Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

- **Staff News** - Mrs Poppy Browne is with us on Mondays and now Tuesdays too. This means P2/3 & P6/7 have Drama with her every week.
- **Mrs Roisin Falconer**, who is currently on maternity leave, has been very ill. She is now making a gradual recovery. Please remember her in your prayers.
- **Target setting** in numeracy has been introduced to help your child learn and recall their learning facts, the better their memories will become. The more practice your child has in numeracy ‘Master Classes’ which are being introduced to help your child learn and recall their numeracy facts quickly. The more practice your child has in learning facts, the better their memories will become.
- Some high achieving P6/7 pupils are also benefiting from numeracy ‘Master Classes’ which are being organised and run by the Penicuik High School Maths Department for the next few weeks.

One of our priorities is to improve **attainment in numeracy**. ‘Big Maths’ and ‘Sumdog’ have been introduced to help your child learn and recall their facts quickly. The more practice your child has in learning facts, the better their memories will become.

- **Target setting** in numeracy has been introduced to the children. Each child from P2 to P7 is having an individual session with their teacher to discuss and decide their next steps and these will be written into their individual Target Jotters. These will be shared with you at the Parent Consultations. Targets in literacy and Health & Wellbeing will gradually be introduced over the session.

- **Our priorities** include improving **attainment in literacy** through ‘Big Writing’ and ‘Sumdog’. The writing will be shared with you at the Parent Consultations.

-One of our priorities is to improve **attainment in numeracy**. ‘Big Maths’ and ‘Sumdog’ have been introduced to help your child learn and recall their learning facts, the better their memories will become. The more practice your child has in numeracy ‘Master Classes’ which are being introduced to help your child learn and recall their numeracy facts quickly. The more practice your child has in learning facts, the better their memories will become.

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**SCHOOL CALENDAR - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013**

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<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
<td>P5/6 visit to Edinburgh Castle</td>
<td>P6/7 to Basketball Festival</td>
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**COMING UP...**

1 Nov  All Saints Mass in Sacred Heart Church 9:30am
6 & 7 Nov Parent Consultations & Scholastic Book Fair
8 Nov  Feast of St Maximilian Kolbe
13 Nov  P5/6 visit to Edinburgh Castle
14 Nov  P6/7 Basketball Festival
15 Nov  P6/7 Rugby Festival
18 Nov  P1 Registration week
25 Nov  Scottish Book Week
29 Nov  Feast of St Andrew
2 Dec  Advent Service 1 - P6/7
4 Dec  P4 Swimming starts
5 Dec  P1-4 to Selfish Giant
6 Dec  Advent Service 2 - P5/6
7 Dec  Christmas Fayre
11 Dec  School Christmas Lunch
12 Dec  Nursery Puppet Show
13 Dec  Advent Service 3 - P3/4
16 Dec  Nursery Nativity & Christmas Concert
17 Dec  Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Performance
18 Dec  Christmas Performance
19 Dec  Christmas Party for P5-P7
20 Dec  Advent Service 4 - P1/2 & P2/3
School Closes for Christmas Holiday

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**School Calendar**

- Parent Consultations
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Advent Service
- Parent Consultations
- Advent Service
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- Advent Service
- Parent Consultations
- Advent Service

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**from Mrs Waterston and the staff**
Life this session has been very busy in school. Coaching has been provided in a variety of different activities...
- Street Dance for the whole school
- Enjoy-a-ball for Nursery, P1, P2, P3 & P4
- Cross Country for P5, P6 & P7
- Rugby for P5, P6 & P7
- Soccer Sevens Festival for P6 & P7 and some P5s as well as a
  - Successful Residential for all P7s at Innerwick

FURTHER ACTIVITIES COMING UP...
- Basketball Festival for P6/7 on 14 November
- Rugby Festival for P6/7 on 15 November
- Swimming for P4s every Wednesday morning at 9am from 4 December

DO REMEMBER
The Scottish Government encourages every child to have 60 minutes exercise every day to remain fit and healthy. This can include walking to school and running around when playing. All children in Sacred Heart receive 2 hours of P.E. in school every week.

68 children participated in WALK TO SCHOOL week from Monday 21st to Friday 25th October. 33 of these children walked to school every day over the week and 260 ‘walks’ were completed overall. Well done!

HOUSE POINTS - St Maximilian House has won the Term 1 Award for the most house points. Well done! Everyone in St Maximilian can come to school on 7th and 8th November in “their own clothes”.

The SCHOOL GARDEN is looking good, thanks for all the efforts of all classes and of the Gardening Club run by Sabrina McManus. Any more offers of help would be gratefully received.
Work will shortly commence on removing the wall (next to the bins) in the back playground to install the cycle pods. A fence and gate will replace the wall! Watch this space for news!

TECHNOLOGY - Miss McIver, as ICT Co-ordinator, has borrowed 9 iPads from the ‘LoanBank’ from October until February. All classes are currently enjoying accessing curriculum activities with these.

A big thanks go to Sinead Timoney and Chloe Bain for representing Sacred Heart at the Ordination Mass for our new Archbishop Leo Cushley at St Mary’s Cathedral on 21st September. It was a very long Mass but one they will remember for the rest of their life! And wasn’t Father John surprised to see them as part of the Guard of Honour? Thank you to all parents who came along to our Curriculum Evening on 11th October. A list of priorities for development were identified at the meeting and here are some as follows:
- Accommodation
- Shelters
- Specialist Teachers
- Communication Improvement
- Networking/Sense of Community
- Online forum
You will have an opportunity to comment and add to the above at the Parent Consultations. All contributions will be valued and used to help improve our school.

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PARENT CONSULTATIONS will take place on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th November. All parents should have had notification of their consultation time. If not please contact the school office. We look forward to seeing you! The gym hall will be our ‘waiting area’ with children’s work in trays on class tables. This will give you an opportunity to look at samples of work whilst waiting to see your child’s teacher in the class base. We would appreciate parents keeping to their time-slots and we in turn will endeavour to do likewise.

AUDIT OF PARENT SKILLS & CONTACTS
We would appreciate you completing this during our parent consultation evenings. Any input would be appreciated.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR will be available from Wednesday, 6th November. Books can be bought any time from this date until Monday 11th November. A book is an ideal reward for a successful report and the school receives commission on all purchases if our sales exceed £300.

Remember our supervised BREAKFAST CLUB is available each school day morning from 8:15am to 8:50am. Cost is £1 per child per day with cereal, toast and milk/juice on offer! No need to book (at present)!

Some of the P4 children and a P7 child are being prepared for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. They are being enrolled at the 11.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, 3rd November. Please remember Aidan, Aoife, Isabel, Evan, Nathan and Sofia in your prayers.
UNAUTHERISED HOLIDAYS
As part of raising levels of attainment, all schools are encouraged to improve ATTENDANCE levels. This session Midlothian Council has a target of 93% for all to meet. Parents will be notified if their child’s attendance (authorised & unauthorised) levels fall below 90%. We continue to require letters explaining absence. Thank you for your support in this.

You may be interested to read the following Scottish Government advice, http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/159603/0043419.pdf, which states that:

Holidays taken during term time must be categorised as unauthorised absence. However, it is acceptable under exceptional circumstances for schools to authorise a family holiday during term time. Such circumstances may include a family holiday judged to be important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events. It should not include such reasons as the availability of cheap holidays, the availability of desired accommodation, poor weather experienced during school holidays, holidays which overlap the beginning or end of term, or parental difficulty obtaining leave (with local judgement applied in cases where evidence is provided by the employer that it cannot accommodate leave during school holidays without serious consequences).

UNPAID SCHOOL LUNCHES
As you know we have always given children a meal if they forget to bring, or have the incorrect amount of, money or a packed lunch. In these instances, a slip is given to a child to bring home advising how much is unpaaid. Please check your child’s school bag, especially if they come home with an uneaten packed lunch that we have found later in the day!

The school is required to pay Midlothian Council each week for the number of lunches taken, any shortfall must be paid by the school from our school fund.

If your child receives a slip, please may we as class, and the event in question.

This will make administration much easier and allows monies to be fully accounted for.

P7 PENICUIK ASG RESIDENTIAL
A Race Night has been organised to fundraise for Netherurd, the P7 Residential, organised by Penicuik High School for Friday 27th February 2014. All monies raised that night will be used to pay for travel costs and to reduce camp costs further. This residential will take place from 14th to 16th May 2014.

Absence & Health Reminders
Please notify the school as soon as possible if your child is ill or has an appointment to attend and, therefore, is unable to come to school.

Vomiting & Diarrhoea – should your child suffer from either of these symptoms, it is important NOT to allow them to return to school for 48 hours.

Head Lice – please ensure you check your child’s hair regularly. Please notify the school as soon as possible if infection is found and ensure treatment is applied and completed before allowing your child to return to school.

Research has shown that one of the most effective ways to get rid of lice and nits is to use the bug-busting comb with conditioner on your child’s hair each week rather than using strong chemicals to which lice can become resistant.

Bug-busting Combs are available to buy from school at a cost of £1 each.

HALLOWEEN Celebations - there were some marvellous costumes and pumpkins on show in school on Thursday 31st October. Following our costume parade, prizes were awarded to all classes, by our Parent Partnership, for ‘Best Costume’ and ‘Best Pumpkin’. Our winners were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Costume 1st</th>
<th>Costume 2nd</th>
<th>Costume 3rd</th>
<th>Pumpkin 1st</th>
<th>Pumpkin 2nd</th>
<th>Pumpkin 3rd</th>
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<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>Finn</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Hamish</td>
<td>Finn</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Jessica</td>
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<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>Niamh</td>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>Afonso</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Afonso</td>
<td>Selina</td>
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<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Finley</td>
<td>Liam</td>
<td>Hollie</td>
<td>Rory</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Alanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Evan</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Evan</td>
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<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>Lennon</td>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>Lili</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
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<td>P6</td>
<td>Meredith</td>
<td>Isla</td>
<td>Amelia</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
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<td>P7</td>
<td>Sinead</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Owen M</td>
<td>Chlo M</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Sofia</td>
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ADVENT SERVICES will take place in School on the following dates – parents are most welcome to attend:

Monday 2nd Dec 11:00am P6/7
Friday 6th Dec 11:00am P5/6
Friday 13th Dec 11:00am P3/4
Friday 20th Dec 10:30am P1/2 & P2/3

This year’s Christmas Fayre will be held in school on Saturday 7th December from 10:00am to 12:30pm. A letter has been issued from the parents who have agreed to organise this event, please do what you can to support this wonderful venture. If you are able to help, please contact our co-ordinators: Leigh Wood (07780 683714) or Lynsey Ainsworth (07795 074341).

Christmas lunch will be available on 11th December at a cost of £1.80 per child. The menu and payment slips will be issued nearer the time (payment is collected in advance) to allow us to confirm to the kitchen how many children we are catering for.

The children’s Christmas parties will be held on:
Wednesday 18th Dec (am) Nursery- AM & PM classes
Wednesday 18th Dec (pm) P1 – P4
Thursday 19th Dec (pm) P5 - P7
Our busy helpers keeping the school garden neat & tidy and harvesting the fruit...

Halloween Parades and Pumpkins...