



St. Gerard Majella

St. Gerard's Primary School

St. Gerard's Church

As many of you are aware, St. Gerard's Church will close with the final mass being at 10.45am on Sunday 24th November 2024. The church has been part of the community for over 50 years and while this is a sad day, we must embrace the reality and move forward with hope. The first Mass within Sacred Heart for the combined parish of St. Gerard's & Sacred Heart will be at 7pm on Tuesday 26th November 2024.

We will, as a school, celebrate our final Mass at St. Gerard's at 10am on Friday 22nd November followed by a coffee morning at the school with funds raised going to Missio. We hope you can join us for all the above. Meanwhile, please keep our school and parish in your prayers as we participate in this transition.

P7 Confirmation

Bishop Toal will confirm our P7 children on Thursday 7th November. Mrs. Hunter and Miss Platt have been working with the children in preparation for this sacrament. Bishop Toal visited the children on Wednesday 30th October and spent some time talking to them about a variety of things including their name choices for their confirmation. A massive thank you to staff and parents working together for our children. A thank you also to Paul who has visited us regularly preparing the music for the evening. We are all looking forward to the occasion and I am sure it will be a happy and rewarding night. Please continue to pray for our confirmandi in these final days of preparation.

Halloween

Our Family Halloween Night was a big success and thanks to all those in the PTA who helped organise the evening. A big thanks to all those who stayed behind to clear up. With your help we all managed to get to bed at a reasonable hour. Your evening of fun managed to raise £699.00.

Our in-school Halloween Party was its usual mixture of madness and mayhem!! A big thanks to all our staff who make a big effort for our children. A big thanks to all our parents who got our children prepared in a variety of costumes for the day, greatly appreciated. Now onto bonfire Night and then headlong towards Christmas! Aaaaaarrgh!!

School Fundraising

As stated, our Halloween night raised £699.00. Our school fund over the last couple of years has been targeted towards improving and updating our ICT within the school. This year we have installed 3 new promethean smartboards. In the last few years we purchased 6, meaning that all our 9 main classrooms all have new smartboards. This is a significant contribution to the learning and teaching environment of our children. Teachers use them throughout the day, so many thanks for your help. We are continuing to improve our ICT and will continue to build our capacity with laptops, ipads and subscriptions for Education City, Sum Dog, Clicker 8, Nessy and White Rose Maths to name a few.

Theatre in School

As part of P7 transition they will be attending CNHS on the 25th November to participate in "Theatre in Schools" project. This is a great occasion for us and is supported by Theatre in schools Scotland www.theatreinschoolsscotland.co.uk will give you more information.

Feast Day 16th October

Dates for Diary

Monday 4th November 24.

Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 7th November at 7pm.

P7 Confirmation

Monday 18th November.

Inservice Day. School Closed.

Friday 22nd November at 10am.

School Final Mass followed by Missio
Coffee Morning

Sunday 24th November 10.45am.

Final Thanksgiving Mass at St. Gerard's

Tuesday 26th November 2024.

Opening Mass at Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 9th December

School Photographs

School Photographer

Our school photographer will be here on Monday the 9th December for individual and family photographs. This should give you plenty of time to find that school tie and get the haircuts in place.

Flu Vaccination

The immunization NHS staff will be at the school to vaccinate your children against the flu on Monday 4th November.

Christmas Fayre

When one event finishes another one sits on the horizon! Our Christmas Fayre will be on Friday 6th December from 3-5pm. We are already preparing for this date. Please think about donations for our fayre and we will begin collecting these items from today. Items for raffle and tombola.

- Children's items for the Kid's Tombola
- Bottles for The Bottle Stall
- Small children's items such as party favours for our prize stall
- Cakes, biscuits and baking for our tea/coffee refreshments table

There will be many games, stalls and activities to take part in costing from 20p.

Please note that items handed in should be new and unused. There will not be a Bring & Buy stall for second hand items.

We hope to see as many of you as possible to kick off our Christmas celebrations.

A full Christmas events Newsletter will come out to you detailing Christmas parties etc in due course.

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas Dinner preparation is beginning and shortly you will receive a letter asking for your child's choice from the menu available. Can you please return the reply slip as soon as possible to help our kitchen staff.

Cross Country Running

Our P6 & P7 children have been preparing for the NLC Cross Country event coming up on the 21st November at Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre. I have been so impressed with the effort and application of the children and hopefully they are enjoying the training which I can assure you is far from easy.

Transport Costs

Throughout the year we have a variety of events and activities taking place just like the Cross Country or Theatre in Scotland events.

Some events are free, but a significant number have an attached cost. With all events comes subsequent transport costs also.

Combined, an average trip to one of these events can cost around £12 per child. We use our school funds to subsidise these trips and where events are not optional, we try to cover the cost completely like transition events at CNHS.

To help with ongoing transport costs I will begin to ask for a contribution towards the overall cost and where an event is selected by the teacher as an educational trip, I will ask for a transport + event contribution.

Where possible we will always try to subsidise from the school fund for all our children to minimise the cost for all our families.

Toys in School

Children like to bring toys, cards, footballs and other items from home. While, in a perfect world this would be lovely, it leads to problems for our teachers and playground staff.

"It's my ball, you're not playing", "She took my dolly!", "He took my cards", "I've lost my....." etc.

To avoid unnecessary upset please do not let or allow your child to bring personal items to school. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.