

*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,

This week has ended with an assembly where Mrs Paul raised awareness of dyslexia as we approach Dyslexia Awareness Week from the 6<sup>th</sup> October until 12<sup>th</sup> October. As a school, we recognise the unique way dyslexic learners learn whilst reflecting on how we can ensure our school is inclusive of all pupils.

At our assembly, we were joined by the pupils from Milngavie Primary! We are delighted to welcome them in to our community for this year.

Next week, our Primary 5 pupils and Primary 7 pupils are preparing for opportunities to grow in faith. Our Primary 5 pupils will be leading First Friday Mass at St. Andrew's Parish Church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Please join them for prayer and worship if you can!

Our Primary 7 pupils will be recognising the Jubilee year as 'Pilgrims of Hope' engaging in prayer and reflection with pupils across all denominational schools in East Dunbartonshire in what promises to be lovely celebration of faith.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the school is closed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils return to school at 9am on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Have a lovely, long weekend with your friends and family!

If you have any questions, 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.

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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.

Amen.

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

***P1 Parent Session – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 1.45pm***

We will be hosting a parent information session where the class teachers will be sharing approaches to teaching literacy in school. Please join us at 1.45pm in the school hall for this event, followed by activities in the classroom with your children.

***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 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October***

Parent evening appointments take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm until 7.30pm and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm until 5.30pm. Sign up for parent meetings will take place online.

You can sign up for a time slot by clicking on this link <https://parents-booking.co.uk/stnicholas>

***PVGs and Changes to Legislation***

We continue to seek volunteers to support our children to attend trips and Mass in our local parishes. Even volunteers coming in to our school require a PVG. All volunteers require a PVG that is specific to East Dunbartonshire Council, St. Nicholas' Primary or our PTA to help. A general PVG for helping out at a local football club or Girl Guides/ Cubs group is no longer suitable.

Unfortunately, due to the changes with the PVG scheme, parents who do not have a specific volunteer PVG for St. Nicholas' Primary or our PTA cannot attend school trips or even contribute at events such as Maths Week or our Careers Week.

This even extends to the forthcoming school discos. Parents without a PVG will be unable to be present at the disco.

Without appropriate numbers of volunteers with PVGs, future events may need to look very different.

At our parents evening, we will have a table available for parents to sign up for a PVG. You will require three forms of identification to apply. Alternatively, this can be completed over a short video call with myself.

If you require further information, 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).

### ***School Football Team***

This session, we continue to seek volunteers to 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.

### ***Sponsorship Opportunities***

We are continuing to look to purchase new 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.

### ***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!

### ***Primary 3 Pupils and Scottish Opera***

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, all primary 3 pupils from St. Nicholas' and Milngavie Primary will attend an interactive session with Scottish Opera. This will be the Scottish Opera performance of The Giant's Harp.

This will take place in our school gym hall during the school day.

### ***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.

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For children in Primary 6 and Primary 7, school meals are no longer free unless applied for through free school meals.

All Primary 1, Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils, have now received your Ipay email link. If you require this to be sent out again, please contact the school office

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
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Pupils return to School
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October at 1.45pm	P1 Parent Literacy Information Session at St. Nicholas' Primary
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
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed to pupils (Inservice day)
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Pupils return to School