

**St Ninian’s Newsletter**

**Welcome back**

We hope you have had a happy new year. The children are now settled into the new term and are working hard. Please continue to ensure your child arrives at school on time, in uniform, wearing a waterproof jacket, warm footwear and a sweatshirt or cardigan. Please double check that everything is labelled. It is also important to provide a labelled bottle of water and a snack for break time. Two house points are given when the snack is fruit.

**Attendance and Absence**

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please make sure you notify the school office before 9.30am.

**Lost Property**

There will be a rail of lost property next to the office for parents and carers to look through for the next few days. If you have lost clothing, please just help yourself.

**Winter Weather**

Recently, a letter went home to all families, explaining our new procedure in adverse weather. When there is an AMBER weather warning, pupils should not arrive at school until 10am. This will give management time to assess the situation and inform parents/carers of what will happen. The full letter can be found on our school blog.

**Staffing**

Mrs Fisher is currently absent. Our Principal Teachers, Mrs Storey and Mrs Anderson, will lead the school until she returns. Unfortunately, we continue to be without a morning secretary most days. Our afternoon secretary, Mrs McBurnie, is doing a wonderful job in the afternoon but usually finishes at 3pm. Mrs Storey and Mrs Anderson will continue to do their best to ‘man the office’ when we are not teaching. We hope to provide an answering service soon. Please do not reply to school texts. In the meantime, it is possible to email the office using:

gw08officestninians@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

**PTA**

A huge vote of thanks to our PTA for the time they spent organising our Christmas Fayre, buying and wrapping presents for all of our children and buying food for Christmas parties. Santa’s Grotto was truly magical. Thanks also to the families that gave donations and came along. A tremendous £1200 was raised, all of which will be spent on our children. If you would like to help in some way, you would be very welcome. The dates and minutes of meetings are on display near the hall and in the nursery. Or, just ask a member of staff.

**Bikes and Scooters**

It is wonderful to see how many of our children arrive at school on scooters and bikes. Indeed, we recently won a trophy for how we travel to school. Please ensure all bikes and scooters are collected at the end of the day. Two house points are given when a helmet is worn.

**Infant PE**

If your child has PE, please avoid sending your child to school wearing a shirt and tie or tights. Trousers and polo shirts are much easier for little fingers. If tights must be worn, PE socks will be required.

**School Choir**

Well done to our wonderful choir on their performance at The Plainstanes as part of the Dumfries’ Living Advent event. Thank you to Miss McKinnell, Mr Carr and the vast number of families and staff that came to watch. What a crowd! In the half hour slot, the children managed to raise £120 for the school! The choir are now recruiting new members so if you are in P4-7, complete the form that was sent home.

**St Ninian’s Chatterbox**

The school blog is up and running with information and pictures showcasing some of the exciting things we have been doing in school. Thank you for the positive comments. If you would like to make a comment, there is a ‘How to comment’ tag which explains what to do. You can Google ‘St Ninian’s Chatterbox’ to find us or type <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/stninianschatterbox/>

**Robert Burns Celebrations**

Border TV came to film our P7s in relation to their participation in the *Big Burns Supper* events. They will be performing in *The Carnival* from 5pm on Sunday 24th January in Dumfries Town Centre.

Some of our P5 and P6 children will be working at Primo Piano on at 7pm on Tuesday 26th January as part of *Dinners by Children*. If you would like to book at table, call the restaurant to make a reservation.

On Burns’ Day (Mon 25th Jan), a Burns’ lunch will be provided. This will include haggis or kilted sausages, neeps and tatties. Cold lunches will not be available that day. P7 will address the haggis and Konar will play his chanter. CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO WEAR SOMETHING TARTAN OR SCOTTISH THAT DAY.

**After School Clubs**

This term’s activities include Let’s Get Sporty’s Fundamentals, Badminton, Netball, Singing Club, Lego Club, Spring Art Club and Film club. Thanks to Active Schools and our teaching staff for giving their time.

**Nursery**

Mrs Carruthers and Mrs Anderson enjoyed getting to know our new nursery children and parents during last term’s Home Visits. Our new-starts have settled in very well.

Nursery and P1 parents/carers are welcome for a blether at *Tea and Toast* on Tuesdays 8.45-9.30 in our Rumble Room (next to the playroom). Mrs Carruthers (nursery teacher), Mrs Abraham (Educational Visitor) and Mrs Anderson (when available) can offer help and advice in a relaxed atmosphere. It is also a great way to meet new people and share ideas/experiences.

This month, Mrs Burton and Mrs Wright will work for one hour each at Maxwellton Playcare Nursery, while two of their staff members will come to visit us. In this way, we can share ideas and continue to build positive relations between care providers in our community.

**Eco Group**

Thank you to those who sent in their Christmas cards for recycling. Lots of house points were earned. We continue to collect old batteries. Please use the plastic sacks provided to gather old, unwanted clothing and place it in our Rag Bag container in the school car park. Your donations raise money for the school. It is due to be emptied on Monday 8th February. We were proud to see our recent community litter pick in The Standard.

**Pupil Council**

Our Pupil Council have created an interactive display, asking our children for their ideas regarding the running of the school. The response was fantastic and feedback has now been added to the display. Come and have a look - it’s at the office corridor. There is also a Suggestion Box at the school entrance for anyone else with ideas.

**Enrolment**

Those wishing to enrol their children for P1 for this year did so on Tuesday 12th/Wednesday 13th January.

Nursery enrolment with take place on Wednesday 10th/Thursday11th February, 9.15am – 3pm.

**Contact details:**

Principal Teachers – Mrs Storey and Mrs Anderson

346 Lochside Road

Dumfries DG2 0EL

01387 720 364

gw08officestninians@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

**Summary of dates until the February break:**

P2 Fundamentals – Tues 19th Jan – 16th Feb 3-4pm

P6-7 Badminton – Thurs 14th Jan – 11th Feb 3-4pm

P5-7 Netball Wednesdays 3-4pm

P4-7 Singing Club Thursdays 3-4pm

The Carnival Sunday 24th Jan 5pm town centre

Robert Burns’ lunch Mon 25th Jan

Wear something tartan/Scottish Mon 25th Jan

Dinner by Children Tues 26th Jan 7pm (pre-book)

Rag Bag collection Mon 8th Feb

Staff Inset (school closed), Wed 17th, Thurs 18th Feb

School holiday Fri 19th Feb