



## St Ninian's Newsletter Term 3



We have had a great return to school following the Christmas holidays. The children have settled back into school life, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and energy as we begin a new term together. Staff have been so impressed with how quickly pupils have re-established routines and positive learning habits.

We are also very much enjoying the slightly lighter mornings, bringing a welcome sense of brightness to the start of our school days. It has been a joy to see everyone arriving with smiles, ready for the term ahead.

### Ms Millar

Ms Millar continues to work closely with the school, analysing data and supporting us in progressing towards our agreed targets for raising attainment. She is also working alongside me to ensure that our School Improvement Plan and Quality Assurance processes are fully implemented.

At present, we do not have a confirmed return date for her post as Acting Senior Education Officer.

### Attainment Update - Writing Focus

Before the Christmas holidays, teachers met to review children's progress and plan ahead for this term. These tracking conversations were very productive, and writing emerged as a shared area we want to strengthen across the school. We have worked extremely hard on improving our reading attainment and in the majority of stages we have seen improvement in this area of literacy.

### **Overview**

Across the school, we've noticed that girls are outperforming boys in their writing in many stages. Through discussions teachers also highlighted that *engagement*—how interested and motivated children feel about their writing tasks—plays a big role in their progress. By making writing contexts more exciting and relevant, we aim to boost confidence and enjoyment for all learners.

### **Key Findings**

- A Focus on Engagement: Many children, particularly boys, respond well when writing tasks feel meaningful and linked to their interests.
- A Clear Area to Strengthen: Writing continues to be a whole-school priority, and teachers are already taking steps to build enthusiasm and confidence.

### **Actions Taken This Term**

We have already made several positive changes to support engagement and achievement in writing:

- Refreshing Core Texts: Teachers have reviewed this term's novel studies to include texts that are modern, relevant, and appealing to a wider range of learners.
- Enhancing Learning Themes: Interdisciplinary learning themes have been updated to include more motivating and purposeful writing opportunities.
- Collaborative Planning: Staff have continued to work together as part of our moderation practice to build in more choice, visual supports, and high-interest contexts to help all children, especially boys, feel more confident and inspired in their writing.



## Next Steps

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We will continue to build on this work over the coming weeks:

- Teachers will continue to track children's engagement and progress through ongoing assessment ensuring that they meet the agreed targets.
- We will continue to evaluate the impact of these changes as part of our existing tracking cycle and continue to adapt our approaches based on what works best for our learners.

## Attendance

Attending school each day remains vital for children's learning, wellbeing and long-term development. At St Ninian's, regular attendance allows pupils to build essential Literacy and Numeracy skills, develop confidence, work with their peers and experience the full breadth of our rich curriculum. Last term, our overall attendance rate was slightly lower than last term, and as a result some children are missing out on valuable lessons and learning experiences that support their progress. We kindly ask parents and carers to continue encouraging strong attendance routines, as these daily habits make a significant difference to a child's success in school.

We also wish to highlight that many absences this term are recorded as unauthorised, meaning that the school has not received information from parents or carers, even after text messages or phone calls from our Admin Team. It is essential that all absences are reported so we can ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child. To record an absence, please phone the **Glasgow City Council absence line: 0141 287 0039**, open **8.00am-3.30pm**. Please note that only one member of our Admin Team begins work at 8.30am; if they are on another call, the line will continue to ring rather than give an engaged tone. Your cooperation in reporting absences promptly helps us maintain accurate records and supports your child's learning.

Attendance figures for each year group for **Term 1** are provided below.

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
90%	92%	89%	89%	88%	90%	90%

95%	=	<b>40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	<b>80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 days
85%	=	<b>120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	<b>160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days



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Glasgow City Council's target is 95% for each year group. Our House points system is trying to encourage better attendance, please work with us to help improve attendance.

### Parent Resources

We are delighted to share that we currently have three family support programmes running in school to help parents and carers feel confident in supporting their child's learning and development. These are:

- **All About Me** - Led by *Mrs Milligan* (Class Teacher with responsibility for Family Support) on **Tuesdays, 10.00am-12.00 noon**. All parents and carers are warmly welcome to come along.
- **NHS Parenting Support** - Every Thursday, we are fortunate to receive support from the Central Parenting Team. They will be offering a drop-in service to help our families at home. We are delighted to provide this opportunity, as parents have told us their children are experiencing anxieties and they are unsure how best to support them. This service will allow us to offer tailored, personalised support in response to these needs.
- **Bookbug** - Led by *Mrs Lowe* on **Fridays, 2.30pm-3.00pm** for families with **children under 5**. These lovely sessions use stories, songs, rhymes and play to build positive parent-child interactions and support children's emotional and early brain development.

### Celebrating our Faith

Father Paul from St Ninian's Parish came to visit us just after the Christmas break to plan some more of our School - Parish - Home links. Here are dates for this term:



**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** - Relics of St. Carlo Acutis at St. Thomas Aquinas (7pm)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** - Our Lady of Lourdes- P3 and P5 to attend this Mass (10am)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February** -

- 6.15pm- Parent Meeting for the P3 children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- 7pm- Parent Meeting for the P4 children who will be making their First Holy Communion

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - Father Paul to visit the P3 children who are receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



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**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Feast of St. John Ogilvie P1s & P4s to attend Mass (10am)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** - Lenten Service (P5,P6 & P7)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** - Feast of St. Patrick- P2s & P7s to attend Mass (10am)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** - Solemnity of St. Joseph- P3s & P6s to attend Mass (10am)

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Solemnity of Annunciation- P5s to attend Mass (10am)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** - Sacrament of Reconciliation- 7pm at St. Ninian's Church.

### Dairy Dates for our Busy Term

#### ♥ Children's Mental Health Week

📅 **9-12 February**

This year, pupils will take part in activities focusing on wellbeing, confidence and expressing emotions in healthy ways. Classes will engage in discussions, art activities and mindfulness moments to help children develop positive mental health strategies.



#### 🌐 Safer Internet Day

📅 **10 February**

Our focus will be "Keeping Yourself Safe Online". Children will learn about digital footprints, making safe choices online, and what to do if something worries them on the internet.

#### ♥ Random Acts of Kindness Day

📅 **17 February**

Although we are on our February break when pupils return, pupils will be encouraged to show kindness in small but meaningful ways. Classes will explore what kindness looks like and how it can make a difference in our school community. We look forward to filling our "Kindness Wall" with pupils' good deeds!

#### ♥ Lenten Fundraising - Missio & Mary's Meals

This Lent, we will be supporting Missio and Mary's Meals through a range of class-led fundraising activities.

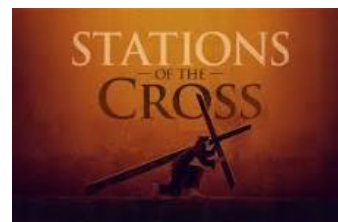
Pupils will explore how their contributions can help children

and families around the world. More details on fundraising events will follow.



#### 🙏 Stations of the Cross - Sacred Space

Pupils will have the opportunity to visit a child-friendly Stations of the Cross at our Sacred Place in school, offering moments of quiet reflection during Lent.



#### 🌐 International Mother Language Day

📅 **21 February**

We will celebrate the rich diversity of languages spoken by families in our school



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community. Children will learn greetings, explore stories and share words from languages represented in their class.

### **World Book Day**

#### **Thursday 5 March**

Classes will enjoy a day of storytelling, reading for pleasure and book-related activities.

### **Writing Celebration Assembly**

#### **Monday 9 March**

To celebrate pupils' creativity and effort in writing, each class will share examples of their work during special school assemblies.

### **Science Week**

#### **10-14 March**

Children will take part in hands-on investigations, experiments and STEM challenges throughout the week. We look forward to a fun, engaging celebration of curiosity and discover

## Holidays

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February- February Holiday

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February- February Holiday

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February- Inservice Day- School closed to pupils.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April- School closes at 2.30pm for Easter Break

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April- School reopens.

### **Please note the dates of our Parent/Carer Evenings**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March & Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April



Many thanks for your continued support,

*Clare Mimmagh*

Acting Headteacher