

St. Gerard's Primary School

COVID19 Coronavirus Update

First of all, I hope everyone is safe and well and that you have had a worthwhile break with your family over what has been a lovely summer period. As you will no doubt be aware many of the restrictions have been lifted across the country as we are now 'beyond level 0'. However within the school we have in place procedures or restrictions and I am sure you have seen the news highlighting that increase in virus transmission is taking place within schools. Therefore I want to inform you of restrictions within the school and timings for some of these to change. Please read over these carefully and support the school in implementing appropriate restrictions and changes. As I type I am aware of the changing picture within North Lanarkshire and within the wider country. Changes to arrangements may happen as we head into Autumn so please keep a focus on national and local news and social media if possible.

Arrangements and Restrictions within School

- Staggered start and finish times along with split break and lunch will continue until further notice.
- Children should attend school without toys or other unnecessary items.
- Children will not need to maintain distancing within class with other children but will be mindful of adult distancing.
- Sanitising stations will continue to be used as before on a regular basis by children and staff.
- Teachers where possible will maintain 2 metre distancing.
- Parents should wear a mask if they are dropping off or collecting the children from the school access points. Staff will not police this and we ask for your cooperation in keeping with school and North Lanarkshire policy.
- Contact with the school should be through email or phone call. Where appropriate the school will facilitate in-school meetings. This will usually be for specific purposes where face to face is significantly in the child's and family interests.
- Expressive Arts and PE can take place with appropriate ventilation in place.
- Children should arrive dressed for PE as we have no appropriate changing facilities.
- Mass for the whole school will take place through Teams within the school.
- Parents' Evening will continue to be online with details in due course.



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-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk

mcnaira@northlan.org.uk

moodiek@@northlan.org.uk

Tel: 01698274916

School Uniforms

Our school uniform is available from LogoXpres online and from Miapperl in Motherwell. I understand that the lilac shirts have been problematic to get but please continue to try to get hold of them. We have asked the companies to make us PE outfits and the purple t-shirt looks great. We would encourage, where appropriate, all parents to purchase one if possible. Our uniform is a stabilizing influence and helps maintain an atmosphere of learning. It also minimizes parental concern about what their child should wear. Please support the school in this regard. There is a school clothing grant for parents whose child is receiving free meals so please contact the school and we will get appropriate forms to you

Contact details

We have now moved to a new email system across all schools in North Lanarkshire and if you have had trouble contacting the school or myself then many apologies. First class was discontinued at the end of last term and new email addresses began on Monday 30th August. It has been a disconcerting time for all staff but we are getting to grips with the new arrangements. Contact details are under the school badge above.

Start and Finish Times

8.50am Start	9am Start	Gate
2.50pm Finish	3pm Finish	Entrance/Exit
P1	P1/2	Kelvin Road side gate
P2/3	P3	Bell Street gate
P4	P4/5	Kelvin Road main gate
P5/6	P6	Fleming Road gate
P7		Fleming Road gate

8.15am for Breakfast Club. Children should enter via the main gate and the main entrance.

Primary 7 Confirmations

Our P7 will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 27th October at St. Gerard's Church. Please remember our Confirmandi in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

New P1 start

Congratulations to all 31 of our Primary 1 pupils and families. Our children are settling into life at St. Gerard's and we hope families have been made very welcome and are being looked after and supported by our extended community. Mrs. Ditty and Mrs Hunter are our P1 teachers and we wish them every success for the year ahead.

Parking

A reminder to all parents that the school car park cannot be used for dropping off or collecting children. The car park is only available for children with disabilities and this with prior arrangement with the head teacher. Kelvin Road, Flemming Road and Bell Street as well as Hattonrigg Road are exceptionally busy and I would like to thank you for your ongoing cooperation in ensuring safety and courteousness while driving and parking around the school.

Holiday Dates

September Weekend : 24th – 27th September 2021

October Break : 11th – 15th October 2021

FootPrint Friday

P7, P6 & P5/6 have already enjoyed a day's walking. I will get details and permission slips out for the other classes nearer to their walks. Dates for classes this term are

20 th August	P7	27 th August	P6
3 rd September	P5/6	10 th September	P4/5
17 th September	P4	1 st October	P3
22 nd October	P2/3	5 th November	P1/2
12 th November	P1		

John Wilson Photography

Photographer will be in the school on Thursday 23rd September for individual and family photographs. Please ensure haircuts and baths are completed for this day!!

Names on Clothes

Please, Please, Please put your child's name on all the clothing and school bags etc. It is very frustrating for parents when a child has left their jacket in school or another child has mistakenly taken it home and developed ownership of it. If names are on clothes, it sorts out small problems and saves parents' time and on occasions, money. For new Primary 1 parents this is an essential job in ensuring you and your child's clothes are continually matched up. Your help with this is greatly appreciated, especially by our janitor who is the person who collects jumpers, ties and jackets after playtimes.

Homework

Children will continue to use Teams to access their homework. Homework task will begin from Monday and will be posted by staff for each subsequent Monday. There will be no homework in the week before and after the termly breaks at October, Christmas and Easter. All tasks should be completed where possible for the following Thursday and certainly by the Friday. This flexibility allows for family events and various clubs that children may attend.

Reading Books

Your cooperation in ensuring reading books are returned in your child's book bag would be appreciated. Have a look behind cupboards etc and please return any books belonging to the school.

Reminder Re COVID 19

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.