



ST. MONICA'S Primary School

January/February
2026

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK 2026

Happy New Year to all you & welcome back to school! We have enjoyed hearing all about the festivities and now the children are focused on their learning and the exciting term ahead.



We would also like to welcome Mrs McLaughlan who will be joining our school as our new office lady.

P1 ENROLMENTS

P1 enrolment has now finished for this year, and we're delighted to be preparing to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils in August. This is such an exciting milestone for your children, and we feel privileged to be part of their journey as they take their first steps into school life.

Over the coming months, we'll be in touch with more information about transition activities, welcome events, and everything you'll need to help your child feel confident and ready for the year ahead. Our team is already looking forward to meeting each of our new learners and working together with you to make their start to school a positive and memorable experience.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The school has a target to improve and support every child with their attendance. We will be working with the Get Ready Crew to support this improvement priority. This will form part of our Health & Wellbeing programme and we aim to support children and families.

Our current attendance is 86%. This is lower than NLC's current attendance of 94%.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 16th February— Mid-term break

Tuesday 17th February—Mid-term break

Wednesday 18th February—In-service Day



BURNS DAY

In celebration of Burns Day, we will celebrate on **Friday 23rd January 2026**. Children will have class celebrations and share their learning in the afternoon.



RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We have all been working with our Primary 3 children in preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Primary 3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on: **Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 6.30pm in St Monica's Parish. Please ensure your child wears full school uniform.**

Please pray for our children for this important milestone in their lives.



SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

Social media is a great way for families to stay connected, but posts shared online can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or cause unintended upset within our school community.

We gently remind parents and carers that social media is not the appropriate place to raise concerns about the school, staff, other parents, or pupils. Online comments can easily be misread and may unintentionally affect others.

We deeply value the strong partnership between home and school, and we take every concern seriously. Most issues can be resolved quickly and effectively when they are brought directly to us.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have shared comments of this nature, we kindly ask that you remove them. We truly appreciate your help in keeping our community positive, respectful, and focused on what matters most—ensuring every child continues to learn, grow, and flourish.



SAFEGUARDING LUNCH TIMES

For the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, we do **not advise** children going home for lunch during the school day. This is to ensure:

- **Supervision & Safeguarding** – Children remain in a safe, supervised environment at all times.
- **Continuity of Learning** – Staying on site helps maintain focus and minimise disruption to the school day.
- **Attendance & Punctuality** – Reduces the risk of late returns and missed lessons.

If there are exceptional circumstances where a child must go home for lunch, parents/carers should let the school know in advance, outlining the reason.

COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted that our partnership with CLD, Kathleen MacInnes will continue this term and look forward to:

Outdoor Learning/STEM Group

P1 Literacy Afterschool Group

Digital Workshops will have a focus on supporting parents/carers in navigating the challenges of their children's online activity. It will explore how social media platforms and their algorithms operate, online gaming and its potential impact on children and how these can negatively influence children and young people and what parents can do to set healthy boundaries.

In addition, we'll look at the risks of inappropriate content consumption, as well as the social pressures children face when interacting with peers through different communication apps. Parents/carers will gain practical advice on how to respond to these issues with confidence and care.

More information to follow.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING
AND DEVELOPMENT** | **LEARN HERE**

SUM IT UP %

NUMBERS ARE EVERYWHERE

- ✗ At work
- ✗ Helping kids with homework
- ✗ Budgeting

Don't let them get in your way!

Find a fun, FREE course near you
northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sum-it-up

MATHS FOR PARENTS

Pupils in P4 – P7 and their parent/guardian are invited to come along to our Parent & Kid Maths Crew. During these fun sessions you will have the chance to take part in lots of activities and games together that will help boost your confidence when using number.

Day Starting Thursday 29th January

Place St Monica's Primary School

Time 1.30 – 3pm

For adults over 16

Contact us to sign-up for a class:
sumitup@northlan.gov.uk

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A GENTLE REMINDER ABOUT CONDUCT AT THE SCHOOL GATES

The school gates are often the first point of contact each day, and the atmosphere there sets the tone for our children. To support a positive start and end to the school day,

To help keep drop-off and pick-up times safe and positive for everyone, we kindly ask all parents and carers to keep the following in mind:

- **Use warm, calm language** — Little ears are always listening, and children take their cues from the adults around them. Calm, respectful interactions help everyone feel at ease.
- **Leave space at the gates** Please avoid blocking entrances and pathways so children can enter and exit safely.
- **Park thoughtfully** and avoid stopping on yellow lines or pavements. Safety must come first.
- **Model patience.** Drop-off and pick-up times can be busy, but a few extra moments of courtesy go a long way.

Follow any guidance from staff who are there to help.

We really appreciate your support in keeping our school community safe, calm, and welcoming for all families.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please feel free to speak with us — we're always happy to listen.

P4 ATHLETICS FESTIVAL

Primary 4 will have the opportunity to visit the Time Capsule to take part in a Sports Athletics Day. The date has not yet been confirmed, but it will be either **Thursday 26th February** or **Friday 27th February**. Families will be notified once the final date is confirmed.

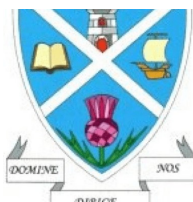
Letters with all relevant information will be issued nearer the time.



P.E TRANSITION TO ST ANDREW'S HIGH SCHOOL

Primary 7 P.E Transition Event will take place on **Friday 6th March 2026** from 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Pupils will take part in a range of fun games and sporting activities, organised and led by Sports Leaders and Sports Council. The purpose of these events remains the same - to help pupils meet peers from other schools, become familiar with our environment, and ensure their transition to secondary school is positive and enjoyable.

Letters will be issued nearer the time, please look out for these.



UNIFORM & COLD WEATHER

Lots of children have returned to school wearing school uniform and look really smart. We would be grateful if parents could continue to support the school policy wearing full school uniform. Children should be wearing school jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt during this cold weather. Please encourage your child to come to school well wrapped for colder play times.

Uniforms should be worn on PE days. Children are encouraged to change at school.

We have a growing bundle of lost property jackets and jumpers!



AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

Monday	Wednesday
P4-7 Karate Club 3pm-4pm 12th Jan- 9th Feb 5 weeks	P1-3 Football 3pm-4pm 14th Jan- 11th Feb 5 weeks



School Term & Holiday Dates (subject to change)

January 2026

P1 Enrolment	Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th and Friday 16th January 2026
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February 2026

P3 Reconciliation	Tuesday 3rd February 2026 - 6.30pm
First Friday Mass	Friday 6th February 2026
Mid Term Break	Monday 16th February and Tuesday 17th February (pupils should not attend)
In-Service Day	Wednesday 18th February 2026 (pupils should not attend)

March 2026

World Book Day	Thursday 5th March 2026
P7 P.E Transition	Friday 6th March 2026

April 2026

Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1st April 2026
School closes 2.30pm	Thursday 2nd April 2026
April Holiday	Friday 3rd April—Friday 17 April 2026 inclusive (Spring break)



St. Monica's Primary School

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w: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/StMonicasPrimaryWholeSchoolBlog/>

twitter: @StMonicasNLC **Head Teacher:** Mrs Jacqueline Rafferty

