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| **St Bernadette’s RC Primary School**  **The Orchard, Tullibody, FK10 2SD**  **Tel No 01259 723973** |
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| Date: | 30th January 2019 |
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year Break. It seems to have been a very long time ago now that we have settled into the new term. Our children have come back full of energy and enthusiasm.

As I said at the Christmas Nativity Mass, this year we are very much concentrating who we are at St Bernadette’s and what we want to take forward into our new home. Our school belongs to our community and as a community, we need to identify what the strengths are that we will bring with us and what the opportunities are for positive change. I will be asking for your views in a variety of ways through the next few months.

We had a visit from an Education Scotland Inspector on the theme of ‘Empowerment’. It was a one-day visit with no gradings but the feedback from the Inspector was that our values are evidently at the heart of everything we do and inform the way in which we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of individual learners. She encouraged us to continue our work in exploring our identity in order that we can move confidently into our shared campus, strong in our values and ready to take advantage of all opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support,

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Nuala McElroy

**School Improvement Priority One: Numeracy**

* We surveyed our children on their attitudes to Maths and the results confirmed our observations; lack of confidence is a barrier to learning. We will be working to reinforce our previous work on Growth Mindset and applying this to Maths.
* We are undertaking a major overhaul of all Maths resources in order to ensure that children have access to experiences that drive forward their learning in Numeracy.
* The Maths working group has surveyed the teachers on the teaching of Maths and will be working with the authority’s Principal Teacher of Maths to plan sessions where teachers explore Maths topics and share good practice.
* There will be a Maths and Numeracy Sharing Our Learning session during the week beginning the 25th of February

**School Improvement Priority Two: Literacy**

* Staff are planning to attend further training on the Equitable Literacy (Reading) programme that we are undertaking with Strathclyde University.
* We are continuing to work with Emma Ritchie, the authority’s PT of Literacy, in classes to develop our reading programme.
* We are continuing to develop writing through the use of technology and team teaching.
* We are waiting for the delivery of new reading resources for P4-7. These will hopefully assist teachers in driving forward further attainment in Literacy.

**School Improvement Priority Three: Health and Wellbeing**

* We are undertaking further training during the inservice days on Readiness for Learning alongside the staff from Abercromby as we want to be sure that we are taking full advantage of the new learning environments.
* The Health & Wellbeing working group has surveyed the children on their attitudes to learning. The main finding has been that, as with Maths & Numeracy, confidence is an issue. Our children are very positive about school but some are less positive about themselves as learners. We will be working to address this.
* P7 will be undertaking the Max in the Middle Health and Wellbeing programme with a performance on the morning of the 8th of February. Letters regarding this are being prepared.
* All classes will be timetabled to have access to the Mini Gym.

**School Improvement Priority Four: Curriculum and DYW**

* As part of the move to our new home, we want to celebrate our school’s history. This work will build on the work that we did for Miss Philliben’s and Mrs Allan’s retirement. P1 – P6 will be working with Tapsalteerie Theatre Company to create an afternoon show in June. Details to follow.
* P5, P6 & P7 children are working hard with Mrs Morgan after school to prepare for their performance at the Glee Competition in Alloa Town Hall on the 26th of March. Family ticket details to follow.

**SAFETY CONCERNS**

Parents are expressing real concerns about their children’s safety due to reckless parking and double-parking happening in front of the school. I know that most parents are careful and courteous but I will have to contact Police Scotland to discuss those drivers who are endangering our children.

Please remember the car park is for staff and taxis. Parents reversing in and out of that tight space at the start and end of the day is a concern. Our children are very good about not walking through the car park but I am worried that if a child did cut through as a car was manoeuvring, there could be a tragedy.

Please consider the possibility of parking in the church car park and walking round to the school. It is a short walk with only one big road to cross. Older children could easily walk it independently if supervised when crossing out of the car park. Our children regularly walk this route to church and back.

**School News**

**P1 & P7**

Tempest Photography will be taking the P1 and P7 class photographs on Thursday the 31st of January.

**P1 Enrolments**

Currently, we have ten pupils enrolled for P1 in August 2019.

**Tullibody South Campus**

Some P6 children are working with children from Abercromby School and Nursery on the design and name of the new stand-alone nursery that will be opening up as part of the new campus. Families will be invited along to discuss possible names and look at the most recent plans. Date to be confirmed.

**New Sports Kit**

Thank you for your support of Participatory Budgeting – the kits look fantastic although we will have to order a few in larger sizes as our P7s are getting so tall!

**Lent**

In Lent, we go to Mass on every Wednesday as part of our spiritual preparation. We really appreciate the support of families who walk to and from the church with us. If you can join us, please do.

In Lent, promoting the common good is a very important aspect of our preparation for Easter. P7 children will lead us in fundraising throughout Lent. Funds raised will go to SCIAF but these may be shared with other charities if that is what is agreed with the P7s.

**Volunteering**

We would really appreciate the support of anyone who can come in and work in our library to help us to book band our current books and identify gaps in the types of books and the levels that we have. If you have any time to spare, we can use you! Please contact the office.

**Dates for Diary**

These dates are provisional and may change with circumstances.

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| 31st January | P1 and P7 class photographs |
| 4th – 8th February | P7 Max in the Middle  Performance & buffet on the 8th @ 11 for P7 families |
| 11th – 15th February | Children on holiday (staff working on the 11th and 12th) |
| 26th February | P7 Rotary Club Quiz @ Alva Academy |
| 27th February | Maths home learning workshop @ 1.50pm  Maths Sharing our Learning @ 2.20pm |
| 27th February | Parent Council @ 6.30pm |
| 1st March | Maths Sharing our Learning @ 9.05am  Maths home learning workshop @ 9.35am |
| 6th March | Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9.30am Whole school |
| 7th March | World Book Day Lenten fundraiser – details to follow |
| 13th March | Mass @ 9.30am P5-7 & P4 Communion children |
| 15th March | Lenten fundraiser – details to follow |
| 20th March | Mass @ 9.30am P1-4 & P7 Confirmation children |
| 22nd March | Sponsored Scoot Aboot Lenten fundraiser – details to follow |
| 22nd March | P5, P6 & P7 Glee performance @ Alloa Town Hall – details to follow |
| 27th March | Mass @ 9.30am P5-7 & P4 Communion children |
| 29th March | Coffee Morning Lenten fundraiser – details to follow |
| 17th April | Mass @ 9.30am Whole school |
| 26th May | P7 Confirmation @ 11.30am Parish Mass |
| 16th June | P4 First Communion @ 11.30am Parish Mass |