

Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been a short yet busy week in school developing faith and engaging families in learning.

As our Primary 7 pupils participated in the Pilgrims of Hope walk and mass with schools across East Dunbartonshire, it was lovely to see our children reflect upon the theme of this Jubilee Year and participate in prayer and worship.

Primary 5 also represented our school at St. Andrew's Parish Church leading the daily Mass this morning demonstrating the strength of faith beyond our school community!

It was lovely to be joined by Primary 1 parents this week as our teachers led a session about supporting literacy development. We recognise parents as the first educator so your continued support at these events is greatly appreciated by all staff.

This week, all year groups should have received an email with the Annual Calendar of events. Please be aware that this is a rough guide and may be subject to change.

Finally, we proudly recognised the achievements of Mrs Angela Murray at our school assembly last week. Mrs Murray has extensive experience as a Depute Head Teacher. Last session, she decided to explore the qualification for Headship (Into Headship). This involved a 12-month academic course. She has recently been informed that she passed this course with distinction! Whilst she has had fantastic success with this course, she has no plans to leave our community just yet, which is great news for us!

If you have any questions, please contact the school office on 0141 955 2222 or office@st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Martyn Glancy

Head Teacher

Praying as a Family

This month is dedicated to the Holy Rosary with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 7th October. Our classes will be focussing on saying the Hail Mary prayer. Older classes will be praying the Rosary once a week in class.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

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

Pope Francis Faith Awards Service for Primary 6 – Monday 6th 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 7th and Wednesday 8th October

Parent evening appointments take place on Tuesday 7th October from 5pm until 7.30pm and Wednesday 8th October at 3.15pm until 5.30pm.

All families should now have their allocated time slot.

Meetings with teachers will take place in the gym hall. Following the meeting, you will be able to visit your child's class to view their jotters.

Individual, Family and P1 & P7 class photographs – Thursday 9th 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 4 Reading Café (All P4's) - Wednesday 22nd October at 2.15pm

Primary 4 parents are invited to our first reading café of this year. This is open to all parents across Primary 4. We look forward to seeing you there!

Primary 5 Assembly - Friday 24th October at 2.15pm

Our Primary 5 class will be performing their class assembly on the Friday following the October break. Please join us to find out what they have been learning about!

Reconciliation Registration for Primary 3 Pupils

Primary 3 pupils can now be enrolled for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Registration forms can be collected from St. Andrew's and St. Joseph's Parish Churches. Completed forms should be returned to your local parish.

Reconciliation will take place as a drop in session on Saturday 14th March. St. Andrew's will be at 10am-11am and St. Joseph's will be at 4pm-4.30pm.

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.

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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 parent 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.

School Football Team

This session, we continue to seek 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.

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.

Primary 3 Pupils and Scottish Opera

On Monday 20th 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.

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
Monday 6 th October at 2.15pm	P6 Pope Francis Faith Awards enrolment service
Tuesday 7 th October at 5pm-7.30pm	Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 th October at 3.15pm – 5.30pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th October	Individual, Family & P1 and P7 class photographs
Friday 10 th October	School closed to pupils (Inservice day)
Monday 20 th October	Pupils return to School
Wednesday 22 nd October at 2.15pm	All P4 pupils – Reading Café
Friday 24 th October at 2.15pm	P5 Class Assembly
Thursday 30 th October	PTA Halloween Disco