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**St. David’s Primary School**

**Newsletter January/February 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of January, I would like to thank you all for your amazing efforts in supporting your children in their participation in online home learning. We have come so far in the past year and although this has not been the start that we would have liked to have made to 2021, all of the children and parents and families have definitely risen to the challenges of digital learning, to make it as successful as we can possibly ask for. Every day we face new challenges and as a school community we are committed to making life as easy as we can for our families.

**Primary 1 Enrolment for August 2021**



Throughout January we have been accepting enrolments for Primary 1 starting in August 2021 and due to the current restrictions these applications have all been done online. The closing date for enrolments was Friday 22nd January however if you know of anyone who has not yet enrolled please ask them to contact the school office and we will arrange for the forms to be sent out. The link for every enrolment is on North Lanarkshire’s website and on completing the form you must state which school you wish your child to attend. If you are making a placing request you must still enrol in your local catchment area school and tick the box to request a different school. We are very hopeful that our transition meetings and activities will still take place in the final term and that the new pupils will have the opportunity to meet their teacher and classmates before we finish for Summer in June.

**Nursery Enrolment – St David’s Nursery Class**



Applications are now being taken for Early Learning and Childcare. Due to the current pandemic all applications must be completed online and submitted to the appropriate nursery’s mailbox along with the required paperwork. Our mailbox address is enquiries@st-davids.n-lanark.sch.uk .The closing date for applications is Friday 12th February 2021. If you know of anyone who has not yet applied please let them know. All links and forms can be found at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/ELC](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/ELC)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**



Our Primary 3 children would usually receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March, however due to the current restrictions we have not yet finalised a date for this. The children will be taking part in the learning and preparation for this Sacrament in the coming term and we will work closely with Father Bergin to arrange a date as soon in the near future as we are able to do so. When we have received more information I will be in touch with Primary 3 parents and carers to invite them to a virtual meeting to discuss the preparation and arrangements for this very special evening. This was one of the last events on our calendar last year that we managed to complete successfully before the lockdown in March 2020. I hope that this year it will be one of the first events of 2021. We pray that this will be the case.

**Parent Council**

St. David’s Parent Council usually meets on the first Monday of every month in the school, however due to the current restrictions all of our meetings so far this year have been online. If you would like to become more involved, please contact the school so that you can be invited to join our next meeting of the school year on Monday 15th February 2021 at 6pm on the virtual meeting platform Webex. At this meeting we hope to discuss possible fundraising events for the year ahead and ways of collecting feedback from parents about how home learning is progressing this time round. If you are not able to attend the meetings every month, we would still love to hear from you if you are able to support the Parent Council in any way at events throughout the year.

**Parent Drop-in**

I am very aware as a working parent that it can be difficult to come to the school during school hours to ask a question or voice a concern that you may have. Please email me at my school email address

ht@st-davids.n-lanark.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns. I would be more than happy to set up a meeting either by telephone or on Webex to discuss anything with you privately. You can also phone the school on 01236 632142 to talk with either myself or Mrs Clezy our Principal Teacher. We are here to help you at all times.

**A big THANK YOU!**

Over the past few months we have been given tremendous support for our families and pupils from a number of different charities and businesses. We have been able to support and help many families over the festive season and also since the beginning of the new year. We would like to give special thanks to all of the local supermarkets for their donations to help make our Christmas parties more fun, and in particular Morrisons in Airdrie who have been very generous in supporting a number of our families particularly during the pandemic. Plains Community Futures provided every child with their very own personalised hand sanitiser and donated a selection box for every child for Christmas and these were given out at the end of the last term. We also received a donation to our Mini Vinnies from a local family business to support them in their fundraising and pastoral events in the coming year. St. Edward’s Parish SVDP, Airdrie Round Table, the Elim Church and Plains Evangelical Church have all made donations of toys and gifts to support some families over Christmas. Father Bergin and St. David’s Parish have also been able to offer support to our families. Thank you to all of them for their support and I know that some families have been very grateful for this too. If you are in need of support from the school please get in touch in confidence with either Mrs Clezy or myself as we can offer help in a variety of ways. The current circumstances have made things more difficult than usual for everyone and we are very aware of this.



**Digital Learning**

We have had excellent engagement since the beginning of this second lockdown from nearly all of our children and families. The uptake across the school has been 80% which is huge improvement on last year and it is so good to see that so many children are not only taking part but actually enjoying their learning at home. This all down to the fact that you as parents and carers have been so committed to supporting your children at home. I think that all parents deserve a Head Teacher’s Award this month, you have been amazing. The staff have also been going above and beyond and learning and developing their skills every day, as well as showing their commitment and flexibility working both at home and in school with the children who have to attend. If you are a parent who is still finding it difficult to access the home learning please get in touch with the school. Mrs Clezy has managed to contact most parents, but not all. The current home learning will continue until at least the middle of February so it is vital that all children are taking part in some way. Thank you again for all your hard work!



**NL Virtual Classroom**

North Lanarkshire Council have produced a Virtual Classroom online for every child in NL to access. The lessons and resources have all been organised according to Curriculum for Excellence levels and your child’s teacher will advise you about which one is best for your child. The Virtual Classroom is an additional resource that can be used as well as the class work on Microsoft Teams, Sumdog and Studyladder. I have sent instructions about how to access the ‘tile’ on your child’s Glow account and put it on to their dashboard.



**Twitter**

Please follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all the latest activities and events especially during these times when children are not in school. The address is @StDavids4 and it is definitely the easiest way to see what your child is learning during the school day and during other school events.

As always please feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns or queries, we will try our best to help you.

With kind regards and best wishes for a much better 2021,

M. J. Livingstone Head Teacher