

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,

Last week, saw the final of our sequence of sacramental meetings with parents. Please keep our Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils in your prayers as they begin the preparations to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These are important steps as our children learn and grow in their faith.

Thank you to Fr. John and Fr. Michael, Moira English from St. Andrew's Parish, the Catechists who will help to prepare the children, and the school staff who brilliantly support our pupils.

This week, myself and Mrs Murray met with representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council and the Archdiocese of Glasgow as we continue to prepare for the arrival of Milngavie P1-P3 in August. This was a positive meeting where some of our children took our visitors for a tour of our fabulous school building.

As we approach the end of another busy week at St. Nicholas' Primary School, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school will be closed to pupils on Monday 17th February until Wednesday 19th February (inclusive). We will reopen to children on Thursday 20th February at 9am.

Have a lovely half-term break.

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.

Kind regards,

Martyn Glancy

Head Teacher

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.

Children should come dressed as they would during a PE day. Please ensure your child also has an appropriate jacket for the inclement weather.

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.

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

The Junior Management Team have begun to plan for World Book Day. To ensure costs to families are kept to a minimum, we are requesting that children can dress down in their pyjamas and dressing gown as part of our participation in World Book Day. There is no need to buy anything new.

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

As a Laudato Si school, we are trying really hard to look after our environment, to recycle and reuse. As part of World Book Day, we are planning a book swap on the day. **We would request that any pre-loved books be handed in to school on the week beginning Monday 24th February until Friday 28th February.**

Lent – The Wee Box

During Lent, we will raise money for SCIAF through the Wee Box scheme. Each class will have a Wee Box should any family have loose change/pennies that they would like to donate to this worthy cause. Please send any pennies into school with your child.

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.

Coffee Morning – Sunday 16th February

St. Andrew's Parish Church would like to invite you to join them after 10 am Mass for tea, coffee and some delicious home baking where we will be raising funds for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice- offering compassion, dedicated commitment and excellent care to patients with advanced life-limiting illnesses and also to the older person with complex medical and nursing needs.

January's coffee morning for SCIAF raised a total of £567.70 (£223.70 at door and £344 in Real Gifts). Thank you to those who were able to attend and support this fundraising.

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>

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

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

Date	Event
Monday 17 th – Wednesday 19 th February	School closed to pupils for the February weekend
Friday 28 th February	Achievement Assembly
Wednesday 26 th February	P7(1) Bikeability Sessions for 4 weeks (every Wednesday)
Thursday 27 th February	P7(2) Bikeability Sessions for 4 weeks (every Thursday)
Saturday 1 st March	PTA Family Bingo Night
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 7 th March	P5 leading First Friday Mass at St. Andrew's P4 attending Mass at St. Andrew's
Monday 17 th March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. Michael
Tuesday 18 th March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. John