick together after being agitated, and a reaction occurs to create butter. We then put this into practice ourselves! We made our own butter in class, the 'old fashioned way' -using double cream, a mason jar and lots of arm muscles! The finished product definitely got our seal of approval. Next term, we are really looking forward to learning more about our Earth - hopefully with lots of experiments!

Finally, in health & wellbeing, we discussed our first term together and did a little check in on how we are feeling. I was so proud to hear the class speak about things that they weren't able to do at the start of the term that they are able to do at the end - they should all be extremely proud of themselves.

Have a lovely, well deserved break and we will see you when we come back - ready for another term filled with learning!

## **P7**

As the first term of Primary 7 draws to an end, the children have been rounding off their learning. They have been planning and writing a procedural text about the science experiment they carried out last week using all the key features they have learned about. They have also been working hard on using a variety of conjunction words (for, and, nor, but/because, or, yet, so) to create compound sentences. Next term in literacy, the children will be completing writing based on their novel study and talk for writing.

In Numeracy, the children have been learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide amounts of money including 2 decimal places. They have also been working on their TTRS and enjoyed doing a 'Battle of the Bands' tournament against each other this week. After the holidays, the children will be continuing with multiplication and division as well as starting some learning on measure.

This week, the Primary 7s have comparing those who were originally eligible to vote in the UK to who is now able to vote. They have enjoyed learning about how the Suffragists and Suffragettes helped get women the vote and have been using their note taking skills to research Emmeline Pankhurst. They have created presentations about her to the class in small groups. Well done everyone. Next term, the children will be learning about the Second World War as part of their topic.

In health and wellbeing, the children will be looking at the strengths and areas for development. They will be considering how they can work on their areas for development and what career paths they may choose using their strengths.

In science, Primary 7 have enjoyed learning and experimenting with solids, liquids and gases. Next term, the focus will be on body systems and cells.

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I hope you all have a great holiday. Once again, can I remind you that the children resume school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October as the Monday is a staff training day.

Lilly Learmonth  
Acting Deputy Headteacher