



Holy Family Primary School

Hope Street, Mossend ML4 1QA Tel: 01698 274967
Email: enquiries-at-holyfamily@northlan.org.uk

September
2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to session 2023– 24 in the life of Holy Family. We are delighted to have our new P1 children and families settling into school life. Throughout the session newsletters will share information for up and coming events to allow families to plan ahead. The newsletter will also contain important messages with regards to the school so please keep your copy safe or know how to access it online from our website. We know life can get busy so being able to re-refer to the information is handy. If you have any questions please get in touch through our various communication channels.

I look forward to working with you all throughout the year.

Kind regards

Mrs Harley (HT)

Sacraments

I met with Father Brown last week to plan dates for this sessions Sacraments and our involvement with the parish. Each month we will continue to attend First Friday Mass with the Holy Family community. Classes will lead the mass starting with our P6/7 children.

Dates for your diary:

Sacrament of Confirmation (P7 pupils) Wednesday 13th December 2023 @ 7pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (P3 pupils) Tuesday 20th February 2024 @ 7pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion (P4 pupils) Saturday 11th May 2024 @ 11 am in Holy Family Church.

We will be in contact with more details about each sacrament closer to the date. If perhaps your attendance at Sunday Mass has lapsed, this would be a good time to return to nurturing your child's spiritual growth.



Staffing

We are blessed in Holy Family with an amazing staff team and I am proud every day of the amazing job they do. We welcome 2 new teachers to the team, Mr Rice and Mr Hamill.

The teachers working with each class are:

P1 Mrs Stevenson

P2 Mrs Simpson

P3 Mrs Cook

P4 Mrs Daisley/ Mr Hamill

P5 Mrs Preston

P6 Mr Rice/ Mrs Nixon

P6/7 Miss Gallagher

Mrs Byrne and Mrs Speirs are working across the school providing support to classes.

Mrs Le Blond and Mrs Nixon will also offer support across the school and assist myself in their leadership roles too.

We are also visited by a number of specialists and I will share more information directly with parents/ carers of their roles.

Our janitor, support staff, catering team, cleaners and clerical team continue to carry out various roles across the school helping our children to achieve all they can here in Holy Family.

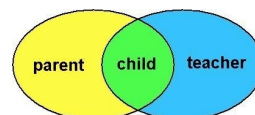
Reading Books

If anyone has come across books belonging to the school which have mistakenly not been handed back, please return them. Replacing reading books year-on-year is a huge expense so if we can gather as many back it would help our finances. No questions will be asked even if the book has been at home for a number of years. Thank you for your support with this.



Homework

Class teachers will begin to issue homework **w.b. 4th September**. Homework should not take any longer than 20 mins Monday-Thursday. P3-7 will have their tasks published on the school website. P1 and 2, class teachers will send materials home in school bags. Any issues please speak to your child's teacher.



P.E.

Taking part fully in P.E. is so important for the physical health of our children and their habits in developing healthy lifestyles. We ask you to ensure children have their kits on their designated gym days. Children wear full school uniform every day. They will have time to change for P.E. lessons and should bring their PE kit, a yellow t-shirt and navy or dark shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings. If you do not have a yellow t-shirt then a dark plain t-shirt would be suitable, no football tops please. Jewellery should not be worn on PE days. From time to time staff will use the community facilities across from the school to deliver lessons. Can I ask parents/carers are respectful and allow for this to happen without any distractions.

Labelling

Reminder- please ensure your child's name is on their belongings so that we can try our best to reunite children with their lost property. Having names on items left helps us to get it back to you promptly.

Water bottles

Now, especially as the weather is warmer, please ensure your child has a suitable water bottle with them every day with sufficient supply to last them all through the day. Children are able to refill their bottles. NLC policy is plain water to be drunk throughout the day to help with refreshing and re-hydrating our brains which improves concentration. I ask for your support on this.



IMPORTANT!!! NUT FREE ZONE!

As with all NLC schools, we are a **Nut Free Zone**. This is to protect staff and children who have **severe allergies**. If they come into contact with or experience airborne triggers they can become extremely ill. Can I ask parents/ carers to continue to carefully check the packaging of snacks and packed lunch items coming into school and refrain from sending anything containing nuts. We want everyone to be safe.



Communication



We have a growing number of followers on Twitter - @hollyfamily_ps and would ask if you could please follow us in order to keep up to date with news and events.

The **school website** is also a good source of communication as it is regularly updated <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/hollyfamily/>.

Our main source of direct communication will be through **Groupcall** which sends emails. Please ensure you check emails regularly to keep up to date. Can you also check we have an up-to-date email contact as going forward the use of text message will be very minimal.



Swim and Gym

Our P5 class will be participating in the 'Swim and Gym' programme at Sir Matt Busby starting Tuesday 29th August for 11 weeks. The school will meet the full cost of this experience from our Pupil Equity Fund. Children, staff and helpers will leave the school around 12.15pm and walk to and from the sports centre. Children will swim first then go to the gym where they will receive coaching from Active Schools coaches developing a range of sporting skills before returning to school for normal dismissal. We see this as an excellent opportunity to develop an essential life skill in our children as well as promoting a positive well-being.

We are looking for volunteers to accompany us while walking to and from the centre. If you can help on any weeks please contact the school office.



Attendance and Late-coming

It goes without saying, the more a child attends school the better chance they have of reaching their full potential. Our staff are working extremely hard to ensure children receive good learning experiences and supports which they may require. The North Lanarkshire attendance target is 95% for every pupil. At the moment the average figure for Holy Family is just over 90%. I have included an illustration summary to show the number of days/weeks lost against attendance percentages. Last session we worked on improving attendance as a school and Cluster and I intend to address this in more depth this session. Holidays taken during school time are not permitted and should be avoided at all costs. Holidays will not be authorised unless in very exceptions circumstances and approved after discussions with myself.

Late-coming can also be very disruptive and stressful for children. As of September 2023 we are going to be officially recording and monitoring late-coming in-line with NLC procedures. If a child is late on more than 1 occasion throughout the week we will be making contact to discuss this. We understand from time-to-time situations arise and I would ask you share information with us to help our understanding but as a rule I expect all children to be in the yard for the bell ringing. Persistent late-coming is a concern and we will help families in anyway we can.

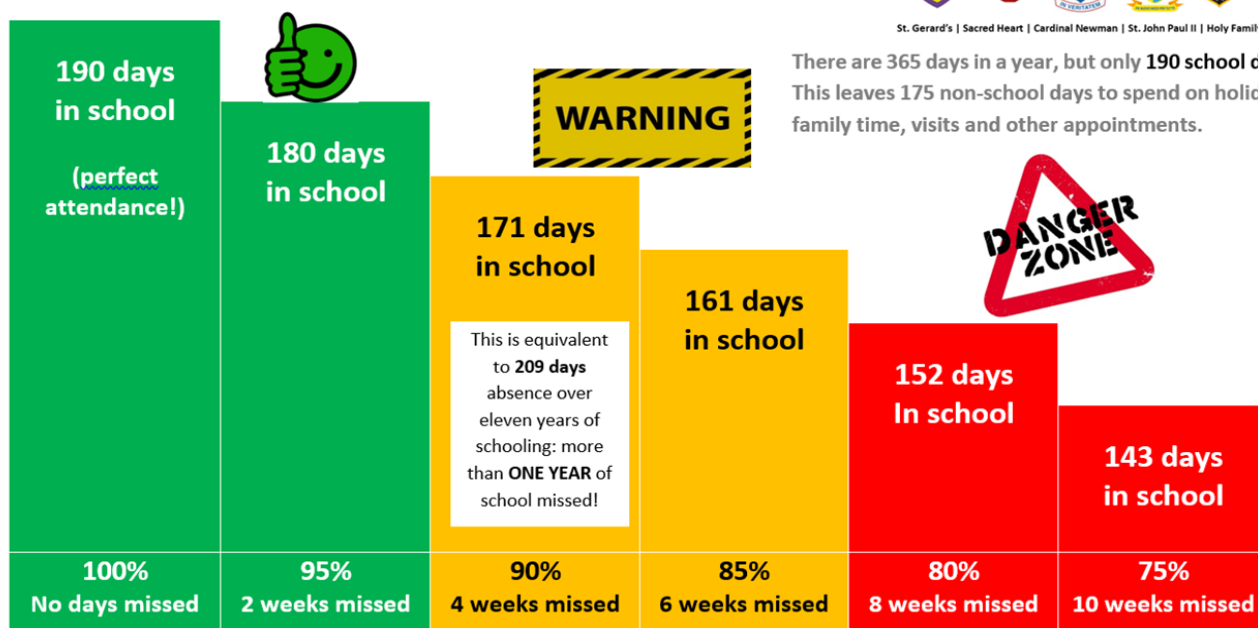
Understanding your child's attendance percentage

CARDINAL NEWMAN CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS



St. Gerard's | Sacred Heart | Cardinal Newman | St. John Paul II | Holy Family

There are 365 days in a year, but only **190 school days**. This leaves 175 non-school days to spend on holidays, family time, visits and other appointments.



This level of attendance gives your child the **best possible chance** of making good progress and having success in their learning

This level of attendance is **worrying**. It will make it harder for your child to make good progress and they are less likely to have success in their learning

This level of attendance is **extremely concerning**. It will be very difficult for your child to make good progress in their learning and there is likely to be a serious impact on their success in school



ATTENDANCE MATTERS... every school day counts!

Primary 7 Outward Bounds Experience

Parents/ carers of P7 and P6 children will recall I sent out a Forms questionnaire to gather views on outdoor experiences for their children. For our current P7 children I have taken the decision to offer the Strathclyde Park experience. We will attend with our cluster **w.b 27th November 2023** for the full week. This will allow for bonds to begin to form with peers the children will be going to Cardinal Newman High School with. A separate email will be sent to P7 parents/ carers with more details next week. I will also be in touch with P6 parent/ carers to plan ahead for P7.

Primary 1 Welcome Mass

Father Brown has kindly invited all P1 children and their families to join with Holy Family Parish on Sunday 1st October @ 11.00am for a P1 Welcome Mass. Children should come along to the church with their families allowing the parish to see them and officially welcome them as school children of Holy Family. We thank Father Brown and the parishioners in advance for their warm welcome.

Enterprise Award-

We are delighted to share we have been awarded NLC Enterprise Pathways Award 2023 in recognition for opportunities our pupils engaged in last session. In a few weeks we are having a special assembly where we will be presented with our certificate and share a bit more about the work we have been doing around enterprise and entrepreneurship. Mrs Preston will lead our work this session focussing on Developing the Young Workforce. Already her plans are looking very interesting. We may ask for support from families and friends to share their skills in this area. Well done everyone!!

Parent Council : We are very lucky in Holy Family to have such an active and caring Parent Council supporting the school. At Parents' Evening last session we had a few parents/carers responding saying they could offer some time to help in a variety of ways. Great news!

If you can spare some time to support our Parent Council please come along to our next meeting. An email will be sent with a date and time for the meeting as soon as we have confirmed.

The children benefit greatly from the support of this small body of parents/ carers so think what we could do with a few more sets of helping hands.

Photographer

John Wilson Photography will be visiting the school on **Monday 23rd October** to take individual and family photographs. There is no obligation to purchase these, it is only an offering if families wish to take this up. The nursery will also have their photographs taken on **Tuesday 24th October**. Again there is no obligation for families to purchase.

Dare I mention the 'C' word.....

As part of our Christmas celebrations we have booked the panto at Motherwell Theatre for the full school on **Thursday 16th November**. This is always a very exciting experience for children and I have tried to reduce the cost as much as possible. The School Fund which parents/ carers contribute to through the year will meet some of the cost. I am asking for £8 per child with a maximum charge of £20 for families who have 3 or more children. Families can begin to pay up this experience as of Monday 11th September. The balance can be paid in smaller amounts up until we go in the middle of November. If the financial cost of this is a concern to any family please contact me directly at the school and we will help in any way we can.

Strategies and Intervention

We are delighted to have staff who are able to offer a range of strategies and support interventions across the school. The impact of these is closely monitored and in some cases reported to the Scottish Government. In Holy Family we regularly review our supports and interventions maximising the resources we have. We aim to communicate as much as possible with parents/carers. If you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to get in contact with us through the class teacher or by calling the school office.

Child Protection and Safeguarding: All staff in Holy Family engaged in refreshed Child Protection and Safeguarding training during the In-set days. I am the Child Protection Co-ordinator for the school and nursery. If you have any concerns for a child please contact me on 01698 274967 or enquiries-at-holyfamily@northlan.org.uk. It is the job of everyone to keep all children safe.

Once a Week Take a Peek:

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. Weekly, check your child's hair and seek advice from a local pharmacy if you need to treat this childhood issue.

Parent Portal

Many of our Parents/ Carers are already registered with Parents Portal. This is a one stop shop for all aspects of school life involving Parents and Carers. You can:

- Keep the data we have on file up to date (name, address, emergency contact etc)
- Make payments for lunches/ snacks/ outings etc
- Make appointment for Parent's Evening
- Report absences
- Receive information about the school

And this session report cards will be using this tool.

In the next few weeks we will issue our new P1 Parents/ Carers with registration details. If you have not yet managed to register contact the office for information.

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The School Year 2023-24

August 2023

Teachers return and in-service day: Monday 14 August 2023

In-service day: Tuesday 15 August 2023

Pupils return: Wednesday 16 August 2023

September 2023

September weekend: Friday 22 September and Monday 25 September 2023 (inclusive)

October 2023

October week: Monday 16 to Friday 20 October 2023 (inclusive)

November 2023

In-service day: Monday 13 November

December 2023 - January 2024

Schools close: Friday 22 December 2023 at **2.30pm**

Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 25 December 2023 - Friday 5 January 2024 (inclusive)

February 2024

Mid-term break: Monday 12 February and Tuesday 13 February 2024

In-service day: Wednesday 14 February 2024

April 2024

Schools close: Thursday 28 March 2024 at **2.30pm**

Spring holiday (Easter): Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April 2024 (Inclusive)

- Good Friday 29 March
- Easter Monday 1 April 2024

May 2024

In-service day: Thursday 2 May 2024 (to coincide with UK Parliamentary elections, but may be subject to change)

May holiday: Monday 6 May 2024

May weekend: Friday 24 May 2024 and Monday 27 May 2024 (inclusive)

June 2024

Schools Close: Wednesday 26 June 2024 at **1pm**

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**Dates for your Diary
2023-24**

September 2023

Friday 1st-First Friday Mass
Monday 4th- Homework Begins
Friday 8th – Thinking Circles
Wednesday 20th September @4.30pm– Meet the Teacher
Friday 22nd– Monday 25th (inclusive) Holiday
Friday 29th – Thinking Circles

October 2023

Sunday 1st– P1 Welcome Mass
Friday 6th -First Friday Mass
Thursday 12th– Parents' Evening
October Week: Monday 16th to Friday 20th October 2023 (inclusive)
Monday 23rd– School Photographer
Tuesday 24th– Nursery Photographer
Friday 27th – Thinking Circles

November 2023

Friday 3rd– First Friday Mass
In-service day: Monday 13 November
Monday 27th– Friday 1st Dec P7 Strathclyde Park
Thursday 16th @1.25pm- Panto
Friday 17th – Thinking Circles

December 2023 - January 2024

Schools close: Friday 22 December 2023 at **2.30pm**
Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 25 December 2023 - Friday 5 January 2024 (inclusive)