

St Gerard's Primary School

Parent Newsletter

March 2013



A note of all next year holidays can be found at www.northlan.gov.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,
We come to an end of a busy term and thankfully or rather hopefully winter has come to an end with bright evenings and a wee increase in temperature on the horizon. I hope the term has been a positive one for families in what continues to be difficult times. Please remember that clothing grants and application for school meals can be arranged at the school.

News Pope Francis I

Last week we celebrated the election of Pope Francis I. His choice of name filled the Catholic community with a sense of optimism. The church in Scotland has had recent troubles as has the wider Catholic world. Please pray that this new Papacy is a time for hope as we rededicate ourselves to our Christian mission. As we approach the great feast of Easter it is important to remember that Christ is ever present in our schools and in our homes. The message of love of neighbour, God's forgiveness and our efforts to set Christian example is an eternal one and we reinforce it with our children on a daily basis.



Easter holidays

The school will close for the Easter Holidays from 2.30pm on Thursday 28th April and will reopen on Monday 15th April at 8.55am.

Please remember that we have an early closing on Thursday 30th April at 2.30pm



Mrs. Brown

Mrs. Brown has visited us and is making great progress back to full health after being ill. She would like to pass on her thanks for all your kind words and for the cards made by her class. She will be back at St. Gerard's when she has fully recovered and we look forward to her return sometime in the next term.



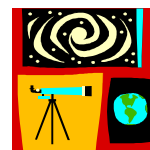
Science Week

This week we have been celebrating Science in our school with all our classes taking part in experiments and investigations. Our children have been working with **Amazonia** and **Zoolab**, getting the opportunity to see and hold exotic animals from all over the world. On Thursday we had a fantastic challenge to drop an egg with a parachute ensuring a safe landing. It was very exciting but many a poor egg splatted. Congratulations to all those who managed a safe survival for their egg. Children had a cracking time! Apologies and thanks to our cleaners!



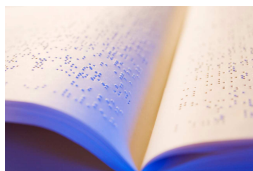
Enterprise Science Showcase

Our Primary 7 pupils celebrated an Enterprise Showcase event based at Sacred Heart Primary School. The Showcase event has taken place for the last few years with all the primary 7 pupils from the CNHS Cluster getting together to present work around a similar theme. This year the theme was Science and Scientists. The Showcase event was superb and a big thank you to all our pupils in P7 who made St. Gerard's very proud. A special thank you to Miss Manley in preparing the children for the event. Well done to everyone.



Author Visit Stuart Reid

On Wednesday Stuart Reid, a children's author visited the school and enthused our children about reading and writing. He talked to our children and read from a few pieces of his own works. Here's to the budding writers of St. Gerard's and many thanks to all those parents who made the effort to come along.



Clyde in the Classroom

Our Primary 6 pupils released their young fish into the local burn which will eventually flow into the River Clyde. The children have been caring for the trout fish from eggs and were very excited to finish their project in this way. We have participated in Clyde in the Classroom on a few occasions and hope to do so again in future years. Well done to Mrs. Callander and Mrs. Quinn and all our P6/7 pupils who took part.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our P3 pupils made their First Confession On Monday 18th March in St. Gerard's Church. Many Thanks to Fr. Brown, Mrs. MacLeod, Mrs Dent, Debbie Brennan, and Declan Kelly for a lovely celebration for our P3 pupils.

First Communion Volunteers

Our First Communion is on 11th May, 11am at St. Gerard's Church. Continue to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare for this great day. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the children's breakfast and to clear up afterward. This would be a few hours of your time from 10am til 1pm on that Saturday. If you are free and able to help out we would be greatly appreciative.



Newmains Pastoral Centre Visit

As part of the preparation for first Communion our P4 children will be visiting Newmains Pastoral Centre on Monday the 25th March for a day of retreat. We hope this will be an inspiring day for all of them.



Indoor Shoes

Please remind your child to bring home their indoor shoes for you to check if the need renewed. I notice a few big toes and flapping plimsolls in the school, not to mention the smell!!



Nursery Night Out

The nursery PTA will be holding a Karoke Night at the Bowling Club on 26th April from 7pm onwards. Tickets will be £3 available from Nursery Staff.



Holiday dates

A reminder that in the new term beginning April 16th the school will be closed on the following days

Monday 6th May Holiday
Monday 7th Inservice Day
Friday 24th May Holiday
Monday 27th May Holiday



St. Gerard's Blog

Our Bloggers have been working hard to add items including the newsletters to keep you posted about life in the school. Please support them by adding the blog as an app to your phone and checking in regularly. It would give our Bloggers a boost to see the visitor numbers rise.

St Gerard's Pirate Fun Day

Tuesday 26th March.

Pupils should come dressed as a pirate and be prepared for lots of fun filled activities.

Please help your child to complete their sponsor form. They should also bring money for our fair ground games which are 20p a go, please give your child change. This is not a pay £1 day, pupils only need money for the fair ground games.



Coffee Morning

Please support our school and our fundraising by coming to our coffee morning on

Tuesday 26th March from
9.30am – 11.30am

All sponsor money, fair
ground money and coffee
morning money is for our
chosen charities
HCPT



