



ST. MONICA'S Primary School

August
2023

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children back into school this week. They have come back into school with such a positive attitude and really happy to be back into school – seeing their friends again and settling back into school routines.



Can I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new Primary 1 children and their families. Your children have made an amazing start to their time at St Monica's – they have come in smiling and positive and have been a credit to you. Thank you for the part that you have played in preparing them to start school. We look forward to working with you all and getting to know you better. We hope that all of our new children and parents will be happy at St Monica's.

An additional thanks to parents/carers of our existing pupils for sending them back to school looking smart and in uniform.

Can we ask that parents check that all of your child's belongings have been labelled. We have so many children in each class and want each child to learn to look after their belongings and keep them safe. It is so much easier to give the items to the correct child if they are labelled.

STAFFING

For this session we are welcoming our new members of staff Miss Brown, Miss Dickson, Mr McKenzie and Mrs Feeney. We would also like to welcome back Mrs Tennent and Mrs Fitzpatrick. We hope that they will be very happy with us.



PRIMARY 7 INFORMATION

Primary 7 ties were issued to pupils before the summer holidays. Some children did not receive these as some were absent from school. If you did not receive a school tie, please report to the school office and we will issue you one.

Primary 7 children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to attend a meeting with Father Ghislain on Wednesday 30th of August at 6pm in St Monica's Church.

ST MONICA'S FEAST DAY

The 27th August is the official feast day of our patron saint. We hope to attend Mass on Friday 25th of August and celebrate this event with Fr Ghislain.

The children will also have a special treat in the afternoon with a show "The Railway Children" from the M&M Theatrical Production.



Pray, Learn, Grow Together



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL YARD/LINES

The children have made a good start to lining up in their yards when they hear the bell. Please discuss with your child which gate you wish them to be dismissed from and can help by sticking to the same place to wait each day to avoid confusion. A teacher will dismiss them from the gates at 3pm.

Can we also ask parents to refrain from parking in the School Car Park when dropping or collecting children.



COMMUNICATION



Please note the School App has now discontinued which means we are unable to communicate via our school app. You may delete this app on your phone.

We will now be communicating through email and on our school blog website. It is very important to make sure your email address is updated with the school office.

To access our School Blog website please visit <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/StMonicasPrimaryWholeSchoolBlog/>

We also have our Twitter account (St Monica's NLC) which will mostly be used to circulate photographs and reminders and to communicate with other education partners.

P.E TIMETABLES

<u>Class</u>	<u>PE Days</u>
P1	Wednesday and Friday
P2	Monday and Wednesday
P3	Monday and Tuesday
P4	Monday and Tuesday
P5	Wednesday and Thursday
P5/6	Tuesday and Thursday
P6/7	Tuesday and Thursday
P7	Monday and Thursday

Please ensure your child has their P.E Kit on the days above. The recommended P.E. Kit is as follows:

- Shorts/tracksuit bottoms
- T-shirt
- Socks
- Soft shoes (inexpensive black gym shoes are recommended)



ANNUAL DATA CHECKS



The office will issue this year's Annual Data Check forms. This is to ensure that we have all of the correct information for your child, including:

- Emergency Contacts
- Allergies and Medication
- Correct home address and telephone number

Please look out for these, check them and return them to school ASAP. This information is vital, particularly in case of an emergency. Please remember to update us if you change telephone number or email address.



NEWSLETTER

NAILS/ACRYLIC NAILS/MAKEUP

A number of children are coming to school with nail acrylics/extensions. These can cause a danger of scratching/injury to themselves and other children. There has been an increase in admissions of children in Scotland who have sustained traumatic and painful nail bed injuries as a result of catching their acrylic nails whilst playing. **THEY ARE NOT** part of our uniform or acceptable to be worn to school. We would ask that all of these are removed.

Makeup is also not part of the school uniform and children will be asked to remove it in class.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All Primary 1 to 5 children are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal. If you have not received a letter advising that you will receive an automatic award and think you will qualify for Free School Meals and/or School Clothing Grant due to your financial circumstances, please scan QR code below to access the application form.



The deadline for school clothing grants applications for this school academic year is 31 March 2024.

WATER

All children should bring a water bottle to school to keep hydrated throughout the school day. Water bottles should only contain plain water and should be named.



ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school then parents must phone the school office by 9.00a.m. to let us know the reason why children are not in school—unexplained absences are recorded as “unauthorised”.

On a child's return to school, after every absence, a note explaining the reason for the absence should be given to the class teacher.

If a child is likely to be absent for some time, parents should inform the school by letter or telephone and should give the child a note on his or her return to school confirming the reason for absence.

Please note absences can be recorded on Parent Portal and our office staff can acknowledge this.





NEWSLETTER

ALLERGIES/SPECIAL DIET REQUIREMENTS

A medically prescribed diet e.g. coeliac disease, diabetes, food allergy or intolerance must be made aware in school.

A **medically prescribed diet form** must be completed by the child's Registered Dietician or General Practitioner. Procedures and forms can be accessed from the school canteen or dietician, or from North Lanarkshire's catering service.



Special diets required for ethical, religious or cultural reasons should be requested in writing to the Head Teacher, who will liaise with the school catering service.

ICT—Acceptable use Agreement

The care and safe use of the equipment applies at home just as would at school.

To ensure this we are asking that you read the following Digital Acceptance Use Policy by North Lanarkshire Council. Please discuss this with your child, so they understand the safe use at home.

Please scan the QR code to read the following:



PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please label all of your child's belongings; this includes all school uniform, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, bags and spare clothes.

The pupils are asked not to bring valuable items, for example, 'computer games' and 'phones' into school.



The school cannot be held responsible for the loss or theft of any valuables.

MEDICINES

Staff at St Monica's are committed to the inclusion of all pupils and wish to ensure that pupils with medical needs receive proper care and support at school.

We wish to remind you that we require a fresh and in date supply of Asthmatic Inhalers/Epi pen's upon your child's return to school. All inhalers must be labelled clearly with your child's name. Can I remind parents that although we do our best to look out for expiry dates, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that these items are in date.

We will not give prescription or non-prescription medicines to a child without their parent's/carers written consent. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to check the expiry dates of the medication and to notify the school of changes in medication or dosage.

If your child requires medication within school, please report to the school office to complete a Medication form.

