

St. Gerard's Primary School

COVID19 Coronavirus Update

No doubt everyone will have noticed the significant rise in Covid cases in North Lanarkshire and within our own school community. This is majorly down to testing when sick or being informed to isolate. This has had an impact on staffing as well as learning and hopefully with numbers now decreasing we can see an improvement in overall attendance at school for children. The coming months leading towards Christmas will include cold and flu season so please be vigilant in ensuring that sniffles and sneezes are appropriately checked out and tested as appropriate to ensure we have as full a complement of pupils and staff as we head towards winter. I hope you all have a well-deserved October holiday and get positive opportunities to get together as a family.

Split Breaks/Lunch

North Lanarkshire Council have instructed schools to look at their Risk assessments in light of changes and developments around our response to Covid. As a result we aim to stop our split break and lunch times after the Inservice on 15th November. Prior to this we will pilot proposals within the school after October break to ensure returning to previous breaks is consistent with social distancing for staff as this is still required. I will write to confirm these arrangements if pilot proposals are successful.

Parents in School Grounds

A reminder that parents should not enter the school grounds and should contact the school by email or telephone to discuss any matter. The start or end of the school day is a busy time for staff and should be avoided if possible. A note in the child's bag with instructions to hand to teacher or a call/email to the school would be greatly appreciated.

St. Gerard's Feast Day

Please remember that Friday 16th October is St. Gerard's Feast Day so join the whole school community in a quiet prayer for your own intentions on that day. We will celebrate the feast day with Mass on the 7th October with Fr. Parkes and have a fun dress down day on Friday 8th October 21.

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.



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
nlmcnaira@northlan.org.uk
nlmoodiek@@northlan.org.uk

Tel: 01698274916

Parents' Evening

Many thanks for your cooperation with parents' evening. Staff reported a great response on telephone or Teams so many thanks as this gives our staff a great boost knowing that your support is trusted and ever present.

School Parent Forum

Many thanks to those who completed the information on the QR code sent home last week. I have added the QR code below if you previously missed it. I will get in touch to arrange a meeting after the holiday.



St Gerard's Sponsored Fun Run 7th October 2021

Our Fun Run around the school will take place on Thursday 7th October. In the previous years we have invited parents to join us but we will not be extending this invitation for obvious reasons. Sponsor forms have previously been sent home and we would be grateful if money raised could be returned in the week after October holidays. The sponsored run will be for school funds. We will carry out further charitable works during Advent and Easter. We will tweet photos and videos of the run as the day passes. Our times have changed due to St. Gerard's Feast Day Mass being moved to Thursday at the school at 9.30am.

P1 & P1/2	10.30am
P2/3 & P3	10.45am
P4 & P4/5	11.10am
P5/6 & P6	12noon
P7	1.30pm

Please ensure that children come dressed for the fun run. They will remain in this for the remainder of the day. P7 should arrive in school uniform for the Mass and will get the opportunity to change for their run. They will remain in their sports clothing for the remainder of the day.

Halloween

Our Halloween Fun Day will take place on Friday 29th October. The day will replicate our plans from last year and I have included the conditions in which this can go ahead.

- Children should come to school in their Halloween costume
- Children should not wear anything that needs to be removed, i.e. hats, helmets, boxes, masks, gloves, etc.
- Children should not bring accessories to the costume, i.e. clubs, hammers, sickles, baskets, light sabers, etc.
- Children should be able to sit down and move freely. Costumes that impinge on this will be uncomfortable as the day goes on and should be avoided.
- No sweets or treats should be brought in.
- Everyone should be prepared to have a good time!!!

P1 & P7 Teams Meeting

After the October holiday I plan to meet on Teams with the whole group of P1 parents to support your child's transition to St. Gerard's. I also want to meet with our P7 parents as they prepare for their child attending the secondary school. Also a reminder of P7 Glencoe Meeting. P7 will fly by!!!!

- P1 – 9th November at 6.30pm on Teams
- P7 – 4th November at 6.30pm on Teams – Glencoe Meeting
- P7 – 10th November at 6.30pm on Teams – Transition Meeting

Laudato Si'

Laudato Si' is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home". In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action." Our school has committed to engaging with this message and have joined the Scottish Catholic Education Service and have become a Laudato Si School. This is an opportunity over the coming years for our school community to embark on a journey of prayer, reflection and action around climate change that is consistent with Gospel values of care for God's Creation. Laudato Si's motto is "Pray, Learn, Act".

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.