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**St. David’s Primary School**

**Newsletter March 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying well done and thank you to all of our fantastic parents and carers who have been supporting our online learning at home. The children have all returned now, most of them with happy faces and I can say on behalf of all the staff that we are delighted to have them all back to school full time. It has been a long and at times difficult road but as the days and weeks go on there is a sense of optimism and hope. It is more important now than ever that we follow the Scottish Government’s Guidelines and continue to have the procedures that are necessary in place to keep us safe and well.



**LENT**



We are now over half way through Lent and we have been so happy with the children’s efforts to engage in the numerous opportunities for prayer that we have offered even when the children were learning from home. Every day we provided a chance for everyone to join in prayer. Every Monday Father Bergin has celebrated Holy Mass with us through Teams and on a Tuesday Mrs Clezy has led us in the Holy Rosary. Primary 7 have been presenting Stations of the Cross every Wednesday as part of their preparation for Confirmation and also in their role as Mini Vinnies. Every Thursday Father has been coming into the school and sharing some Lenten Stories. Our intention was to share these with you online while the children were at home, but unfortunately, because of the size of the recordings we were unable to do this. We have however made up for this in school with the P4-7 children now taking part with Father Bergin. Our Friday Virtual Assembly has become a regular event and we will continue this even when the children are in school. This is always a precious time when the whole school can come together in prayer and thanksgiving for all the successes of the week.

**Primary 1 Transition for August 2021**



In normal circumstances the transition activities for our new Primary 1 children would be well underway, however due to the current restrictions our nursery children are not able at this time to visit the Primary 1 class. We will be starting a number of activities after the Easter holidays involving the Primary 1 class teacher, Mrs Clezy and myself working with the new children in groups. We hope to include some outdoor learning activities as part of this process and there will as always be a meeting for parents in some shape or form. I will give more information about this when I have more details from North Lanarkshire Council.

**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 are now taking part in the learning and preparation for this Sacrament 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 event. Father Bergin has also asked that you contact him to let him know who you are and he is very keen to get to know everyone before the Sacrament takes place. 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 and the recent announcement regarding places of worship opening to the public on 26th March 2021 has given us more hope than ever that this will happen.

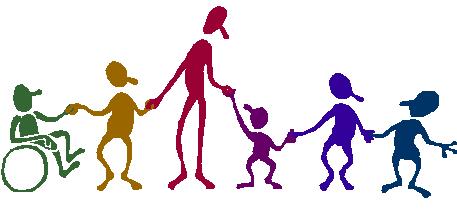
**First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Dates for both of these Sacraments – First Holy Communion (Primary 4) and Confirmation (Primary 7 only) will follow very soon. After a very positive meeting with Father Bergin when he emphasised the importance of children attending Holy Mass, we are very hopeful that these dates will be before the end of this school year, ie. June 21. Thank you for your patience and please let Father know who you are when attending Mass.

The booking system for Holy Mass is up and running again and the Holy Week Schedule is also available on the parish Facebook page. Children and families of those involved in Sacraments this year will be given priority.

**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 and at different times of the month. 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 22nd March 2021 at 6pm on the virtual meeting platform Webex. At this meeting we will continue to focus on raising funds for our school, how we will use funds raised and also our new school website and Parent Council Newsletter. 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. I recently emailed everyone with the new Parent Council Newsletter attached, this an exciting new way of keeping you up to date with new information.



**BAG2SCHOOL**

One of the latest fundraising ideas being organised by the PC is the BAG2SCHOOL project. This is an ideal opportunity for a clear out of any old clothes, curtains or bedlinen and hand them into the school in large bin bags. The company then collect the bags from the school and from this the school gets a cash donation. We are grateful to all of our Parent Council members for the organisation of this project and appreciate any donations that you are able to make.

**Lenten Fundraising**

The school will be having a number of different events over the next couple of weeks to raise money for not only our school but other charities like SCIAF and St. Andrew’s Hospice. The WEE box appeal is on-going during Lent and the classrooms all have a WEE box that the children can put any small change into. We are having a Couch to Cross Country event next Wednesday and Friday and the details for this have been sent in a separate letter. All of our pupils will be taking part in this. If you are unable to donate through the link on the letter, your child can bring in a £1 donation for St Andrew’s Hospice on the day of their Cross Country. Let’s hope the weather holds up for next week!



Our main fundraising activity for school funds is our Easter Eggstraviganza Raffle. The children can buy an entry square for 50p and there are lots of Easter Egg and toy prizes donated by all of the school staff to be won. The tickets/squares for this have already gone on sale and the draw will take place on Wednesday 31st March. Good luck to everyone!

We are also going to have a Crazy Hair Day for the whole school before we finish for Easter, more information about this will follow as well as a date for your diary.

**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](mailto: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.

**Parents’ Evening**

This term’s Parents’ Evening will take the form of phonecall appointments with Primary 1-3 children having their appointments before the Easter holiday and Primary 4-7 children receiving their calls after the break when the teachers have had more of an opportunity to assess the pupils and be able to feedback to parents how their child is progressing. Dates for this will follow next week and appointment times will be given following this.



**Saint David’s School Website**

Our brand new school website is now up and running with updates and information about our school. We are continuing to work on this with some help from our Primary 7 Digital Leaders. This will improve our methods of communication with you and will develop the digital skills of our young learners. We hope to develop our website further in the coming weeks and also use it to share new information with you.



**Digital Learning**

We have been overwhelmed by the input of our parents and pupils whilst at home taking part in online digital learning and it is our wish to continue this success and develop and enhance the digital skills of the children further. Every class will be asked to complete at least one of their homework activities online every week. This will ensure that the hard work in this area does not go to waste and that we continue to make use of the Teams platform to improve our learning and teaching opportunities.



**Start and finish times**

Below is a reminder of the staggered start and finish times for the time being. Thank you for ensuring that these times are adhered to, we understand that it is not easy at times. PLEASE REMEMBER TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE CURRENT GUIDELINES SET OUT BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT. THE SAFETY OF OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS OUR PRIORITY.

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| Class | Start time | Finish time | Gate for finish time ONLY |
| Primary 1/2 Mrs Parker | 8.50am | 2.50pm | Gate 2 |
| Primary 2 Mrs Steel/Miss McConville | 8.50am | 2.50pm | Gate 1 |
| Primary 3 Mrs Smith/Mrs Kirk | 8.55am | 2.55pm | Gate 2 |
| Primary 4 Mrs McMichael | 8.55am | 2.55pm | Gate 1 |
| Primary 5 Mrs Gallagher | 9am | 3pm | Gate 2 |
| Primary 6 Miss MacDonald | 9am | 3pm | Gate 1 |
| Primary 7 Miss McGeough/ Mrs Inglis | 9am | 3pm | Gate 1 |

\* ALL pupils will enter the school through Gate 1 which is closest to Meadowhead Road. This is to reduce the congestion at the school main entrance and nursery entrance.

**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,

M. J. Livingstone

Head Teacher