

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,

On Wednesday, the Primary 4 – Primary 7 pupils represented our school at St. Joseph's Parish Church to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. Feedback from children, staff and Fr. John was that this was a lovely mass and the singing from the children was fabulous. We are grateful for the opportunity to join the parish to recognise their feast day.

I have been delighted to see that 90 children attended our Stations of the Cross session where we prayed and reflected on the journey taken by Jesus. This is a powerful experience as we reflect on the Passion. Please continue to discuss this with your child as we continue to reflect during Lent.

During Lent, confessing our sins is a fundamental part of our Faith journey. I'd like to thank Fr. John and Fr. Michael for leading confessions this week. Both priests will be joining us next week too.

This week, we had four very brave and courageous children who shared their journey about being neurodivergent at our assembly. This was a very powerful experience and the children were received warmly by their peers. I'd like to thank the children for sharing their experiences and Mrs Murray for supporting the children to speak at our assembly.

I'd also like to gently remind all families that information about the forthcoming decant of Milngavie Primary into our school building can be found on our website. East Dunbartonshire Council has produced a Frequently Asked Questions document regarding the forthcoming decant. This can be accessed on our school website (<http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/news/milngavie-primary-school-decant-faqs/>).

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

First Confession – Primary 3

It has been confirmed that Fr. John will lead First Confessions at St. Joseph's Parish Church on Saturday 29th March at 4.30pm.

St. Andrew's Parish Church will host their First Confession on Saturday 29th March from 10am-11am. This is a drop-in session.

Mini Vinnies Lenten Foodbank Appeal

Our Mini Vinnies leadership group has met over the last few weeks and decided to lead a whole school drive to support our local foodbank. Foodbanks are now an essential support for families for a variety of reasons. A list of accepted items can be found at <https://www.drumchapelfoodbank.com/donate-food> . As a general rule, non-perishable items are preferable.

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Our Foodbank collection will take place throughout Lent. Children bringing items for this appeal should give these items to their class teacher.

Thank you for all the donations we have received so far.

The week beginning 24th March will be our last week for collection.

Stations of the Cross – beginning Friday 7th March 2025

Due to the numbers of children wishing to participate in Stations of the Cross, we have moved this opportunity for prayer and reflection to 11.55am-12.10pm on Friday.

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday during Lent. These are now displayed around our gym hall.

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.

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.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 1st April at 5pm – 7.30pm and Thursday 3rd April at 3.15pm – 5.45pm.

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

March and April

| Date | Event |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Friday 21 st March | P4 Assembly at 2.15pm |
| Monday 24 th March | Lenten Confessions with Fr. Michael |
| Tuesday 25 th March | Lenten Confessions with Fr. John |
| Tuesday 25 th March | Parent Council Meeting at Bearsden Academy (6.30pm-8pm) |
| Wednesday 26 th March | P4 at the Science Centre |
| Friday 28 th March | P4 Beat Buddies Assembly at 9.30am |
| Saturday 29 th March | First Confessions at St. Andrew's (10am-11am) First Confessions at St. Joseph's (from 4.30pm) |
| Tuesday 1 st April | Parents Evening 5pm-7.30pm |
| Thursday 3 rd April | Parents Evening 3.15pm – 5.45pm |
| Friday 4 th April | School closes at 2.30pm |
| Friday 30 th May | Sports Day P5-7 at 9.30am-11am P1-P4 at 1.30pm – 2.45pm |