



St Gerard's Primary Newsletter

Kelvin Road, Bellshill, ML4 1LN Tel: (01698) 274916

Our School Uniform

Your child/ren have been so smart for the start of this academic year. The children were in full school uniform with everyone in shirt and tie. Please continue to support the school. PE kit should be in your child's bag that they can change into for activities and then back into their uniform afterwards. Children should not wear chains or earrings for PE. Earrings should be removed or taped. If your child needs tape or a plaster for covering their ears can you please provide one for the lesson.

I would be grateful if nail varnish is kept for the weekends and eccentric hairstyles for summer holidays. Our attention to the dress code is to maintain focus on learning and to treat schooling and education with the highest degree of respect.

Please support the school in maintaining high standards of dress. Can you please, please, please put your child's name on all of their clothing. This will help Mr. McGarry when he finds a coat lying where the goal posts should be. On a serious note, we have gathered unwanted school clothing and feel reluctant to throw it in the bin. If you need an extra pair of trousers or a school jumper please come in and see if this would be suitable for your child. Clothing is all free of charge.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at St. Gerard's with a special welcome to our new Primary 1 children and their families. This time in school is always full of optimism and expectation and we hope the coming year will be a fun filled learning experience for all our learners. We welcome Mrs. Lynn Taylor and Mrs. Sonata Jankauskiene to the St. Gerard's staff; Mrs. Taylor has taken up the position of Principal Teacher and Mrs. Jankauskiene will be responsible for P3/4. We extend a warm welcome to them and I am sure their time at St. Gerard's will be very fruitful.

School Car Park

Please do not use the school car park to drop off or collect your child unless you have permission from the school. Car parking facilities are for NLC staff only. Please park responsibly in Kelvin Road and always be aware that small children are difficult to notice especially when reversing. I am fully aware that Kelvin Road, Bell Street and Fleming Road are far from perfect access areas for the school but responsible and safe driving and parking will always ensure our children are safe.

Parent Helpers

Our school values the contribution of outdoor visits to exhibitions, museums, and activities. While they enhance children's educational experiences we can only arrange these trips if we have sufficient adult supervision. In the past we have been well supported by parents and once again I would be grateful if you could consider offering your help as a parent helper. If you are able to volunteer your time please pass your name and details to our office staff and they will contact you when outings or events are organised.



Classes and Staffing

School staff:

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. McCallum | Principal Teacher |
| Mrs. Taylor | Principal Teacher |
| Mrs. McIloney | P1 |
| Mrs. Hunter | P2 |
| Mrs. Brown | P2/3 |
| Mrs. Jankauskiene | P3/4 |
| Mrs. McAdams | P4/5 |
| Miss Cahill | P5/6 |
| Mr. Harkins | P6 |
| Miss Lynch | P7 |

Nursery Staff:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Shields | Nursery Teacher |
| <i>Early Learning Practitioners:</i> | |
| Mrs. Murphy | Lead ELP |
| Mrs. McCulloch | ELP |
| Mrs. McBride | ELP |
| Mrs. Thompson | ELP |
| Mrs. Carr | ELP |
| Mrs Kerr | ELP |

Issues/concerns/complaints

Please come into the school if you have any concerns. You may wish to book an appointment and a member of the management team will meet with you to discuss your issue. We can usually resolve most matters quickly but if we cannot we will get back to you and update you as soon as possible after your initial meeting. Many parents work and we are happy to discuss matters over the phone if it is more convenient to you.

Issues that may seem insignificant can become major causes of concern for your child and yourself over time. Please inform the school, no matter how small an issue as this may alleviate any long term concerns that would have arisen.

School Office

The staff in our office work exceptionally hard and attend to your child's needs beyond the call of duty. It would make their lives a little easier if you could read the following and be as vigilant as possible in supporting them.

Medication

Please ensure that you complete a medical form provided by the school office for medications to be taken by your child during the school day. School staff are not permitted to administer medications without this form being completed. A hand written note on the morning your send your child to school is not appropriate and your help in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Home Lunch

If your child is a home lunch, can you please collect them from the school office at 12.30pm. Children should be returned to the school office no later than 1.15pm. Children will not be permitted to leave the school without adult supervision so please make sure you or a friend/relative, who is collecting the child, reports to the school office to meet them.

Please do not change going home arrangements unless it is an emergency and please inform the office

Start and Finish times

Please ensure your child is in the appropriate line at 8.55am. Latecomers should report to the school office before attending class. Please make arrangements to collect your child at 3pm as parental late coming disrupts office practice at a very busy time of the day.

Letters

The school sends permission slips home for various events and activities throughout the year. **Can you please ensure that these are completed as soon as possible and returned to the school.** Parental permission must be sought if a child is leaving the school. It can cause serious disruption in the office and some embarrassment to the child if we are trying to seek permission via telephone call.

Things I need for school

While we all forget the odd item now and again, can you please try to make sure that your child has everything s/he needs for the school day; PE kit, packed lunch, homework, letters, money etc.

Attendance & Lateness

We must record all absence/ lateness and would appreciate every effort to ensure children are at school on time. If your child is late please take them or ask them to report to the office. Several parents ask permission to remove their children for family holidays during term time. If you wish to do this, please ask in writing stating the dates of absence. Your child will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. **Authorised absence is only granted if you work for a public service and supply a letter from your employer stating that this is the only holiday time available.** This is usually for people working in the public sector with holiday dates indicated by your employer such as NHS or the Police. While I appreciate the cost savings that can be made out with holiday dates I would counsel the need to maintain as high an attendance at school as possible.

Diet, Snacks & Lunch

As many of you will be aware, hydration is important to the learning process helping children concentrate and therefore learn. To this end the school encourages children to bring in water bottles that they can fill up during the school day. Please ask your child to bring their water bottle home on a regular basis for a regular clean and renewal after a sensible period of time.

In the past few years, significant research has indicated the damage that sugar is doing to our children's long-term health. Sugar also has a detrimental effect on the learning process with research indicating impairment in concentration levels leaving children "hyper" with the inability to listen effectively to instructions or be seated to a task requiring quiet thought and reflection. Can I ask that you limit sugary sweets within your child's snack and lunch boxes to a minimum, if at all and that you encourage your child to bring in a healthy snack; a health tuck shop is run within the school at break time. As part of our health promotion I intend to confiscate sweets/drinks that are inappropriate to learning and return them to your child at the end of the school day.

Your support in maintaining healthy approaches to food and drink would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your continued support and I look forward to working with you over the course of this new academic year.

Ian G. Conaghan
(Head Teacher)

