

*Our vision – to inspire a community of Faith and Learning built on our Gospel values to enable everyone to reach their God-given potential.*

Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been another busy week of Faith and Learning in our school community. We welcomed our Primary 4 parents in to school to hear about preparations for First Holy Communion, we also saw our Primary 7 pupils lead first Friday mass at St. Joseph's Parish Church.

We were visited by PC Toner, the community police officer within this area. PC Toner delivered a very powerful talk to all Primary 5 to Primary 7 pupils about internet safety ahead of internet safety week next week. He also stayed on to meet with some of our parents. I'm sure they will agree that this session was deeply informative. PC Toner was very candid about the dangers of social media for our children particularly because of their age as he identified that they are under the age permitted to use these apps.

His presentation was very thought provoking.

Finally, the school will be closed to children on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February until Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive). We will reopen to children on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 9am.

If you have any questions about ongoing events, please contact the school office on 0141 955 2222 or [office@st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk).

Kind regards,

Martyn Glancy

**Head Teacher**

### ***P7(1) Reading Café***

We are delighted to invite our P7(1) parents to their Reading Café on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm. We look forward to seeing you then and hope that you will get lost in a good book!

### ***Primary 6(1) Assembly***

Primary 6(1) will host their assembly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm. All parents and grandparents are welcome to join us for this event.

### ***Primary 7 Bikeability Sessions***

These sessions will begin at the end of February. They will be delivered by trained members of the outdoor learning team who will assess each child's competency on a bike before taking them out on the streets in the local area to build their knowledge of cycling on the road. The area has been risk assessed by the outdoor learning team.

We are aware that some children may find these sessions worrying and all children are of a varying cycling ability. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss any issues around this activity.

### **Mobile Phones**

Following the Christmas break, we are seeing an increasing number of children bring mobile phones/smart watches to school. I would like to remind all parents, and ask that you remind your children, that mobile phones/smart watches that connect to calls, are not permitted to be used in the school between the hours of 9am – 3pm. I would also ask for your support to remind your child that these should not be used when on school grounds (e.g. before the school day) or during events (e.g. PTA discos).

### **Attendance**

Research shows that attendance at school is essential to ensuring children achieve their potential. Attendance below 90% can have a detrimental impact on pupil progress. Over the coming weeks, the school will be reviewing attendance and looking to support families where this is identified as being low. Our aim is to work with families, where this is the case, to improve attendance.

### **Free School Meals and Free Clothing Grant**

We recognise that circumstances can change very quickly for families. You can check if you are entitled to free school meals and free clothing grant by clicking on this link.

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Where your child receives free lunches as part of the Scottish Government's scheme for Primary 1 – Primary 5 children, and you still meet the criteria for Free School Meals/ Clothing Grant, I would urge you to apply if you have not already done so.

Please contact me at the school if you have any questions about this.

### **Key Dates**

#### **January and February 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm	P7.1 Reading Café
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm	P6.1 Assembly
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed to pupils for the February weekend
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Achievement Assembly
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	P7(1) Bikeability Sessions for 4 weeks (every Wednesday)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	P7(2) Bikeability Sessions for 4 weeks (every Thursday)
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	PTA Family Bingo Night
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Mass
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 leading First Friday Mass at St. Andrew's