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**St. David’s Primary School**

**Returning To School**

**August 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after a lovely Summer break, the children are looking very refreshed and rested and ready for the year ahead just like the staff and we hope that the year ahead will be a much more settled and ‘normal’ year if that’s possible. As you are already aware, some of the mitigations are still in place in the school even though these have been relaxed in the community. This is to give our schools the best chance possible of remaining open and gradually getting back to our normal routines. Please continue to wear face coverings when in and around the school grounds and use the gates which have been assigned to our school and classes. There are new guidelines for procedures for positive cases and I will attach these to another email. They are also posted on our school website for you to look at anytime.

**New School Procedures (COVID19)**

* Parents are NOT allowed to enter the playground at any time. Children must be dropped off and picked up at their designated gate. After drop off pupils will walk safely to their zone where they will be able to play with their friends and classmates. Children who are attending the Breakfast Club, which runs every morning from 8.15am until 8.45am, are able to enter the school building through the main doors. Adults are not permitted past the school gate when dropping off and the school drop off area is restricted to nursery parents ONLY. Parents can enter the school by appointment only so please phone the school in advance if you wish to do this. **These restrictions still apply to all schools across North Lanarkshire and will be reviewed in a few weeks time.**
* School bags are now permitted as well as PE kits which should remain in a child’s school bag. we would like to discourage the use of **pencil cases** in the short term although pupils are permitted to have these in their bags, and as in previous years **children should not bring toys to school**. Resources will be provided by the school in class.
* The cloakrooms are now in use and I would strongly encourage you to write your child’s name on all of their items of clothing or footwear. When you have a class full of children all with the same uniform it is very difficult to know them apart in any other way.
* Indoor PE has returned and children are now permitted to change into their PE kit for this. PE days are listed below.
* Face coverings are not required for children in primary school, however all staff, parents and visitors must wear face coverings in and around the school building.
* Communication from the school will continue to be through text and email, so it is vital that the school have an up to date email address and mobile number for every parent. Please contact the school office if we do not already have this information or if your details have changed.
* School holiday calendar is detailed at the end of this newsletter, an events calendar will follow as soon as we are able to plan in advance.
* Our whole school Mases will continue to be on Teams, however it is our intention to begin class Masses very soon and these will be in the Church.
* After school clubs will continue as soon as we have further guidance on classes being able to mix.
* A cashless system will continue be in place for school dinners and cash will NOT be taken on the premises at all. Please follow the instructions found on the North Lanarkshire website [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk). Primary 1-4 will continue to receive free school meals as well as those with free school meal entitlement. If you think that your child may be entitled to a free school meal, please apply for this by submitting the form on North Lanarkshire Council’s website.

As well as this information, you can access all of North Lanarkshire’s guidance on Twitter and Facebook and keep up to date with latest developments. If you do not already do so, please follow us on Twitter at @StDavids4 as all updates are posted there on a regular basis. There is also a link to our school’s website on our Twitter page.

**Classification and Staffing 2020/21**



Here is a reminder of our classes for the coming year.

Mrs Steel – Primary 1/2 (19 pupils)

Mrs Smith and Mrs Kirk – Primary 2/3 (24 pupils)

Mrs McMichael – Primary 3/4 (24 pupils)

Miss MacDonald – Primary 5 (21 pupils)

Miss Lafferty/ Mrs Inglis – Primary 6 (17 pupils)

Miss McGeogh– Primary 7 (26 pupils)

Through additional staffing provided by the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council we are fortunate to have both Mrs Parker and Mrs Inglis as Attainment Teachers in our school this year and they will support children across all of our classes. We also would like to welcome Miss Bryce who will be working between Plains Primary and St David’s Primary this year. Miss Bryce will be teaching PE and Health and Well-being to our P1-5 pupils. Miss Lafferty has also joined our teaching team and is the new teacher in Primary 6.

**School Uniform**

**Full school uniform MUST be worn by all of our pupils** and this can be purchased from Scotcrest in Airdrie who stock all of the necessary items as well as additional accessories that are optional. Please note below the recommended school uniform.

St. David’s Primary School Blazer – **Navy** (available from Scotcrest with the school badge)

St. David’s Primary School Jumper - **Navy** (available from Scotcrest with the school badge)

St. David’s Primary School Gym Kit - **Navy** (available from Scotcrest with the school badge)

School Tie – **Navy/Silver** (available from the school office or Scotcrest)

School trousers/skirt/pinafore – **Grey** (available from most supermarkets and retail stores)

School Jumper/Cardigan – **Grey** (available from most supermarkets and retail stores)

School Shirt – **White** (available from most supermarkets and retail stores)

If you are experiencing any financial worries or difficulties, which are affecting your ability to purchase any of the school uniform items, please let me know. You can email me at any time and I will be able to respond to you. My email address is now gw09livingstonemary@glow.sch.uk . This email address is new and I no longer have any access to my previous mailbox.

**PE Days**

**Tuesday – Primary 3/4 and Primary 1/2**

**Wednesday – Primary 5 and Primary 2/3**

**Friday – Primary 6 and Primary 7**

Pupils will also have an additional outdoor PE time and confirmation of the day for this will be sent out later. Please ensure that your child is always prepared to take part in PE with a change of clothes and indoor trainers for the gym hall.

 **St. David’s Parent Council 2021 – 22**

We would like to thank Mrs Blomerus the chair of our Parent Council for her extremely kind gifts at the beginning of our school year. Mrs Blomerus donated a lovely ‘Goodie Bag’ for all of our new Primary 1 parents to enjoy as their children started on their first day and also delicious iced coffees for all of our teachers and support staff. This was a great treat on our return to school and we really appreciate her kindness. We are all looking forward to what will hopefully be a busy year with a programme of fundraising events on the calendar. The Parent Council is open to all parents in the school and we would particularly like to invite new parents to join. Members of the Parent Council support fundraising for the school as well as being part of the decision making and the plans going forward. We meet every first Monday of the month, however these meetings will continue to be virtual for the time being until we are able to meet in groups inside the school building. If you would like to be a member of our Parent Council please let us know at the school office and your email address will be added to the next set of invitations for our first meeting. The first meeting of this school year will be on Monday 6th September at 6pm. Meetings usually last about 50 minutes and as this will be the first meeting of the year it will be the AGM when new roles and positions are discussed. Mrs Blomerus will continue in her role as Chairperson and a Parent Council newsletter will be sent out very soon with more details.





**Attendance at Holy Mass**

As we are a Catholic school and community I would like to strongly encourage you to attend Mass every weekend with your child. Father Bergin has been in school to plan the year ahead with regard to school Masses and Sacramental celebrations. He has noticed that not many of our pupils are attending Mass regularly, even those who have recently received the Sacraments. It has been very difficult over the past few months for all of us to attend Mass as regularly as we would hope due to the restrictions, however these restrictions are no longer in place and there is no longer a need to book a place at Mass. It is very important that all of the children are attending Mass especially if you wish them to be involved in the preparation for the Sacraments and receive the Sacraments in the coming years. Mass times in St. David’s Parish are – Saturday (Vigil Mass) – 5pm and Sunday Mass – 12 noon



**School Holidays 2021-22**

**September 2021**

September weekend holidays: Friday 24 September 2021 and Monday 27 September 2021

**October 2021**

October break: Monday 11 to Friday 15 October 2021 (inclusive)

**November 2021**

In-service day: Monday 15 November 2021

**December 2021 - January 2022**

Christmas and New Year holidays: Thursday 23 December 2021 to Friday 7 January (Inclusive)
Schools close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021

**February 2022**

Mid-term break: Monday 14 February 2022 and Tuesday 15 February 2022
In-service day: Wednesday 16 February 2022

**April 2022**

Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022 (inclusive)
Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 1 April 2022
Good Friday 15 April 2022 and Easter Monday 18 April 2022

**May 2022**

May day holiday: Monday 2 May 2022
In-service day: Thursday 5 May 2022 (to coincide with Scottish Local Government Elections)
May weekend holiday: Friday 27 May 2022 and Monday 30 May

**June 2022**

Schools Close: Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 1.00pm

**School Gate Procedures**

I would like to remind you of the current arrangements for pupils entering and exiting the school. It is important that these procedures are followed by all parents and pupils and that pupils are on time for their starting time. Thank you

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

**\* Gate 1 is situated on Annieshill View and is beside the exit gate for cars from the school car park. This will be the only gate for St David’s School pupils to enter the school grounds. The school car park is not open to parents and can only be used by staff and visitors with appointments. Nursery parents will be permitted to use the drop off zone. Gate 2 is at the school side of the carpark.**

Finally, please be assured that all staff have been working hard to ensure a safe return for all children, in particular our wonderful janitors Mrs McDade and Mrs McEachen and our fantastic cleaning staff who have worked tirelessly over the Summer break. I would like to thank them for everything that they have done to make our return possible. If you have any additional concerns please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help you.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless,

Mrs M.J. Livingstone

Head Teacher