

# St. Gerard's Primary School

## COVID19 Coronavirus Update

We are in the process of removing the split breaks and the split lunchtimes. This gives our children, particularly those in composite classes the chance to play together. P1, P2, P3 & P4 all now receive free school meals. While this is good news, we are implementing the changes slowly to support our dinner staff. We continue to maintain mask wearing guidelines for all staff as well as social distancing. Children continue to wash their hands and sanitise regularly. While a sense of complacency can creep in, I am enormously proud of the efforts made by staff and pupils within the school. Local and national guidelines change and develop regularly and I will keep you updated as and when this happens.

## Primary 7 Confirmations

Our P7 celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October at St. Gerard's Church. Bishop Toal presided at Mass and we are indebted to him and Fr Parkes for all their support. A special thanks to Mrs. Reilly who has prepared the children for this special day. Thanks also to Debbie and Donna Brennan for preparing the music for the Liturgy. We will have a special lunch next week to thank the children for all their efforts. Well done to all.

## All Saints Day. 1st November 2021

We will celebrate All Saints' Day in St. Gerard's Church. This will be the first time in the building, as a school, since the pandemic began; it is a welcome sign of further normality.

## St Gerard's Sponsored Fun Run 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Our Fun Run took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October and many congratulations to our runners who raised to date £1680. Please send in any sponsor money to the school if you are still collecting. Many thanks to all the children and staff for their efforts and thank you to all our parents for their support.

## Halloween

Our Halloween Fun Day was a great success. We had our online assembly with the usual corny jokes. We had a few new ones that made us all laugh. Here is a little sample:

**Why do skeletons have low self-esteem?** They have no body to love.

**Know why skeletons are so calm?** Because nothing gets under their skin.

**What do you call a cleaning skeleton?** The grim sweeper.

**What do skeletons order at a restaurant?** Spare ribs.



## 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.

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## School Parent Forum

Many thanks to those who have put their names forward for the refreshed parent council/PTA. I will arrange an online meeting for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.30pm. Please try to keep the time slot free and an email invitation will arrive next week.

## COP 26

We are preparing for COP 26 this term. Climate Change has been on the agenda for many years but without major movement from our governments both here and around the world. In keeping with the Pope's encyclical, "Laudato Si" we are focusing on "caring for our Common Home". As the Cop conference is now very much with us, please encourage your children to discuss environmental issues and climate change. It can at times feel like lip service to talk about these issues as we drive our cars and put our heating on but the dialogue from our pupils has been very rich and informed; our young people care and it may be this generation that we all need to depend on within this decade.

Many thanks for your cooperation in dealing with all the mitigations around Halloween. This helped in making the day a great success. A big thank you to Mr. David Blair, one of our children's grandparents who donated a Halloween treat bag for every child in the school, we cannot thank you enough. A former pupil's parent, Mrs Linda Smith also donated several bags of Halloween decorations for our use around the school. These gestures of support are heartfelt and so appreciated by all the staff and pupils in the school.

## **Christmas!**

Apologies for bringing it up and I know it is only the end of October but if the shops can say it, surely so can the school. We are planning a few Christmas events and while we cannot have our traditional Fayre and Show we will do everything we can to ensure our children have a great time in the final weeks of the term. To that end we are arranging the following:

### **Christmas Fayre**

Our Fayre will be comprised of some of our usual activities such as raffles and fun games alongside hotdogs and juice. This will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This will be a Dress Down Day and children should come along with some pocket money prepared to have a nice day. Our P7 children will cater to their every need.

### **Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day**

We will have our Christmas dinner and Jumper day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December so please look out an appropriate attire. We will get menu options to you at some point in the coming weeks.

### **Christmas Raffle**

We will hold our traditional Christmas raffle for parents. We would be delighted if you could make small donations for the raffle to supplement traditional gifts that the school and hopefully local businesses will add to. Full details of the raffle will be sent home at the start of December so please send in any donations from today.

### **Bring and Buy Toy Sale**

Please look out all the old toys that are good condition and send them in and we will find them a new home at a reasonable price. The toy sale will be part of our Christmas Fayre so start looking through that toy cupboard just now and send in the toys any time from now. Please remind your child not to buy back an old toy they are now donating.

### **Infant Nativity Show**

Our show will be made available live online. We are hoping to be able to record it and place onto our school website also. If anyone has digital skills in this area we would love to hear from you.

### **Christmas Food Bank**

Once again we will ask for your generosity in supporting families that are struggling to make ends meet. Our food bank will be collected on any days, after our school fayre, beginning on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **P6 & P7 Carol Singing at Tesco and Morrisons**

We are hopeful that we will be able to participate in cheering up shoppers at our local stores. Confirmation of dates and times will be sent home in due course.

### **P7 Carol Singing at Hatton Lea Nursing Home**

Last year we cheered up residents singing outside and raising our voices. Hopefully we will be able to repeat this and bring some Christmas Spirit to the senior members of our community.

## **Book Amnesty**

Many thanks to those who have hunted high and low to find St. Gerard's literacy books, it is greatly appreciated. Please continue to send in any books you may find and also please be vigilant in ensuring that home learning books are returned at the appropriate time.

## **Outdoor Clothing/Coat**

Inclement weather is well and truly with us now but our hardy children will continue to enjoy fresh air and enjoy their break times. Please ensure they arrive at school with outdoor clothing that will keep them warm and dry.

## **Parent/Visitors at School**

All parents and visitors coming to the school building should do so by appointment and should always wear a mask and sanitise their hands before entering the building

## **Water Bottles**

Parents should ensure that children have a full water bottle with them. Due to cross contamination our water fountains are not in operation

## **Home time arrangements**

Can parents all try to ensure that home time arrangements are consistent. Last minute calls to the office before the final bell can be disruptive. Your help with this would be appreciated.

## **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.