



St. Gerard Majella  
Feast Day 16<sup>th</sup> October

## St. Gerard's Primary School

### Preparing for Easter

As we come to the end of the winter period, we are enjoying our time in school as we ready ourselves for the celebration of Easter. We have come together as a whole school, and in our classes, to reflect on the period of Lent and we continue to prepare our hearts and our minds for Easter Sunday.

In school, this term always has a feeling of heads down for hard work, but we always do that in St Gerard's style! We are enjoying our Lenten fundraising and Lenten assemblies. We are grateful to Mrs Reilly for hosting Rosary and Stations of the Cross lunchtime clubs. We are also grateful to the upper school staff for leading the charge with show rehearsals. And of course, we congratulate our Primary 3 children on such a successful celebration of First Reconciliation. Never a dull moment, I'm sure you will agree.

We are also celebrating the re-launch of our school blog. Each class is now up and running and providing information that allows an insight into the goings on inside the class. Many thanks to Mrs Clarke for co-ordinating this.

### Attendance and Latecoming

Attendance and latecoming is always a focus at our school. Attendance is the key to learning progress, so we appreciate your support as we work together to manage and support the high standards set by North Lanarkshire Council of achieving 95% attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate that if your child is absent for any reason, including illness or an appointment, you must contact the school. Please email:

[enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk)

This should be done before **9:20am** on the first morning of the absence. Emails will be checked daily, and in the event of an unexplained absence, you will receive an email asking you to contact us.

We continue to have a steady stream of children arriving at the office after the 8:55am bell. Arriving late to school is unsettling for your child, as well as unsettling for the rest of the class as children catch up with the important morning routines they have missed. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives on time, arriving through their appropriate gate, and is in their line for their teacher welcoming them. (P1-3 children go directly into their classrooms for soft start.) After 8:55am, the gates will be locked for safety reasons by our janitorial staff. Any child arriving after this should enter through the school's front entrance and will be recorded as late. Please be reminded that parents should not enter the playground or classrooms.

### P7 Residential at Ford Castle

Time will fly between now and May when our P7 Residential Trip will take place. We have arranged an information evening for parents on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 6:00pm.



### Dates For Your Diary

#### Parent's Evening

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### Primary 4 – 7 School Show

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 11am (Dress rehearsal - 1 free ticket to pensioner family member)

Show performances:

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11am

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 6.30pm

#### End of term

School closes at **2:30pm** on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

#### School Reopens

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 8:55am

#### A look ahead to the summer term:

#### Ford Castle Parent Information Meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 6pm

#### First Communion Prayer Service

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm

#### First Communion Retreat

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

#### First Communion

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 11am, Sacred Heart Church

#### P7 Trip to Ford Castle

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

#### Health Week

Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

We are very proud of our Primary 3 children who enjoyed a beautiful celebration of First Reconciliation on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Their hard work in preparing for the Sacrament was evident in the happy, holy and joyous evening we all enjoyed together. In true St Gerard's style, the children also enjoyed their McDonalds lunch the following week - a treat to show our pride.

## First Holy Communion

Our P4 children have begun their preparations for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and we are enjoying supporting them as they begin their beautiful journey to receiving the Eucharist. The celebration will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May but we would like to invite 2 parents/carers to come along to school on the afternoon of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May for our Prayer Service. Invites to follow.

## School Fundraising

Our Lenten fundraising is well underway. We continue to support our named charities: St Andrew's Hospice and Missio Scotland. So far, we have enjoyed a crazy hair day, a joke competition (well done to P2/3!), we are guessing the sweets in the jar (not eating them P4) and guessing the bunny's birthday with P1/2. We appreciate any donations that you are able to make. Please note the following planned activities for the remaining weeks of Lent:

Primary 5	organising	Easter Bunny Obstacle Course	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	50p to enter
Primary 6/7	organising	Easter Quiz	WB 16 <sup>th</sup> March	50p to enter
Primary 7	organising	Furthest Bunny Jump	WB 16 <sup>th</sup> March	50p a go
Primary 5/6	organising	Easter Egg Tombola	WB 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	50p for 5 tickets
Primary 1	organising	Guess the Bunny's Name	WB 30 <sup>th</sup> March	20p a go
Primary 3	organising	Design an Easter Egg Competition	WB 30 <sup>th</sup> March	50p an entry

## Easter Show

Excitement is building as our Primary 4 to 7 children and teachers continue to rehearse for our show 'Dreams Come Alive', taking place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11am (dress rehearsal – one free ticket given to each family for this performance), Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> of March at 11am and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of April at 6:30pm. Tickets are available NOW and are selling fast!

## School Blog

We are delighted that our school blog is up and running. Each class has their own page which will provide a little insight into your child's learning. Also on there, you will find a rundown of the events of the week ahead. This is (normally) posted on a Friday, to keep everyone in the loop with the life and times of the school. There is an opportunity for you to provide feedback on the blog and its uses – this will help us grow our blog over the coming weeks and months. You can access the blog and the feedback form with the following QR codes:

Blog -



Feedback form -



## Parent's Evening

Parent's evening will take place on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. Specific appointment times will have been issued by your child's teacher.

## Housekeeping Updates

**Indoor Shoes:** we ask that, if you have not done so already, you send in a pair of indoor shoes for your child to wear when in class. This has always been the policy in St Gerard's, and is one of the reasons that we can be proud of such a clean and welcoming school. Our children (and teachers) regularly sit on carpets and floors to learn and play. Muddy shoes make this more of a challenge. We recommend plain black plimsols which can be bought for £2-£4 from local supermarkets and stores. We understand that this may be an additional cost for some of our families and so, if you require any support, please contact our enquiries email at: [enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk)

**Staff Car Park and Morning Gates:** We would like to remind you that the car park in the school grounds is a staff car park. Please do not use this to drop your child off at the office door in the morning. Outside of breakfast club children, P1-3 children should be entering the school at Bell Street gate. P4-7 should be entering the school gate at Fleming Road. If children have a younger sibling entering via Bell Street, please drop off all children here and they can enter through the infant classes to access their lines.

## Upcoming Holidays

The school will close for the Easter Holidays on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm**. Please ensure you make arrangements for your child to be collected at this earlier time. Schools will re-open for the new term on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8.55am.