****

**St. David’s Primary School**

**Newsletter November /December 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Time is flying and already we are speeding towards December and all of the festivities that go along with this time of year. Thank you for all of your support so far this year, it does feel like we are easing towards some kind of normality, although we still have many of our restrictions in place to keep us safe and well, it’s important that we all do our best to follow the rules and protect one another.

**School Procedures (COVID19)**

* Parents are NOT allowed to enter the playground at any time. Children must be dropped off and picked up at the 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 are now in use.
* 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 predominantly 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).
* 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.

**Parents’ Evening Phonecalls**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Parents’ Appointments. We are very aware that many of you have not had the chance to meet your child’s teacher in person and we are optimistic that this will happen in the near future. If you have any concerns or questions about your child please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will do our very best to help you.

**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. **I am happy to say that since the last newsletter there has been an improvement in the number of pupils wearing their uniforms, however we are still noticing that some of our older girls in particular are not complying with our school’s policy. Leggings and sports zippers and hoodies are not school uniform. We ask that you strongly encourage your child to wear our school uniform at all times, unless otherwise advised by the school.**

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 . This email address is new and I no longer have any access to my previous mailbox. Please note this is another new email address.

**Winter Coats**

As temperatures get colder we are aware that children may be in need of appropriate warm clothing which can be expensive. The school currently have some Winter jackets that have been donated to the school. Please contact the school office if you would like to make use of these. We also have hats, scarves and gloves available to anyone who needs them.

**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.

**Winter School Trips to Summerlee**



We are delighted to announce that all of our pupils will have the opportunity to go on an educational school outing to Summerlee which will be subsidised by the money raised by our Parent Council during their recent events. Primaries 1 – 4 will visit Summerlee on Tuesday 7th December for a special Toys Workshop and Primaries 5 – 7 will go on Thursday 9th December for a workshop all about The Victorians. More information and permission slips will be sent out next week.

**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. Children should no longer bring these as snacks. 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 Day – Tuesday 30th November 2021**

 

This Tuesday we celebrate St Andrew’s Day the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of Scotland. On Tuesday all pupils and staff are asked to wear something tartan to help to celebrate this special Scottish day and we ask for a voluntary £1 donation. All funds raised on Tuesday will go to Mary’s Meals. The children will also be provided with a traditional Scottish snack in class and they will be learning about St Andrew and his connection with Scotland.

**Halloween Fun Day – Parent Council Event**

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in or donated to our recent Halloween Fun Day. The children had a fabulous time and they looked sensational all dressed up in their costumes. On the day we raised over £500 which is an absolutely amazing amount of money which will be put to good use with school trips being arranged in the near future. As always, the donations to this event were voluntary and we were overwhelmed by your kindness. **Our next Fun Day in school for the Parent Council will be Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December when the children can come dressed in something festive! More information will follow about this event.**

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

Our next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 6th December. We are very grateful to everyone who has been donating to our events so far this year and we have been delighted with the support given to us by local businesses and families. Due to the fact that we are unable to have our annual Christmas Fair this year, the Parent Council have organised for us to run two raffles to raise money for our Parent Council Fund. The tickets for the CHILDREN’S RAFFLE will go on sale at the beginning of December and children will be able to buy them in class at 50p for a number. The pupils will also get to take some tickets home for the ADULTS’ RAFFLE and return those that they do not sell to the school. Additional tickets for the ADULTS’ RAFFLE can also be purchased from the school office. We have some fabulous prizes to be won like a child’s scooter and bike very kindly donated by local businesses, which will be the top prizes in the Children’s Raffle and Meal Vouchers, car wash vouchers and hair/beauty treatments are some of the prizes on offer for adults. If you would like to make a donation to our prizes please contact one of the parent council members or the school office. Thank you.



**Bonus Ball Lucky Dip**

Numbers have been on sale for a couple of weeks now for the BONUS BALL LUCKY DIP organised by our Parent Council. This fundraiser has been extended to the LOTTO draw that will take place on Saturday 4th December in order to give us a chance to sell all of the numbers. At the moment there are still around 25 numbers which have not been allocated. The person with the BONUS BALL number for this LOTTO draw will **win £100** which I am sure will be a very welcome amount especially at this time of year. Each number costs £5 and can be purchased from the school office. When all 59 numbers are sold we will not be able to sell any more, so make sure that if you would like to be in with a chance you send in your £5 as soon as you can.

**Mini Vinnies – Primary 6**

Our Primary 6 class will have their Commissioning Ceremony for the Mini Vinnies in school on Tuesday afternoon led by Father Bergin. The children will also be enrolled into The Pope Francis Faith Award programme during the service. Two representatives from the SVDP who run the Mini Vinnies in the Airdrie area have also been invited to attend the ceremony. As part of their involvement in the community some of the children have volunteered to help out at the Plains Community Christmas Fair which takes place this Sunday in St. David’s Church Hall between 1pm and 3pm. The pupils have been collecting nearly new toys from both schools and they will be running the stall to sell all of the donated toys. Please show your support for this event by going along for a while on Sunday afternoon. The money raised at this event is very kindly being donated to both schools and the nursery. We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic and supportive community.



Our Mini Vinnies have also received a very generous donation following the very sad passing of one of our most valued and inspirational parishioners Mrs Mary Smith, who is the mum of one of our longest serving members of staff Mrs Anna McDonald in the nursery. Mary was a loyal supporter of the SVDP and one of the last remaining members of the charity in St. David’s Parish. Mary had asked for a collection to be taken at her funeral and for the money raised to be donated to St. David’s Primary School Mini Vinnies in order for it to benefit the children and families of the village of Plains. Mary had a great love for the charity and also for children and we hope to continue her legacy by continuing to help those people in our community who are in need.

**SCIAF Appeal**

During the month of December the children will be asked to make small change donations to support families in the developing world. Money will be used to buy ‘REAL GIFTS’ which support and enhance communities. If you would like to make further donations please contact Mrs Clezy at the school.



**Attendance at Holy Mass**

Thank you to all the families who attended the recent meeting for Sacraments in St David’s Church and the Commitment Mass for all those pupils hoping to receive Sacraments this school year. 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.

**Advent and Christmas Activities**



Father Bergin will be celebrating 3 Advent Services with all of the children in our school hall on Wednesday 1st December, Wednesday 8th December and Wednesday 15th December. The pupils will also be performing some Christmas songs and carols which will be filmed and shared with all of our parents.

**Dates for you Diary**

Tuesday 30th November – Wear Tartan for St. Andrew’s Day (Mary’s Meals)

Saturday 4th December – Bonus Ball Draw (Lotto) – result to parents on Monday

Monday 6th December – Tickets go on sale for the Christmas Raffles (children’s and adults’)

Tuesday 7th December – Primary 1/2, 2/3 and 3/4 Trip to Summerlee Museum

Thursday 9th December – Primary 5, 6 and 7 Trip to Summerlee Museum

Friday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day (Parent Council Event)

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 17th December – Christmas Parties (all classes)

Wednesday 22nd December – Christmas Carols and Nativity in Church (event will be filmed and sent out to parents)

**School Holidays 2021-22**

**December 2021 - January 2022**

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

As always we would like to assure you 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.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless,

Mrs M.J. Livingstone

Head Teacher