



ST. MONICA'S Primary School

September
2025

NEWSLETTER

It has been a pleasure to have welcomed everyone back to the new school year and it has been lovely to meet many of our new members of the school community, pupils, staff, parents/carers. Thank you for taking the time to write names on jackets, jumpers, ties, lunch boxes and gym shoes! I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine and had a lovely summer break.

I would like to thank our entire staff team, including our teachers, support staff, cleaners, catering and janitorial staff for all that they have done to prepare the school building to welcome the children back.

I understand that children can experience many changes in a new school year and if you have any concerns please contact the school.

Kindest regards,

J Rafferty

Mrs J. Rafferty

Headteacher



SACRAMENTAL MEETINGS

P3 RECONCILIATION & P4 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you wish for your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or First Holy Communion a parent/carer meeting will be on **Wednesday 24th of September at 6pm** in St Monica's Parish.

P7 CONFIRMATION

If you wish for your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation a parent/carer meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st October at 6pm** in St Monica's Parish.

At these meetings you will be issued with a Parish Enrolment form. This should be returned back to the school along with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am—8.45am.



No parents/carers should be in the yard at any time. If a child is upset or struggling then parents should bring them to the office through the main entrance where we can offer support.

SCHOOL HOURS

Breakfast Club - 8.15am until 8.45am

School begins - 9am

Morning Break - 10.30am until 10.45am

Lunch—12.15pm until 1pm

End of school day - 3pm



Pray, Learn, Grow Together

SCHOOL YARD/GATES

Please note, P1-3 children will enter/leave from the gate in the lane between the two schools unless another arrangement has been made for siblings.

P4-7 children will enter/leave from the gate near St Monica's Parish.

If any child has to meet/walk with a family member at the school, they should meet at the designated point (basketball pitch) and leave together.

We appreciate your support and patience with this matter and assure you that our children's safety is paramount.

P1/2 CHILDSMILE

Childsmile will visit Primary 1 and 2 on **Friday 19th of September.**

If you do not wish your child to take part in the Childsmile toothbrushing programme please write a letter to school office.



FLU IMMUNISATION

This year's Flu Immunisation will take place on **Tuesday 23rd of September.**

The vaccination consists of a nasal spray.



MEET THE TEACHER EVENT

Wednesday 10th September at 3.10pm– 4.10pm.

At the beginning of this new school year we are inviting Parents/Carers of children in P1—P7 to come along to “Meet the Teacher.”

- All children will be dismissed as normal and collected at the gate. This will allow those children who are not attending to be collected safely.
- Those wishing to “Meet the Teacher” and visit the classroom can enter through the school's main office door.
- A maximum of 2 adults per family.
- If a parent/carer cannot attend then a grandparent/older sibling or aunt/uncle are welcome in their place.

This is an informal chance to say hello, it is not an opportunity to ask questions about your child's progress. We look forward to welcoming you!



PARENT PORTAL

In support of North Lanarkshire Council's ambition to continue improvement in parental communications and its broader Digital NL plans we have been working with national organisations to develop a “Parents Portal”. The portal has been and will continue to be developed to provide parents with a clear insight to their child's education and to support transactional communications between parents and the school, this includes attendance, reports and school information.

This includes information about the school and include services such as online school payments, attendance, placing request forms, the annual data check and general school information.

[Sign up by clicking on this link](#)



parentsportal.scot

P.E TIMETABLES

P1/2 - Thursday and Friday

P2/3 - Thursday and Friday

P3 - Tuesday and Wednesday

P4 - Wednesday and Thursday



P5 - Tuesday and Wednesday

P6 - Wednesday and Thursday

P7 - Monday and Friday

The recommended P.E. Kit is as follows:

- Shorts/ black or grey tracksuit bottoms/ leggings
- T-shirt/ white polo shirt **-no crop tops please**
- Soft shoes (inexpensive black gym shoes) or trainers
- **No jewellery please!**

P7 PALACERIGG OUTDOOR PROGRAMME

Primary 7's have been allocated a 4 day outdoor programme of activities at Palacerigg Park from **Tuesday 30th September 2025 – Friday 3rd October 2025**. Pupils are asked to bring snacks for their morning break and a packed lunch. If your child is in receipt of a free school meal please get in touch with the school office. This is not a residential trip, so the children will travel there and back each day. The bus will be collecting the children each day after 9am. You can see more about the new programme and what your child should bring by [clicking here](#).

The overall total cost for your child is £70.00.

Payment should be made by using the online iPayimpact system. If you are unable to make payments online, please contact the school office for support.

Payment deadline for this outing is Thursday 25th of September 2025.

P6 TITANIC

Primary 6 have luckily secured a day trip to the Titanic Exhibition in Belfast. This will take place on **Thursday, 2nd October 2025**.

The schedule for this outing is as follows.

- 08.00hrs – Depart from school
- 11.30hrs – Sail from Cairnryan
- 14.20hrs – Entry into Titanic Exhibition & Nomadic
- 17.30hrs – Walking tour
- 19.30hrs – Sail from Belfast with a meal



Midnight approx. arrives back at school. All communications on the day will be through twitter and groupcall. Its important to make sure details are updated with the school.

The cost payable per child is £ 40.00.

Payment should be made by using the online iPayimpact system. If you are unable to make payments online, please contact the school office for support.

Payment deadline for this outing is 5th of September 2025.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school then parents should phone the school office by 9am 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.

Please note, absences can be recorded on Parent Portal.

Did you know??

- 90% attendance + 1/2 day missed every week
- 1 school year at 90% attendance = almost 4 weeks of lessons missed!

LATECOMING

Late coming can have a negative impact on your child’s learning and progress so please try your best to get your children here by 9am. Remember that we close our building doors promptly as our classes come in. Any latecomers need to use the main entrance gate and door.



MOBILE PHONES



The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to promote safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable use guidelines.

This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools – which in turn can contribute to safeguarding practice and protection.

We understand that parents/carers of older children may permit their child to bring their phone to school with them e.g. to support after school arrangements or care. The phone however must be switched off before entering the school grounds and may not be switched on or used during the course of the day.

Children are not allowed to use their phones to text, call, take photos or video record on the school grounds, in class or at school events. Please note that pupils bring their phones to school at their own risk. No liability for loss and damages is accepted.

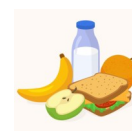
WATER



Can you please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school every day as hydration is important. The water bottle should be named, taken home each day.

SCHOOL MEAL MENUS

On the subject of school meals, please click link below to see the weekly menus.



[Primary school menu | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Please discuss the menus with your child and encourage them to try school meals, especially on cold days and more especially if you get free school meals.

The children choose their meal first thing each morning. However, if your child is a fussy eater or gets anxious at the thought of choosing a meal, you can do this for them.

If you do this at home, they do not then do this at school - they will be charged twice if they do!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR P6 & P7

Once your child is in P6 and P7, they are no longer automatically entitled to a Free School Meal (including Breakfast Club).

If you think your child qualifies for Free School Meals because of low income, then you should apply by completing the form. If you do not apply, then you will be required to pay **£3.40** per day and there will also be a charge for the Breakfast Club. Further information about Clothing Grants and Free School Meals can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you have any problems with applying, please do get in touch with the school office.

UNIFORM

- Children should come to school in full school uniform. The main elements of our uniform are white shirt/polo shirt and Tie, **grey trousers/skirt/pinafore**.
- Blue sweatshirts/cardigan/vest tops/knitted garments - these do not need to have the school badge embroidered. That is your own choice.
- ALL P7 children should wear their P7 ties which were presented to them on the last day of term in June.
- A PE timetable has been put together and you will be informed of your child's PE Day. On this day, children will be permitted to come to school in their **PE Uniform**.
- **PE Uniform** is something which has been very successful in many schools. It means that the children are still coming dressed for school and that PE day is not a 'dress down' or 'non-uniform' day. **Therefore, colourful tracksuits/clothing are not permitted.**
- Our recommended **PE Uniform** is black tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings, a school polo shirt (white) and school sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan. Again, no need for the badge unless it is your preference. **However**, you may wish to provide shorts and T-Shirt on PE days for your child to change into at school.

We are disappointed that so many of our children have chosen to wear black/tartan uniform. We appreciate you may come under pressure from your child to wear black, but please encourage them to dress in line with our uniform policy. Please also consider the message you are sending them if you permit them to flout a school policy.

School uniforms can be purchased from Scotcrest or Aspire Academy.
Parents of pupils starting P1 may wish their son/daughter to wear a blazer.



NUT FREE ZONE

Please remember we are a nut free school. We have a number of pupils with nut allergies, some quite severe. As a result, our school must be a nut free zone. Please be vigilant about packed lunches, sweets etc and ensure that no nuts come into the school.

Please do not send your child into school with any nut-based product for a snack or packed lunch – this includes products that may contain traces of nuts.

Potential allergens could include the following and should not be sent to school.

- Spreads, e.g. chocolate spreads
- Biscuits containing nuts
- Condiments, e.g. satay sauce
- Cakes containing nuts
- Snack pots containing nuts



It is important that you check the labelling of food products before sending your child in to school with them – it is not always apparent that products contain nuts or traces of nuts.

We also ask that, if your child consumes any nut-based product before school, they wash their hands thoroughly and rinse their mouth before entering the school grounds.

We understand that these measures may seem extreme; however, we want to ensure the health and safety of all our pupils as some of their allergies are so severe that even the slightest of contact with nuts would cause a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction.

Allergies are very serious....it is our duty in school to keep all our children safe...with your help we can do it!

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 parents/carer's written consent. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to check 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.



School Term & Holiday Dates—subject to change.**September 2025**

P7 Carfin Mass	Thursday 4th September
Meet the Teacher	Wednesday 10th September
P1&2 Childsmile	Friday 19th September
P3 Reconciliation & P4 First Communion Sacramental Meeting	Wednesday 24th September 6pm
Flu Immunisation	Tuesday 23rd September
September Weekend Holiday	Friday 26th September—Monday 29th September (pupils should not attend)
P7 Palacerigg Outdoor Programme	Tuesday 30th September—Friday 3rd October

October 2025

P7 Confirmation Sacramental Meeting	Wednesday 1st October 6pm
P6 Titanic Trip	Thursday 2nd October
Parents Evening	Wednesday 8th October
P6/7 Football Festival	Thursday 9th October
October Week Holiday	Monday 13th October—Friday 17th October (pupils should not attend)
Halloween Parade	Friday 31st October

November 2025

John Wilson Individual and Family Photos	Thursday 13th November
INSET	Monday 17th November (pupils should not attend)
John Wilson Group Photos	Tuesday 18th November

December 2025

P1-3 Nativity	Tuesday 9th December
Pantomime Airdrie Town Hall	Wednesday 10th December
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 11th December
Christmas Party	Friday 12th December
Carol Service	Tuesday 16th December
School closes 2.30pm	Thursday 18th December
Holiday	Friday 19th December—Friday 2nd January 2026

As part of our topic Primary 1 went on a tour of our school. We were so lucky to visit all of the classrooms, the school office and Mrs Rafferty's office. We even heard about some of the jobs the adults in our school do.



Some of our P1/2 and P2/3 children enjoying ice cream as part of our St Monica's day celebrations.



YUMMY!



A beautiful mass led by Bishop Toal to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Saint Monica's Parish. Well done to so many of our children for leading the bidding prayers, offertory procession and singing the hymn to our Patron Saint.



We are so proud of you.





HOPE FOR AUTISM



Pre 5 Stay and Play Group **Coatbridge**

Ages: Ages 2-6

Times: 11.30am to 12.30am

Dates: Sundays - 7th September till 26th
October

Locations: St Andrews High, 9 Old Monkland
Road, ML5 5EA

Open to members and non-members!

This group is Free and funded by Children in
Need

SUPPORTED BY



**CHILDREN
IN NEED**

To book a place, please email hope@hopeforautism.org.uk



HOPE FOR AUTISM

Parent Support Groups

Monday 10-11.30am (fortnightly)

One Wellynd, Airdrie

(starts 18th Aug)

Tuesday 7-8.30pm (last Tues of month)

Online (Via Zoom)

Wednesday 11.30am-1pm (fortnightly)

Knowledge Hub, Time Capsule, Coatbridge

(starts 20th Aug)

Wednesday 1-2.30pm (weekly)

Freedom City Church, Cumbernauld

(starts 20th Aug)

Thursday 6.30-8pm (fortnightly)

Burnhead Community Centre, Uddingston

(Starts 21st Aug)

**Open to all Lanarkshire Parent/Carers
looking for peer support.**

For more details contact fiona.beggs@hopeforautism.org.uk