

St. Gerard's Primary School

Welcome back to Term 3

A belated "Happy New Year" to all. By now you will be fed up with January darkness and praying for February to arrive! This term tends to be a strong focus on attainment with cultural events that add to the learning atmosphere. We have started the year with a whole school topic on Scotland culminating in our Robert Burns assembly. We will be having our "Wear it Tartan" day on Friday 31st January. We are also in preparation for P3 making their **First Reconciliation** at Sacred Heart Church on 12th February 2025. They will be the first cohort to participate in this Sacrament at Sacred Heart so please keep them in your prayers; we wish them well.

Presentation for School; Standards & Expectations

Recently there has been an increase in senior pupils arriving at school with make up on and nails painted. We have always been a school that prides itself on our focus on teaching and learning. Anything to distract or divert attention from this goal is detrimental to that process. I would ask that you ensure your child arrives at school without make up, lip gloss and nails painted. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Our high standards within the school in a few areas could do with a health check. Standards raise expectations for learners and foster an attitude of success that impacts on attainment and achievement. Please try to maintain our standards in the following areas:

Uniform

Please ensure children are in shirt and tie every day and smart for the school day. If they have PE first thing, please ensure their uniform is in their bag ready to change into.

Hair, Nails and Jewellery

Please ensure that children do not come to school with nails painted and/or wear excessive jewellery; small stud earrings only. Please try to save exuberant hairstyles such as shaved patterns or accessories for holiday periods.

Mobile Phones

We understand that mobile phones are considered a modern-day requirement for parental piece of mind. If the phone is necessary, can you instruct your child to give to their teacher at the start of the day and these will be returned at the end of the day. The phone will remain off during the day. If not required, please keep at home.

Water

Can you ensure that your child brings water for their desk area to have during the day. No diluting, fizzy or sports drinks please. Just water. Can I ask that you send in a sensible sized water bottle.

School Dinner Debt

A significant number of parents have a school dinner debt. North Lanarkshire Council have stated that they will no longer manage this at the end of the academic year and that all debt will transfer to the following year and to the secondary school account if this applies. Can you please check your account and rectify any debts incurred. This only applies to children in P6 & P7 as lunch is free for P1-P5 children.



St. Gerard Majella



Feast Day 16th October

Jubilee Year 2025.

The church has declared 2025 a Jubilee year. A Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation in the Catholic Church. It's a time to renew one's relationship with God, others, and creation. As well as diocesan and parish commitments for the year we have embarked on a consultation with our staff and children to celebrate what we as a school can do to mark this occasion from now until Christmas. I would be grateful if you as parents can take part in this by using the QR code and participating in this consultation. Many thanks in advance for your help.

Jubilee Contribution



"Here, The Will of God is Done" St. Gerard Majella

logoXpres
schoolwear



Scotcrest
UNIFORMS



MIYO
SCHOOLWEAR



Panto!

Snow White will be performed in our school hall on Wednesday 29th January. This will be a £2.00 donation towards the cost of the Panto!

Change of Contact Details

Can you ensure that you let the school know if any contact details for your child have changed. This could be address, phone numbers or emergency contact details. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Toys, Games, Balls, Bangles & Bracelets

Can you please ensure that you do not allow your child to bring personal items from home into the school. While this may seem innocent enough it is a source of upset and unnecessary conflict when it gets lost, misused or broken usually by someone else. The teachers' time is then taken up resolving the issue. Your cooperation in this matter is invaluable.

Playground Snacks

There is an increasing number of children eating sweets before school; this is chocolate bars, hard candy sweets and fizzy drinks. Again, we have noticed children eating two or three high sugar snacks at playtime and as part of their packed lunch. We know that this sugar spike is not conducive to settled, calm learning within the classroom. The continued consumption of sugar early, mid-morning & lunch time will have a long-term impact on a child's cognitive function and their learning attainment and achievement may suffer significantly. We also know that sugar as an energy spike can contribute to unwanted and disruptive behaviours also detrimental the child's and their classmates, learning. While we recognise an appropriate place for treats, we would ask that you review your child's snacks, lunch box and where appropriate, counsel them on purchasing sweets before school begins.

Attendance

Recently I wrote to you with updated attendance to date for this academic year. North Lanarkshire Council are very concerned that post Covid school attendance has fallen across the whole of the authority and this is also the case for St. Gerard's Primary School. Pre covid we could hope that attendance would be around 95%. It has since covid been around 92%. A consistent 3% drop is a significant number of school days lost across the whole of the school. To support and promote increased attendance the local authority has created a set of standard letters that will reflect below 90%, 80%, and 70%. I will be sending these letters out to applicable children's families at the end of the month. At this time, please get in contact to discuss how we can support you to increase attendance levels for your child. Also, please ensure your child is on time for school at 8.55am.

School Uniform

Attached are QR codes for our uniform suppliers. This will take you to the various websites with up-to-date pricing.