Dear Parent/Carer, 18th February 2019

As another term moves quickly ahead I want to give you some information on upcoming dates for your diary.

* We look forward to welcoming you to events which are planned in school over the next weeks and also to Parents’ Evening on Thursday 28th March when you will have the opportunity to have an individual consultation with your child’s class teacher. The same appointment times as October apply. Should you wish there will also be a chance to visit the book sale and purchase books on the night.
* East Kilbride is a major focus for our learning in all classes this term. We are working on a whole school project called EK Take 2 where the children are designing a new town. You may remember two years ago we worked with Paul Gorman from Hidden Giants on “Our Fragile Earth” which was a huge success. We aim to increase opportunities for children to engage creatively with their learning and also to involve parents. Already we are seeing evidence from homework tasks that parents are taking a keen interest in this topic. Thank you as always for your support. You will be invited to a showcase on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th March where you can enjoy looking at the work that is produced by the children.
* This week is World of Work week and we are delighted to welcome a number of visiting speakers including a number of our parents to share their story and broaden our children’s understanding of skills required in the workplace. At a special assembly on March 1st staff from Wells (the Engineering company involved in “dualing” the roads not far from the school) will give a presentation to the upper school pupils and we will have a Careers Fair on Wednesday 20th February.
* This Friday afternoon our Pope Francis Award pupils are hosting a P6/7 Grandparents afternoon in the school hall which will include Mass and an opportunity for entertainment and conversation.
* As Mother’s Day falls during Spring break, our Primary 1 Mother’s Day celebration will take place this year at 1.30 on Friday 3rd May.
* World Book day is on Thursday 7th March and this year we ask the children to come in clothes that are suitable for the outdoors. The purpose of World Book day is to motivate children to enjoy reading and we plan to give children a day to remember without putting families to the expense of buying costumes.
* This World Book day we welcome parents and carers to a Book Blether and a cuppa at 1.30pm on Thursday 7th March in the school Hall. The event will also include the chance for you to share a book with your child.
* Our Primary 4 children are currently enjoying the after school Science club. All parents are invited to the Science open afternoon on Wednesday 13th March. More details to follow on the school app.
* Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent falls on Wednesday 6th March. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 2pm in St Vincent’s church and all are welcome to attend. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Different stages of the school will take responsibility for organising fundraising activities which give us the opportunity for helping others. You can see further details of this year’s fundraising events on our school website
* Fr Ivan will also celebrate morning Mass at 8.20 each day during Lent and all are welcome to attend.
* Primary 3 children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 14th March at 7pm. Primary 4 children who will receive their first Holy communion on Saturday 11th May have now started their programme of preparation.
* Primary 7 children will travel to Barcaple in Dumfries for their Residential experience on Monday 25th February and return for 3pm on Thursday 28th February.
* Our next Parent Council meeting is on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm. We have an urgent need for more parents to support the great work being undertaken by a dwindling group of very committed parents. Please consider coming to this meeting which we guarantee will be finished within an hour.
* Information on any after school clubs which pertain to your child is available from their class teacher or via the school website or the school app. The school website is regularly updated and much school information is also communicated via the school app. Please consider using our school app if you are not already using it.
* As advised in previous newsletters please ensure that you contact our school office should your contact details need to be updated.

School will close for Spring break on Friday 29th March at 2.30pm and re-open at the beginning of Holy week on Monday 15th April at 9am. School will close for Easter break on Thursday 18th April at 3pm and re-open on Tuesday 23rd April at 9am.

My thanks as always to our very committed and dedicated staff who provide many additional opportunities for learning in our school. My thanks to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support and to our many volunteers who give so generously of their time as we all work together for the benefit of our children. I wish you and your families a very happy term and look forward to seeing you over the next weeks.

Kindest Regards,

Eileen Tompkins