



# St. Gerard's Primary School

## COVID19 Coronavirus

As stated by the First Minister this week, we will continue with the current arrangements until the middle of February with a decision being made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February as to arrangements after that.

School closure for most of our children means getting up early and logging on to their device to find out what learning they are doing that day. I hope everyone is managing to cope with yet another new normal. We are supporting families with IT challenges so please get in touch if you are in this position and we will try our best to help and support. Please try to get your child ready to engage online at 9.15am and 2.15pm Monday to Friday.

## Key Workers

Due to the current lockdown conditions key workers' children should ensure that their application is supported by a letter from their employer. If your shift patterns allow you to support your child at home for part of the week, please inform the school of the days your child will attend. This may change from week to week and I appreciate the fuss but this allows us to track all our children as an ongoing register of the whole school is required. Feel free to phone, email or send your child to school with a written update. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club during this lockdown period will begin daily at 8.30am. Please send your child to school for that time if you wish to use this service. Please remember that school starts at 8.50am and finishes at 2.50pm.

## Jotters

As we continue through this period your child may require another jotter. I have placed a trolley outside, at the main entrance, full of jotters so please feel free to come and collect. Please ensure you are wearing a mask and that you sanitise your hands before selecting a jotter. There is a sanitiser outside the foyer for your use.

## Upcoming Events

February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Mid Term Break

February 10<sup>th</sup>

Inservice Day

## Archbishop Phillip Tartaglia

Sadly, as I am sure you are aware, the Archbishop of Glasgow passed away with his funeral being held yesterday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. I met Archbishop Tartaglia on a few occasions and had the kind fortune to share a beer. He was a gracious and kind man who had time for everyone and he will be sadly missed. His commitment to education and appreciation of all those who work in our schools was outstanding.

## Contact Details

Parents should not come into the school office unless instructed to. If, for any reason you need to contact the school please email or phone the school office.

Email : [enquiries@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk)

[Alex.Mcnair@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:Alex.Mcnair@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk)

[KMcDonald@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:KMcDonald@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk)

## Sacraments

With our churches and places of worship closed, Fr. S. Parks has informed us that all Sacramental events have been postponed until further notice. After discussion with Fr. Parks and depending on ongoing circumstances we are looking into the possibility of Sacraments being administered within the school. We are in the very early stages of discussion and our intention is to support children and families as far as possible while being mindful of maintaining engagement in church and religious life, something we are all missing. If we can facilitate a way of administering Reconciliation and Confirmation in particular we will get in touch with details. While we have no confirmed date for First Communion we remain hopeful given that May is still some time off. We appreciate that this is a concern for families and we will update you as soon as circumstances allow. Your patience in this is greatly appreciated.

## Contact Details & Family Data Information. Parent Portal

Please be mindful that the school needs your most up to date address and contact details. Please check and make sure that any new phone numbers are known to the school. If you have registered with the parent portal you can update details there. If not, can I please encourage you to do so as soon as you can? Details and instructions have been sent home on numerous occasions and are on the school blog site <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/StGerardsBlog/2012/12/20/st-gerards-blog/> If you are unable to do this please email the school your updated contact details [enquiries@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk)

## Enrolments

If you have a child starting school in August 2021, please register your child online through the North Lanarkshire Website, info below. Please remember in order to process your application you will need a birth certificate and your council tax bill. These can be photographed and/or scanned as an attachment with the application. A complete application cannot be made without these forms. <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/registration-infant-beginners-primary-school>

## Novels

As the government have extended lockdown we are aware that children will need new reading material. We are looking into how we can support children with the possibility of collecting books from the school. We will be in touch with further details once we have established how this can be carried out as safely as possibly.

---

## Reminder Re COVID19

Please be aware that all information in this newsletter is subject to change given that National and Local government may change or adapt social distancing rules. Please follow press details from the Scottish Government and updates from North Lanarkshire Council.

---