

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

Dear Parent and Carers,

Last week, I introduced the St. Nicholas' Way to all families. This is a set of commitments for everyone in our school community as we work towards our school vision and exemplify our values. This is displayed in every classroom. For parents, it can be found on our website or by clicking on this link (<http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/21192/st-nicholas-way.pdf>).

In the coming weeks, our school will be busy with a variety of events as our pupils take part in Maths Week Scotland. Mrs Robertson has provided more information about this below with a link to enable all families to get involved.

This session, Miss Hughes is overseeing lunchtime activities. She is also looking for adult volunteers who can commit to taking our school football team for weekly training sessions and to matches/tournaments. If you are able to assist, please contact Miss Hughes through the school office.

We are also looking to purchase new football strips, athletics bibs, and tracksuits to ensure our pupils can represent our school wearing an identifiable kit. If you would be interested in supporting our school by sponsoring one of these kits. Please contact myself, through the school office, to discuss this.

We continue to seek volunteers to support our children to attend trips and Mass in our local parishes. All volunteers require a PVG to help out. If you are interested, 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**

### **Praying as a Family**

This month, we pray for vocations to the priesthood. Our upper school pupils have been reflecting with this prayer. For the infant prayer, please see last week's newsletter.

LORD of the Harvest,

HELP us to hear and listen to your call and to find our true vocation in life, so that we may find happiness ourselves and bring happiness to others.

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving— for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

*Respect*

*Honesty*

*Forgiveness*

*Achieving*

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Amen.

— Pope Francis Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

***Pope Francis Faith Awards Service for Primary 6 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm***

All Primary 6 parents are invited to join our Primary 6 pupils as they are enrolled in the Pope Francis Faith Awards. We will be recognising their enrolment at a brief service led by Father Michael. Please join us if you can.

***Parent Evening - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October***

Parent evening appointments take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm until 7.30pm and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm until 5.30pm. Sign up for parent meetings will take place online and this will open next week on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Further details will be emailed out next week.

***Staffing Updates and Pastoral Responsibilities***

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Lucy Robertson will take on the role of Acting Principal Teacher until November 2025. We also welcome Mrs Angela Paul (Principal Teacher) back to our team following her maternity leave.

Due to staff changes, we have adjusted which staff member is responsible for pastoral queries across the school. Mrs Murray will continue to oversee pastoral support for Primary 1 to Primary 5. Mrs Paul will take on pastoral responsibilities for Primary 6 and Primary 7. Should you have any questions, please direct your enquiries to these staff members, through the school office, in the first instance.

In addition to this, we have secured a trainee Support for Learning Assistant this session. Mr Leo Lo joins us with a vast amount of experience in education in Hong Kong. He has already made a fantastic impression upon our school team, as well as our children. Mr Lo will be with us until the Easter holidays.

***Maths Week Scotland (22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2025)***

Maths Week is an annual national initiative that aims to celebrate the importance of mathematics in everyday life through a variety of events and activities. This year the theme is 'Wild Maths' and it encourages us to explore maths in the natural world around us.

In school, we will be taking part in lots of fun activities to celebrate. Why not celebrate at home too? Have a look at the Maths Week Scotland website to get involved! <https://mathsweek.scot/>

***Coffee Morning at St. Andrew's – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September after 10am Mass***

Please come along and join us for a cuppa, a chat and some delicious home baking on Sunday, 21st September after 10am Mass in the Upper Hall.

This month we will be raising funds for the National Autistic Society, Scotland.

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### **Individual, Family and P1 & P7 class photographs – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

We welcome Wilson Photography into school to take photographs of all pupils along with family and P1 and P7 class photographs. Please ensure children come to school in school uniform and bring their biggest smiles!

### **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. Our school reviews attendance regularly as we seek to support families where this is identified as being low or there is regular latecoming.

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.

### **St. Andrew's Parish is looking for volunteers! Sign-up Sunday – 4 & 5 October!**

St. Andrew's Parish has scheduled a Sign-up Sunday in their upper hall to encourage more volunteers across Parish Ministries — especially for the Youth Team and Children's Liturgy. These are vital ministries, and they are hopeful this event will help to sustain them.

The event will take place after each Mass on the 4th (6.45pm) and 5th (10.45am) of October. If interested, please pop in to the hall and the various groups will be available to chat with potential volunteers.

### **Key Dates**

Date/ Time	Event
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm	Parent Council AGM
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed

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Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	P5 leading First Friday Mass at St. Andrew's
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	P7 participating in Pilgrims of Hope walk, prayer and reflection
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm	P6 Pope Francis Faith Awards enrolment service
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October at 5pm-7.30pm	Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm – 5.30pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual, Family & P1 and P7 class photographs