



Holy Family Primary School

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

November /
December
2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start this newsletter with a huge thank you to our Parent Council and parents/ carers who supported our Halloween discos. Almost all of our children came along and had a great time dancing the night away in their fabulous costumes. It is truly amazing what this small group of parents are able to provide for our children while working in the background to plan and organise events. The children had a great time. Also a big thank you to the community of Holy Family for their generosity in providing snacks and treats to be had on the night.

On behalf of the Holy Family community I would like to wish Mrs Speirs the very best as she begins her maternity leave in preparation for the safe arrival for Baby Speirs.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Cairney to the staff team who will be cover Mrs Speirs' post until June 2024.

Kind regards
Mrs A Harley
Head Teacher

Sacrament of Confirmation

Some of our P7 children will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 13th December 2023 @ 7pm in Holy Family Church. Bishop Toal will lead us in this celebration. Family, friends and parishioners are more than welcome to come along and support our children receiving this beautiful sacrament.

The children have been preparing really well in school and at home. If perhaps your attendance at Sunday Mass has lapsed, this would be a good time to return nurturing your child's spiritual growth. Please keep our P7 children in your prayers.



Community of Faith

In the month of November as a Community of Faith we focus on praying for the Holy Souls. Our Catholic Education programme, This is Our Faith allows teachers to plan for learning experiences to support children in their understanding of the Holy Souls at their stage.

Catholic Education Week also takes place this month beginning on the 16th November, The Feast Day of St Margaret. The theme this year is 'Pilgrims of Faith'. Class teachers will plan and deliver learning with this focus in mind deepening our children's understanding of their faith.

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.



Parents' Evening

We had a great turn out of Parents/ Carers at Parents' Evening before the October break. The staff enjoyed having the opportunity to share each child's progress. If you were unable to attend please contact the office or speak to your child's class teacher at the gate and we will do our best to offer one more opportunity to receive an update.

If after Parents' Evening you wish to discuss anything further please contact me through the school office.

Attendance and Late-coming Update

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 94.61% which is just higher than the NLC average. The winter bugs and virus' will most likely impact our next figure. If a child is well enough to come to school, send them and if they deteriorate during the day we will contact you to bring them home.

Late-coming can also be very disruptive and stressful for children. 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.

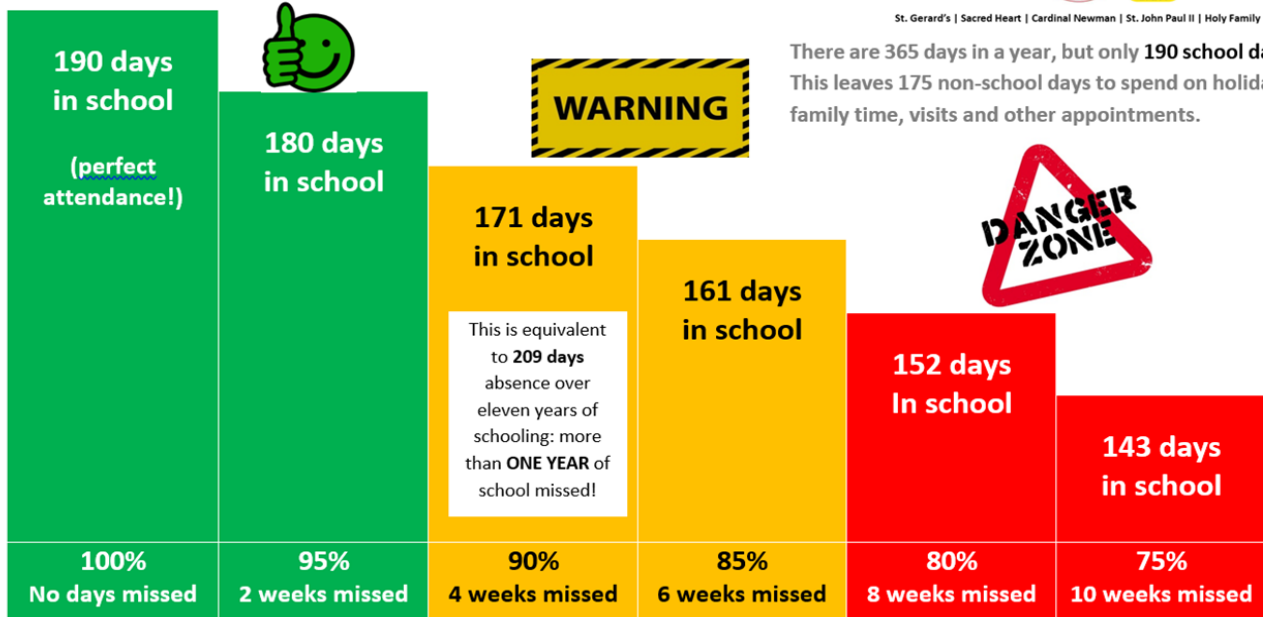
Understanding your child's attendance percentage

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 is equivalent to 209 days absence over eleven years of schooling; more than ONE YEAR of school missed!

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 pupils should have received an email with more detailed information about this experience. The brochure is on our website if you wish to have a look for future reference. Please send permission forms in ASAP.

Child Protection and Safeguarding: All staff in Holy Family are trained in Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures and protocols. 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.

Travelling Book Fair— has arrived in school and children will be able to buy books from the 6th– 9th November. This is an opportunity to encourage reading and raise money for the school too. Brochures were given out to the children showing what is on offer. This is optional for families. Please only use this opportunity if you can.

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Dates for your Diary
2023-24

November 2023

Friday 3rd: First Friday Mass

Monday 6th- Thursday 9th: Book Fair.

Friday 10th: Poppy Day Enterprise P5 leading.
P7 visiting CNHS.

Monday 13th: In-service Day school and nursery closed to pupils.
Book Week.

Thursday 16th: Mossend Primary visiting Holy Family for Book Week.
Whole school at panto.
Catholic Education Week begins.

Friday 17th: Dress Down Day– donations for Tombola prizes.
Holy Family visiting Mossend for Book Week.
Thinking Circles.

Tuesday 21st: Swim and Gym finishes.

Friday 24th: Movie Day and Dress Down Day for Missio P6/7 leading.

W.b. 27th November P7 at Strathclyde Park Experience (all week).

December 2023

Friday 1st: First Friday Mass

Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning in school.

Tuesday 5th: P1-3 Nativity @ 11am

Wednesday 6th: P1-3 Nativity @ 1.30pm

Friday 8th: Christmas Jumper Day and Reindeer Rave

Wednesday 13th: Confirmation @ 7pm in Holy Family Church

Thursday 14th :P1 and 2 Christmas Party

Friday 15th: P3 and 4 Christmas Party

Monday 18th: P5-7 Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th: Carol Service @ 10.30am in Holy Family Church

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

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

A separate communication will come out with more details of our activities leading up to Christmas.

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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**