

Dear Parent and Carers,

This week, we celebrated and welcomed our new Primary 1 pupils to our community through prayer and worship. This was a lovely celebration marking the beginning of their time as St. Nicholas Primary pupils.

Our Junior Management Team led our assembly this week. To mark Roald Dahl Day they delivered an informative presentation about Roald Dahl and some of the books he has written. They also provided each class with a Roald Dahl themed quiz. Thank you for preparing this work!

Over the last academic session, our Parent Council worked very hard with myself to produce a paper on ensuring the Cost of the School Day at St. Nicholas' Primary is manageable for all families. It can be found on our school website by clicking on this link (<http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/policies/?page=2>). Our aim is to keep you informed of potential costs across the school year whilst regularly reviewing this.

Our Standards and Qualities Report 24/25 (<http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/21078/st-nicholas-sq-2425.pdf>) and School Improvement Plan 25/26 (<http://www.st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/21077/st-nicholas-sip-2526.pdf>) have been uploaded to the school website. This session, our improvement themes include:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Developing an inclusive school using the Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning and Education (CIRCLE) framework
- Bringing Faith into action through the pillars of Laudato Si.

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).

Finally, we are continuing to gather evaluations following our Meet the Teacher event. If you have done so already, please take a few minutes to provide us with some feedback so that we can hear your views. To provide feedback on this session click on the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/AY0tOg6LyJ>

Alternatively click on this QR code:



Kind regards,

Martyn Glancy

**Head Teacher**

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

### **Praying as a Family**

This month, we pray for vocations to the priesthood. This prayer is one that our infant children have been saying in class. Next week, I will share the prayer for the upper school.

**Loving Shepherd of your sheep,**

**Always your lambs, in safety keep;**

**Loving Shepherd, ever near,**

**Teach us all your voice to hear.**

**Where you lead us, we will go,**

**Following the path you show.**

**Lead us to our home above,**

**Keep us always in your love.**

**God our Father, we thank you for giving us Jesus as our Good Shepherd and friend.**

**Bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to His call.**

**Amen**

### ***P7 Parent Confirmation Meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September***

As the Primary 7 pupils prepare to make their Confirmation this year, we have been informed that they will receive this Sacrament on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at St. Andrew's Parish Church.

The Parent Information Meeting will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in our school hall.

### ***Pope Francis Faith Awards Service for Primary 6***

All Primary 6 pupils will be enrolled in the Pope Francis Faith Awards as part of their curriculum. This award enables children to act out our school values – the gospel values – at home, school and/or in the parish community.

We are currently planning a short service as our Primary 6 Pope Francis Faith Award Candidates embark on this journey. We will inform all parents in due course of the arrangements for this service.

### ***The CIRCLE Framework – School Improvement Priority***

As part of our School Improvement Plan and a wider authority initiative, we introduced the **CIRCLE Framework** to our school last year. CIRCLE stands for *Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning Education*. It is an inclusive toolkit designed to support the inclusion of all learners within the school environment.

Throughout the year, our staff carried out evaluations of their learning environments and gathered feedback from pupils. Based on this, they created individual action plans to ensure their classrooms are inclusive and supportive for all learners.

Mrs Connolly, our CIRCLE advisor, also worked closely with the Junior Management Team and other pupils across the school to ensure that pupil voice played a central role in developing a consistent, school-wide approach.

Together, the children and Mrs Connolly developed ‘**The St Nicholas Way**’ – a set of shared expectations designed to promote inclusion and consistency throughout the school. This was officially launched at last week’s assembly and will be displayed and promoted in classrooms and around the school.

A copy of *The St Nicholas Way* will be available on the school website shortly and we kindly ask that you take time to discuss and reinforce these expectations with your child/children.

For more information about the CIRCLE Framework, please visit <https://www.thirdspace.scot/circle/>

### ***Coffee Morning at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall***

St. Joseph’s will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September to support Mitsidi School in Malawi. This will take place at 11am until 2pm. Please support this event if you can.

### ***P1, P7 and Family Photographs – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October***

We welcome Wilson Photography into school to take photographs of P1s, P7s and family 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**

<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September at 6pm	P7 Confirmation Meeting
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm	Parent Council AGM
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October at 5pm-8pm	Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm – 6pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	P1 and P7 Photographs and Family Photographs