 

 **education SERVICES**

**Executive Director: Tony McDaid**

**ST VINCENT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Head teacher Eileen Tompkins**

**23rd November 2017**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move through the month of November with just 31 sleeps to Christmas, I want to give you some dates for your diary and also some information on upcoming events.

Firstly I want to thank you for all your support as we prepared for our recent school inspection. I also want to extend sincere thanks to all the staff who worked tirelessly in preparation for the inspection. We are very pleased that there was a positive outcome and the inspectors praised the happy, confident, well behaved children they saw in our school. A full report will be published later in January but we were all very encouraged by the words of the managing inspector when he said he would happily send his children to our school.

During the month of November we pray for all who have died. On behalf of all of us in Saint Vincent’s, I offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Mrs Caroline Connolly and to all of the family especially Glen P5 and Murdo P6 on the recent passing of their Dad Mr Eddie Connolly. May he rest in peace. It was so heartening to see such a turnout from the Saint Vincent’s community to support Caroline and all the family at such a difficult time. May God give them strength and courage for the days ahead.

**Parent Council and Christmas Fair**

At the recent AGM Mrs. Olive Thomas was elected Chairperson of our Parent Council. Full details of the AGM and any other information from the Parent Council is uploaded to the school website and also on display in the Parent noticeboard at the entrance to the playground. Olive and her very dedicated team of parent helpers are working tirelessly to make this year’s Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December the best ever.

Yesterday we issued a letter about our dress down day on Friday when children are asked to bring a suggested donation for the hampers. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to a great turnout on Saturday 2nd. Fair starts at 10.30 and finishes at 1 pm.

May I respectfully remind you that we have children in our school who have severe nut allergies accordingly Saint Vincent’s is a **nut free** school so please ensure that any items which may contain traces of nuts are packaged securely.

As usual all classes are involved in making items for sale on the day and it is also always a great social occasion. The Christmas Fair is one of the biggest fundraising events in our school calendar with all profit going towards the school and helping to provide many extra treats and opportunities for our children.

A special thank you to the Parent Council for supplying goodie bags for every child during last Friday’s Hopscotch performance. We are indeed very indebted to the many parents who support our school in so many ways.

**Staff news**

We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Louise Murphy and her husband Jordan on the safe arrival of baby Caoimhe Louise. I have just seen beautiful photographs of a very happy family and their precious new baby and all of us in Saint Vincent’s share their joy.

We also want to wish Mrs. Sharlene Kelly all of the very best when she begins her maternity leave at the end of this term. We look forward to hearing more very happy news from the Kelly family

At the end of term, we also look forward to welcoming Mrs. Laura McGeary back to school from her maternity leave having given birth to baby Lexie earlier this year.

**Scotland Reads**

 For the past twelve years Liz Highet has worked with Saint Vincent’s as Home school partnership worker .She has done sterling work with Scotland Reads and organised many worthwhile events for families during that time. Due to reorgnisation of the service, Liz will be no longer working with us from December onwards. On behalf of all of us in Saint Vincent’s I want to thank Liz for all her hard work done very quietly, with great sensitivity and kindness over the years .To honour her contribution to our school ,we have invited her as guest of honour to our Wider achievement assembly on Wednesday 29th November.

**Green Flag and Outdoor Leaning day**

Congratulations to Mr. Martin McKenna and the Eco team who were successful in leading Saint Vincent’s to be awarded another Green Flag. This is a great achievement and we are delighted that their efforts to encourage us all to take care of our environment and reduce, reuse ,recycle have been rewarded . Well done to all.

Mrs. Kelly organised a very successful Enterprise Day for our senior pupils which was also much enjoyed by the parents and staff who took part.

Both Mrs. Kelly and Mr. McKenna are working together to plan a Christmas themed Outdoor Learning day for 8th December when children can come dressed for the outdoors. More information to follow.

**Saint Andrew’s Day**

On November 30th we will celebrate Saint Andrew’s day with Mass for the whole school led by children in Room 9 (Mrs. Currie’s class.) A Fairtrade coffee morning led by the Fairtrade committee will follow in the school to which everyone is invited after Mass. There is an opportunity for you to see your child entertain you as children in all classes will perform during the coffee morning.

There will also be a raffle with Fairtrade prizes.

**Advent**

Advent begins on Sunday 3rd December and each morning during Advent you are very welcome to join us for prayers in the Hall before school each morning at 8.45 (just after breakfast club ) This is a very special opportunity to prepare and Keep Christ in Christmas by taking some quiet time each morning to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas .

**Adverse weather**

You will be aware there are occasions when severely inclement weather can result in the early closure of schools. Every effort would be made, in the event of early closure, to advise parents of the situation via text from the school office. Please make sure that the School Office is kept up-to-date with changes to contact numbers. No child, however, would be sent home without the school ensuring that an adult was available. Parents are advised to listen to local radio and telephone the school if they have any doubts whether or not the school is likely to be closed.

Further information will be available online at ([www.st-vincent’s](http://www.st-vincent's)-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk) and on the South Lanarkshire Website ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk))

**Primary 1 Enrolment**

Enrolment for children due to start Primary 1 in Saint Vincent’s in August takes place week beginning January 15th until January 19th. Further information to follow.

**Christmas Preparations and events in Saint Vincent’s**

This year’s Nativity performance of the Christmas story presented by Primary 1-3 will take place on the following dates: Tuesday 12th Dec at 2pm and Wednesday 13th December at 2pm and 6.30 pm. Tickets will go on sale from tomorrow. Details have been sent out today in a separate letter.

Our special pre-Christmas lunch is on Thursday 14th December. You will receive the flyer today with full details of what’s on offer available to all for £1.60 and free to children with a free meal entitlement. Lunches will need to be ordered in advance.

Café Noel will take place on Friday 15th December at 9.30am. All children will perform and are welcome to what has become one of the not to be missed events in the lead up to Christmas

Miss Timmons choir will present a concert on 20th December at 6.30pm and they are also making a guest appearance by invitation at the Children’s Service at Cathcart Old Church of Scotland on Sunday December 10th at 10.30am.

Class parties will take place week beginning December 18th.

School will close on Friday 22nd at 2.30pm. As usual earlier that day we will have Mass at 9.30 which this year will be led by Miss Toner’s class followed by a performance of carols from all classes. Please feel most welcome to join us in St Vincent’s Church.

With very best wishes to you and your families.

Kind Regards

Eileen Tompkins