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**St. David’s Primary School**

**Newsletter February 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your patience and understanding, particularly in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays when the school experienced our most disruption due to the pandemic, and many of our usual Christmas activities were affected as a result of this. We all appreciate everything that all of our families did to keep everyone safe. Attendance has been slowly improving since our return in January and we hope that this will continue in the coming months.

Although some of the restrictions and guidelines have been lifted in the community, many restrictions remain in place in NLC schools, where the virus is still spreading and having a huge impact on attendance for everyone. Please be vigilant when following the procedures below and have respect for the well-being of all of our families, some of whom have vulnerable family members.

**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. Children attending Breakfast Club are required to have breakfast when attending, this service is free to all P1-5 pupils and any P6 and 7 pupils who are entitled to free school meals. 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 permitted as well as PE kits which should remain in a child’s school bag. **Pencil cases** are also 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 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 also 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, especially at the school gates.**
* 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 have already started again, with Primary 7 having the opportunity to attend the NL Challenge Club every Tuesday from 3pm – 5pm. This club is run by NLC youth staff and the children participate in the NL Challenge Awards which go towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as the children move on to high school. In the coming weeks we hope to start some other clubs in partnership with Sports Leaders from St Margaret’s HS and our own Sports Leaders in P7 and teachers.
* 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 1-5 will continue to receive free school meals as well as those with free school meal entitlement, as you know Primary 5 have been receiving free school meals since 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.

**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. This has become more of an issue again since returning to school in January, we ask for your full support with this matter.**

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)

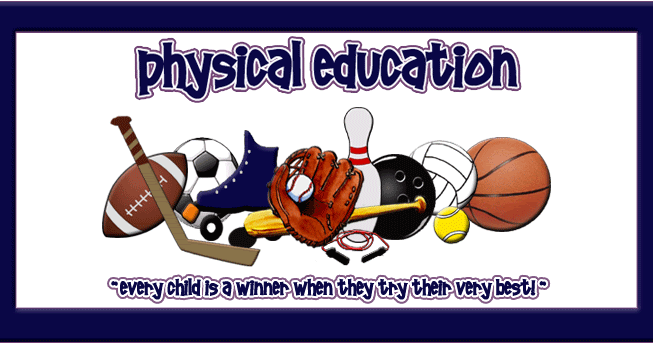
If you are experiencing any financial worries or difficulties, which are affecting your ability to purchase any of the school uniform items, please let me know. You can email me at any time and I will be able to respond to you. My email address is now [nllivingstonem1@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nllivingstonem1@northlan.org.uk) . This email address is new and I no longer have any access to my previous mailbox. Please note this is another new email address.

**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 still 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.

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



Our latest Parent Council meeting took place on Monday 7th February, with the next one on the first Monday in March. 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. Our Christmas/ New Year Raffles have been very successful in raising money for our Parent Council Fund and the final total raised from these was nearly £400. This will be used to benefit all of the pupils in our school. Many of our parents still have prizes that have to be collected from the school office, every parent who won a prize has already been contacted. Please let the school office know if you would like to arrange a time to come for your prize.

**Mini Vinnies – Primary 6**



Our Mini Vinnies made an amazing donation to the local foodbank recently and have also made a donation to enable the Parent Council to purchase PE Kits for all of our Primary 1 and 2 children. As part of their service to the community the Mini Vinnies also donated money to the school for us to purchase resources and workbooks in order to run a Seasons for Growth group in the school. This group is led by Mrs Clezy and Mrs Livingstone who are both fully trained in supporting children and young people who have experienced loss in their lives. The group will begin in the coming weeks and we would ask anyone who believes their child might benefit from this to get in touch with either Mrs Clezy or myself. We would like to thank the Mini Vinnies for all of their hard work and we are looking forward to hearing about their future projects.

**SCIAF Appeal and Lenten Charities**

During Lent which starts on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 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. All of the classes will be organising their own fundraising events throughout Lent and further details of these will follow. These events will always take place on a FUNdraising Friday.



**Attendance at Holy Mass and Sacrament Dates**

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 and planned dates for the classes who will be receiving the Sacraments this year and those parents who have children in these classes should have received letters informing them of the dates.

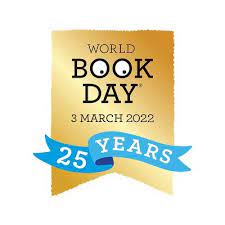
**First Reconciliation (Primary 3) – Friday 25th March 2022 in school**



**First Holy Communion (Primary 4) – Sunday 7th May 2022 in St. David’s Church – 10am Mass and 12 noon Mass**

**Confirmation (Primary 7) – Thursday 12th May in St. David’s Church - 7pm (with Bishop Toal)**

**WORLD BOOK DAY 2022**



This year’s World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 3rd March 2022** and the children will be taking part in a variety of fun activities to encourage their interest in books and reading. They will have the option of dressing up as their favourite book character, bringing in their favourite book, writing stories that will be shared in a Saint David’s Storybook and finding out about authors and illustrators. There will be no cost for this event and every child will receive a £1 book token that can be used in a number of book shops and supermarkets. It is sure to be a fun-filled day and we are looking forward to all of the children joining in.

**HEAD LICE**

As you know head lice can be a very common problem in schools and in order for us to stop the spread of it in our school we ask you to ‘ONCE A WEEK, TAKE A PEEK’. If you find that your child has head lice we ask that you first of all get the appropriate treatment available from your pharmacist and contact the school office to let us know so that we can make affected classes aware with a standard letter. Your contact with us will be completely confidential.



**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

We are delighted to say that some of our after school clubs will be starting again in the coming term and our Primary 7 NL Challenge club is already up and running every Tuesday after school. In addition to this we will have a Glee Club which will take place in P3/4 within school hours and led by Mrs Parker, a News Team Club for P6 and P7 led by Miss Lafferty and Miss McGeough, an after school Multi-Sports Club for P5 beginning on Wednesday 23rd February from 2.50pm – 4pm led by the St Margaret’s HS Sports Leaders from S5&6 and a Chill Out Club for P1-3 led by Mrs Steel Mrs Parker and Mrs McMichael. Details about all of these clubs will be following very soon.

**School Class Masses**

Thank you to Miss McGeough and Primary 7 who led our Mass in the Church today, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The children were very well prepared and all played their part in celebrating a very special Mass. We hope to continue our class Masses in March with P6 leading a Mass in honour of St. Patrick.

**LENT 2022**



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday the 2nd of March and Fr. Bergin will be coming into the school for a service and the distribution of Holy Ashes. There will also be an early morning Mass in St. David’s Church every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, beginning on Friday 4th March. The Mass will start at 8.15am and will be finished in time for children and staff to walk to school in time for it starting at 8.50am. We look forward to seeing everyone at the weekday Masses which have traditionally always been very well attended by pupils, staff and parents. We will also have many Lenten activities in school and Fr. Bergin will be visiting often to work with the children in class. We would like to thank Fr. Bergin for all of the support that he gives to our children and staff.

**Dates for you Diary**

**Stanrigg (YELLOW) House Treat – Friday 18th February 2022 – own clothes and donuts treat**

**Fairtrade Fortnight – begins Monday 21st February 2022**

**Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 2nd March 2022**

**First Reconciliation P3 – Friday 25th March (in school)**

**Parents’ Evening (format to be confirmed) – Thursday 25th March 2022**

**End of Term School Mass (TBC) – Friday 1st April 2022**

**School Holidays 2021-22**

**Mid-term break – Monday 14 February and Tuesday 15 February**

**In-service Day – Wednesday 15 February – pupils do not attend**

**Easter Holidays – School closes Friday 1st April at 2.30pm and re-opens Tuesday 19 April 8.50am**

**May Day Holiday – Monday 2 May 2022**

**In-service Day – Thursday 5 May 2022 – Election Day - Pupils do not attend**

**May weekend Holiday – Friday 27 May 2022**

**Queen’s Jubillee Holiday – Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022**

**Schools close for Summer – Wednesday 29 June at 1pm**

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 are still working 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