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**St. David’s Primary School**

**Parent and Carer Newsletter**

**October 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

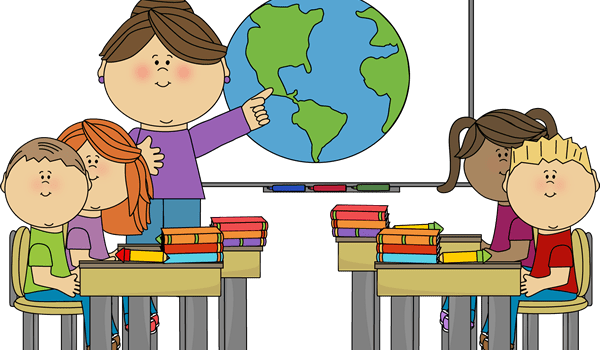
It feels like no time at all since we started our 2021 school year in August and already we are fast approaching the mid-term school October Break. The children have settled very well into their new classes and we are making good progress in our learning. There are still some mitigations in place in school and I have listed these below as a reminder to you and your families. There have been some very positive announcements which will be implemented after the October Week. We appreciate everything that you are doing to keep our school community as safe as we can be and we are also grateful for your understanding.

**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 are due to be reviewed again soon.**
* School bags are now permitted as well as PE kits which should remain in a child’s school bag. **Pencil cases** are now permitted but we must discourage pupils from sharing their belongings with others. **Children should not bring any 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 permitted to change into their PE kit for this. PE days are listed below. The changing rooms will also be in use from after the October week.
* 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, and an events calendar has also now been sent out with many of the events to be confirmed (TBC).
* New guidelines state that we are now able to celebrate Mass in the Church and in the school hall with more than one class, this is a welcome development and we will organise this very soon.
* Assemblies will be able to start after the October week ☺.
* After school clubs will continue very soon.
* 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, and Primary 5 will receive free school meals from January 2022. 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.

**Reminder of 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.

**Parents’ Evening Phonecalls**

Everyone who returned their slip for parents’ evening should now have received a text with their appointment time for this evening. Please remember that your call will have NO CALLER ID and we will do our very best to ensure that you get your call at the time stated. Please be mindful of this during your own appointment as class teachers have a limited time for each phonecall.

**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. Supermarkets also stock very good quality uniform items in our school colours. Please note below the recommended school uniform. **There has been a noticeable change in the standard of school uniform recently with hoodies, jogging bottoms, jeans and leggings being worn by a minority of our pupils. The colour of the uniform is navy and grey – black should not be worn. Please follow our school uniform guidelines and respect our rules for uniform which are in place for everyone.**

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 [nllivingstonem1@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nllivingstonem1@northlan.org.uk) . This email address is new and I no longer have any access to my previous mailbox. Please note this is another new email address.

**PE Days**

**Tuesday – Primary 3/4, Primary 1/2 and Primary 2/3 Hall and Primary 5 Pitch**

**Wednesday – Primary 5, Primary 1/2, Primary 2/3, Primary 6 and Primary 7 Hall and Primary 3/4 Pitch**

**Friday – Primary 6, Primary 3/4 and Primary 5 Hall and Primary 1/2, 2/3 and Primary 6 and 7 Pitch**

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 and outdoor trainers for the pitch. Each class has 2 hall times and a pitch time to accommodate their 2 hours of physical education (PE) every week, this ensures that we always have a time even in bad weather.

**Saint David’s Primary and Nursery Class and Plains PS – ALLERGY ADVICE – NUTS**

Following a recent enrolment into our school /nursery community of a child with a serious nut allergy, we would like to give you early notice of a change in our school rules and procedures. Our guidance to parents, staff and pupils will state that snacks and treats containing nuts **should not be brought into school at any time** as this could trigger a severe allergic reaction for one of our pupils. Nut products include nutella and kinder bars which at the moment are very popular snacks in our schools. The child will start in our community after Christmas, however we ask for your full co-operation as we introduce this change. Staff in both schools will be receiving training and we will be raising awareness in all of our classes over the coming months. We are sure that you will understand the serious implications of this and will support this change and assist us in implementing it fully. Many thanks in anticipation of your co-operation.

**St. Andrew’s Hospice 1K YOUR WAY FUNDRAISER**



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in or donated to our St Andrew’s Hospice event in September. The children had a fabulous time walking and wearing their own clothes for this very important charity. On the day we raised an amazing £150 with further donations being made after the event bringing the overall total to £180. A cheque will be sent to St Andrew’s Hospice on behalf of our school community. Well done to everyone for taking part! As always, the donations to this event were voluntary and we were overwhelmed by your kindness.

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

We have now had two very enjoyable and productive Parent Council Meetings this term so far. We are delighted to welcome some new members to the team, all of whom are listed on your parent council news letter which is sent seperately every month by Mrs Blomerus the Parent Council Chairperson. 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. Our team are already working very hard behind the scenes to generate funds and donations of prizes for events that we will be running before Christmas. The PC meets 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 set of invitations for our next meeting which is on Monday 1st November.



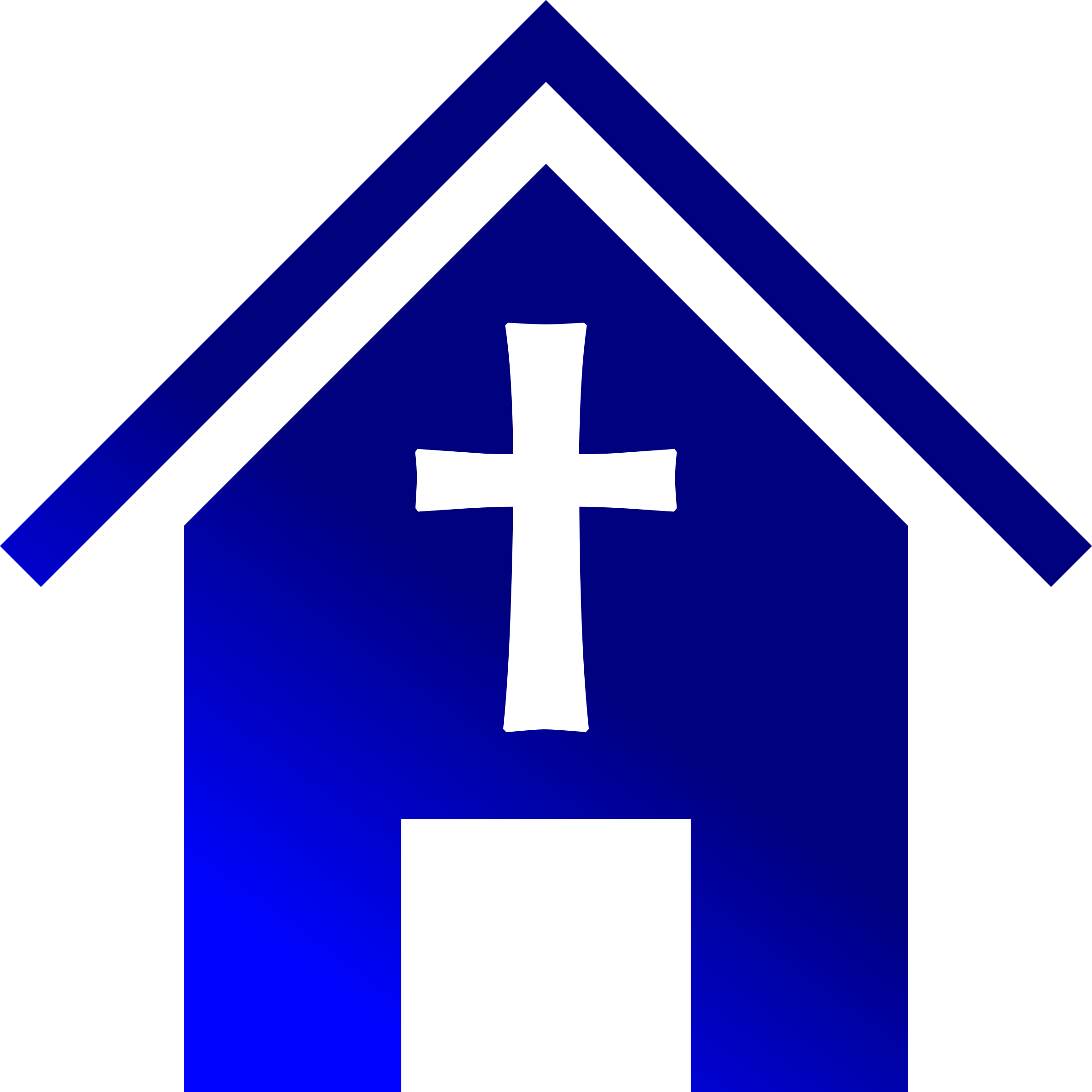
**HALLOWEEN – Parent Council Event**

We are sure that you will all be delighted to hear that we will be able to dress up this year for our Halloween event which will take place on Friday 29th October. Unfortunately we are still not able to have a disco in the evening as in previous years, however we will invite the children to dress up when they come to school on the Friday. The Parent Council will also have a tuck shop and a Halloween Raffle will run in all classes from after the October Week and will be drawn on Friday 29th October. There will be a voluntary £1 donation for children to dress up and children should only bring a maximum of £2 for the tuck shop. The raffle tickets will be on sale in school for 50p every day leading up to the event. Donations for this are very welcome at the school office or please speak to any of our parent council members if you would like to donate.



**Attendance at Holy Mass**

As we are a Catholic school and community we 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. After the October Week we will be beginning our preparation for the Sacraments for children in P3 (those in P2/3 and P3/4), P4 and P7. We are hoping to have an enrolment Mass for the Sacraments during November and more information about this will follow shortly. The Mass will take place on a Sunday in St. David’s Church and we would ask that ALL pupils who are making a Sacrament in the coming year should attend.



SPLASH OF COLOUR DAY – FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2021

Pupils should come dressed in colourful clothes tomorrow for Splash of Colour Day. There is a voluntary donation of £1 for school funds.

**School Holidays 2021-22**

**October 2021**

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

**November 2021 -** In-service day: Monday 15 November 2021 (Pupils do not attend)

**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

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* New School Gate Procedures \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**We are delighted to announce that after the October Week ALL CHILDREN FROM BOTH SCHOOLS will be using the main pupil entrance and exit gate on Bruce Street.** St David’s pupils will no longer be able to use the gate on Annieshill View. Due to both small gates now being used for nursery children we must insist that all pupils from St David’s now enter by the gate on Bruce Street. The large pitch gates will now remain closed. Due to the number of pupils between both schools we are still implementing a staggered start and finish to the school day and these times will remain the same. This is a very welcome and positive development following new guidelines issued by NLC. Many of our younger pupils are frequently late for school due to the staggered start, this means that they are missing some vital learning and teaching time. **Please make sure you are aware of your child’s class and starting time so that your child can be punctual every day.**

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

**Staff will continue to take the pupils to their exit gate at the end of every day for now and we ask that when picking up and dropping of your child you ensure that you are still wearing a face covering and that you do not crowd together in groups. Plains PS children will be dismissed at one side of the gate (the one closest to their building exit) and St. David’s at the other side. Please park safely and with due care and attention if travelling by car, and encourage your child to walk to school when possible. When children arrive at school they must go straight to their zone to play, the zones have not changed and every child knows where to go.**

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

Have a wonderful October Week holiday spending time with your families.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless,

Mrs M.J. Livingstone

Head Teacher