

Saint Ninian's Primary School and Nursery Class

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Ann Smith

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"Together we learn and grow in the image and likeness of Christ."

22nd August 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It has been lovely to see the children back in school, looking very smart in their school uniform and ready to learn. What a great start to the new session! We welcomed 28 children into Primary 1 this session and an additional 5 new pupils into our St. Ninian's family. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new families who have joined us. We look forward to working with you on your child's learning adventure.

Over the holidays I am sure you have noticed we have also had an extensive amount of work going on to improve the fabric of our school building. I am delighted to report that the refurbishment of our infant and middle area pupil toilets is now completed and looks fantastic. In addition, our front school roof has now been completely replaced with just some guttering work to be finished. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our contractors and staff team who worked so hard to ensure that our building was ready to welcome pupils back this week.

Please find below a reminder of some key information at the start of the new session:

Communication with parents

- On a Monday parents will receive any mail/forms to complete.
- Regular updates will be sent to parents via e-mail with news and reminders about events
- Parents can find out about their child's learning experiences from weekly blog posts by each class on a Friday - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stniansps/>
- Twitter – school achievements/news will be shared via Twitter @StNinianPS
- Our new school website contains important school information and reminders about events etc. <http://stniansprimary.westlothian.org.uk/> There are links to our blog and Twitter on here.
- **We would encourage all families to download our school app.** The app contains all of the above information in one place! There are links to our blog and Twitter feed on here too.

I am pleased to send home a copy of this year's **Family Calendar** today. The calendar outlines the main dates for the year ahead and the opportunities which will be provided for parents to support their child's learning and achievements. The calendar will also be posted on the school website and regular updates will be shared with parents.

Parents can communicate with their child's teacher via the homework diaries or contact the school via e-mail or telephone. We do try to operate an open door policy and welcome parents in whenever they have a question or query. We are here to help!

School Uniform

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child wears the correct school uniform. All pupils should wear a yellow school shirt/polo shirt and tie to school. The correct PE kit must also be worn – yellow t-shirt and plain black/navy bottoms. Please do speak to me if you are having difficulty providing your child with all items of uniform. Help is available. We also ask that all pupils have an indoor set of plimsoles/trainers that can be kept in school. Thank you.

Food in School

Please order your child's school lunch using the online system – iPayimpact if possible. We would prefer all parents use this system rather than children bringing money to school. **Parents are reminded that if your child brings a packed lunch or snack, please ensure that this does not contain nut products as we have children with severe nut allergies.** This includes products with chocolate spread. Please note that pupils in P1-3 do not pay for school meals but P4-7 pupils do at the new cost of £2.11.

School Playground

Please can I remind parents to drop children off at the school gate and wait outside the playground at the start of the school day. This is to ensure the safety of our pupils as the playgrounds can be very busy and space is limited. **P1 parents will have the opportunity to settle their children in the playground over the first couple of weeks.**

Pupil Healthcare plans/Medication

All pupils with existing healthcare plans should come in to school to complete documentation for this session. If you would like this documentation to be sent home please contact Mrs Roy. Please note that we cannot administer any medication to your child without the completed forms and medication. Any new or existing parent who wishes to discuss the healthcare needs of their child in person should contact Mrs Roy or myself immediately if they have not done so already.

Parent Helpers

Last session many parents/grandparents volunteered some of their time to help in our nursery or school. Their time and effort helped our school staff support all of our children and organise exciting experiences. If you are interested in helping us this year, please pop along to the **Parent Helper Meeting on Wednesday 4th September at 9am in school.** We would love to see you there! If you are unable to attend but would like to volunteer then please contact the school office.

Primary 1 Transition

Our new Primary 1 children made an impressive start this week and were very settled. We are really proud of them all. As part of the transition programme, Mrs Roy and I will telephone P1 parents from next week to chat about how your child is settling in. You are also invited to attend Breakfast Club on **Tuesday 3rd September** with your child anytime from **8.15 – 8.40am.**

Summary of Our Progress

We are proud to share our **Standards and Quality Report** which describes the great progress our school made last session. We used the feedback from our learners, parents, partner agencies and staff team to outline our key strengths and next steps. You can access the report from our school blog.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stniniansps/>

Paper copies are available from the school office too.

It is my privilege to take over our vibrant school community this year and build on the excellent leadership of Mrs Purdie and I look forward to continuing our positive partnership working to support and encourage our children this session.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Ann Smith, Acting HT