

*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,

Firstly, thank you for your support to ensure the children are arriving at school on time and ready to learn. This makes a huge impact on our school community to enable learning experiences to begin promptly and provides a smooth start to the school day.

As we approach the beginning of Lent on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, we have a busy calendar of events over the coming weeks. Changes have been highlighted for your information. I would ask that you take time to read these events.

I have added the date for Sports Day to our key dates calendar at the end of this newsletter. This may be subject to change due to bad weather or changes to secondary transition arrangements.

Finally, I wish to thank the PTA for organising the Bingo evening at St. Andrew's Church Hall on Saturday evening. With the tickets sold out, I'm sure it is going to be a wonderful evening and an opportunity for our community to come together.

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**

### ***Ash Wednesday – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025***

This Wednesday represents the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. Children will receive ashes during a service at 1.30pm. Our Primary 5 parents are invited to join us for this service.

### ***Stations of the Cross – beginning Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025***

On Friday, all children in the school will have the option to attend a brief, 15 minute session reflecting with the Stations of the Cross. Children who wish to take part will go for their lunch at 12pm and Mrs Wilson will collect them for Stations of the Cross from 12.15pm-12.30pm.

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday during Lent.

I would encourage you to discuss this opportunity for prayer and reflection with your child at this important time of year.

### ***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.

### ***World Book Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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. Our aim is to ensure as many children as possible can leave with a pre-loved books. At the moment, we are lacking books for every child.

**I would politely ask you to send in any books that your child no longer reads. We will continue to accept pre-loved books until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

### ***Beat Buddies – Primary 4 Performance***

Our Primary 4 children have been working with Graeme Barclay of Beat Buddies to learn about rhythm in engaging music lessons. They are currently working hard to perfect routine which they will perform to our school. This performance will take place on Friday 28th March at 9.30am. It is scheduled to last for approximately 45 minutes. Our P4 parents are welcome to join us for this event.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### ***God's Loving Plan – Health Lessons***

Over this term and next term, classes will be learning from our health curriculum – God's Loving Plan. To ensure you can support your child, I would ask that you click on the link to information about this resource: <http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/14248/gods-loving-plan-vocabulary-guide.pdf>

This link provides an overview of the content of the lessons and key vocabulary that will be used as part of the learning.

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### ***Parents Evening***

This term, Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 5.15pm – 7.30pm and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 3.15pm – 5.45pm. Appointments will go live on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March by clicking on the link:

<https://parents-booking.co.uk/stnicholas>

### ***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***

#### **February and March 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
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)
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Mass – Primary 5 parents invited</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 leading First Friday Mass at St. Andrew's
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 attending Mass at St. Andrew's
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross begin
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>P5.1 Class Assembly at 2.15pm</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. Michael

*Respect*

*Honesty*

*Forgiveness*

*Achieving*

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Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. John
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	P4-P7 at St. Joseph's to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	P4 Assembly at 2.15pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. Michael
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Confessions with Fr. John
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Council Meeting at Bearsden Academy (6.30pm-8pm)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 at the Science Centre
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 Beat Buddies Assembly at 9.30am
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	First Confessions at St. Andrew's at 10am-11am
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Day  P5-7 at 9.30am-11am  P1-P4 at 1.30pm – 2.45pm