



# Holy Family Primary School

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

March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to our March 2024 Newsletter.

As the brighter mornings and lighter nights are coming in we would like to share some of the things we have been up to in Term 3. At the end of this term parents/ carers will be invited to meet with class teachers for an update. In the meantime keep an eye out on our Blog for monthly learning overviews from each class.

As we begin the second half of this academic year, our newsletter contains 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 refer to the information is handy.

If you have any questions please get in touch through our various communication channels.

Kind regards

Mrs Harley (HT)

## Community of Faith

Congratulations to our P3 children who received their First Reconciliation recently. A huge thank you to the families and staff who supported in preparing the children also to the parish choir who helped with the singing.

Primary 4 will soon begin their preparation for First Holy Communion. The children will receive the Sacrament on Saturday 11th May at 11am in Holy Family Church. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as they work towards this milestone in their journey of faith.



## Lent

During the season of Lent we are tasked to focus on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. As well as our usual focus on prayer in class and during whole school assemblies, Father Brown is saying morning mass (Monday and Wednesday) at 8.30am in Holy Family Church throughout Lent. Each week during Lent, our P7 children are planning a number of fun activities for children to get involved in and raise money for a number of charities. The Holy Family community is always very kind in giving to others. We will also be talking to the children about fasting. While our children are too young to fast from food, we are pointing them in the direction of other means of fasting i.e. screen, games etc. We also highlight how they could spend the time they have while fasting showing thanks to God for all they have which is good.



## Mini Vinnies

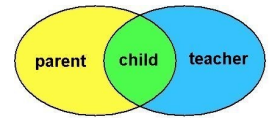
Our Mini Vinnies Group is now well established in the school. Mrs Simpson is leading the children who were commissioned into their rolls during First Friday Mass. Mini Vinnies is a youth version of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP). Many parishes across the world have a SSVP Society which serves those in need in their local area. They work to ensure social justice for all. We are delighted to have such an enthusiastic group of children who want to give time to support any needs they may have:

- SEE: Look around your school and local community to see who needs help.
- THINK: Plan how you could help.  
...and DO it!

During Lent the Mini Vinnies are encouraging the children to focus on 'Acts of Kindness' maybe this is something you could replicate at home?

## Homework

Class teachers issue homework weekly. Generally, homework should not take any longer than 20 mins, Monday-Thursday. P3 -7 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. Homework reinforces what your child has been learning in class and helps support the progress your child makes at school. Thank you to all our families who have gone to great efforts to support this.



## 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 club items please. Jewellery should not be worn on P.E. days.

## Water bottles

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 rehydrating our brains which improves concentration. I ask for your support on this.



**P1 Enrolment**— If you know of anyone who has still to enrol their child for school ask them to contact the school office. Parent/ carers should bring along relevant documentation.

## 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.



## Catering– Cashless System

For a number of years now NLC have operated a cashless system to pay for school meals. Families can add funds to their child's 'iPayimpact' account to cover the cost of school meals for P6 and 7 pupils who are NOT in receipt of Free School Meals, items from our tuck shop and Breakfast Club. Until now, the catering staff have kindly been accepting cash payments and adding them to the child's account but this is no longer sustainable. If you have not ready done so, please come into school and we will support parents/carers to access their 'iPayimpact' accounts through 'Parent Portal' or other NLC avenues.

## Communication

We have a growing number of followers on Twitter - @holyfamily\_ps and would ask if you could please follow us in order to keep up to date with news and events. We have purchased digital hardware which will support class teachers in sharing learning going on in classes. The **school website** is also a good source of communication as it is regularly updated <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holyfamily/>.

Our main source of direct communication is through **Groupcall** which sends emails. Please ensure you regularly check emails to keep up-to-date with school and nursery information. If you have not been receiving regular emails from us please confirm with the office we have an up-to-date email contact as going forward the use of text message will be in emergency situations only.



**Parent Council :** We are very lucky in Holy Family to have such an active and caring Parent Council supporting the school. If you can spare some time to support our Parent Council please come along to our next meeting. Below are the planned dates for meetings for the remainder of the school session. It has been great to welcome a few new members at the last few meetings.

Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	21/03/2024	6.30pm	Church Hall
Thursday	18/04/2024	6.30pm	Church Hall
Thursday	16/05/2024	6.30pm	Church Hall
Thursday	TBC	6.30pm	Church Hall

Primary 7 were delighted to receive their Leaver's hoodies all completely funded by the Parent Council and the support the extended parent body gives to the school.

### Coffee Morning

After each First Friday Mass our Parent Council host a Coffee Morning for our extended community to come together. All are welcome.



### Holy Family Primary and Nursery Class Vision

After consultation with pupils, staff and the wider parents forum the below vision statement has been created for our school and nursery.

#### 'Our children are at the heart of our Community'

It is important that our vision and values are shared and central to our school/nursery ethos and culture. This vision encompasses the most important characteristics which were identified through the consultation activities to be recognised and displayed by everyone involved with our establishment. You will note Community with a capital 'C'. This makes the word a proper noun as we refer to the extended community of the establishment. If you have any thoughts or feedback to share please get in touch.

**Partnership with Mossend Primary** - P6 and P7 will be working with Mossend Primary continuing with the Nil by Mouth inputs. The children are talking about this experience very positively. This is a really strong example of our community working together.

**World Book Day 2024**—this year falls on Thursday 7th March. Class teachers are busy planning a number of different activities across the school to mark this day. Staff will read to different classes, older children will buddy up with younger children and read to them and each class will have tasks on the go which encourage a love of books and reading.

**Drop-off and Pick-up:** In the last newsletter I mentioned an increase in car stopping on the yellow zig-zag lines on Hope Street and pointed out the danger this poses to children. This situation is not improving. Also, please be considerate when using the car parks around the school and nursery. A number of concerned parents/ carers have approached me about congestion and inconsiderate parking at the entrance to the car parks. The safety of our children and families is paramount. Please be considerate and ensure you arrive at school in enough time for a safe drop-off/ pick-up.

**New P1's:** Our P6 children who will be buddies next year to our new P1's have been out in local nursery introducing themselves and sharing all the great things about Holy Family Primary. Our children have been a credit to their families and our school.

**Science Week:** Classes are looking forward to parents/ carers joining us in school during Science Week on Wednesday 13th March at 2pm when the children will showcase their learning. Our doors will open at 1.55pm and our Captains will be on hand to escort you to the correct class.

## Attendance and Late-coming Update

As part of our improvement journey we have been focussing on increased attendance at school. Below is an overview of our average attendance figures for the first half of the year. Our final figure for December 2023 was lower than expected finalising at 89%. A dip in attendance over the winter months is expected but I have noticed absences increase in the days before a holiday period. Please try and have children in as often as possible. Our attendance is going up again towards the NLC expectation. Your support here is evident in your child's attainment, thank you.

Average Monthly Attendance	
Month	Percentage
August 2023	96%
September 2023	95%
October 2023	95%
November 2023	94%
December 2023	89%
January 2024	93%

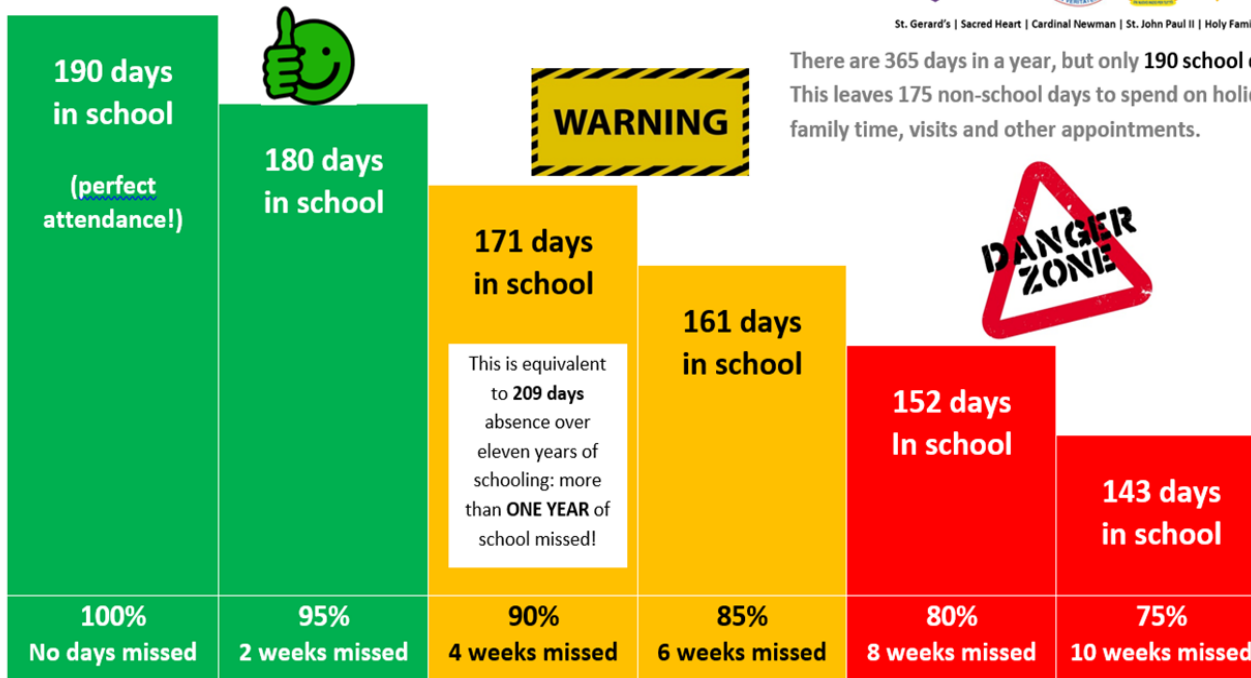
Average Monthly Attendance by Stage		
Stage	August 2023	January 2024
P1	97%	92%
P2	98%	92%
P3	98%	88%
P4	97%	95%
P5	99%	94%
P6	94%	93%
P7	97%	93%

## Understanding your child's attendance percentage

CARDINAL NEWMAN CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS



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



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!**

## After School Clubs

Information updates on clubs will come out on the weekly diary and emails will be sent direct to families of children who attend each club when required. The children who attend are having great fun and the staff are enjoying working with a variety of children. Please note a number of clubs have now finished— details are included towards the end of this newsletter.

## Improvement Journey Update:

We are working our way through this years improvement priorities. Below notes an overview of what we have been doing to positively impact our children.

### **Cluster Priority 1: Improve levels of attendance at school.**

You will note from the regular inputs and discussions we are working alongside families and partner agencies to achieve this. Holy Family is progressing well towards this target.

### **Cluster Priority 2: Embed the principles and practices of 'Keeping the Promise'.**

All staff from Holy Family attended an input from one of NLC's Promise development officers to continue to develop our knowledge and inclusive ethos as well as improving the ways we plan for and work with children who are Care Experienced. Mrs Stevenson is our school representative on a cluster Working Party for this priority.

### **School Priority 1: Review of our curriculum rationale to improve involvement for learners.**

We have been seeking lots of views on our Vision and Values. A team have reflected on these views and come up with a vision for our school and nursery, 'Our children are at the heart of our Community'. Consultation and tracking of our school values has shown these are very much alive in Holy Family. Consultation is to take place of our nursery values and aims. We have also started to reflect on our current curriculum rationale. Exciting times ahead for Holy Family.

### **School Priority 2: Raise attainment in writing.**

In every class teachers have been looking at a variety of ways to improve each child's writing skills. We are seeing improvements in most children. Mrs LeBlond and Mrs Nixon have been leading our working party looking at consistent approaches to delivering writing in Holy Family. Our PEF has helps us buy lots of new and exciting resources to increase play opportunities which will give our younger children more experiences to write about.

### **Nursery Priority: Improve the quality of opportunities for outdoor play.**

Nursery staff are reflecting on children's interests to ensure we are providing exciting play opportunities across our nursery. They have also been looking at opportunities to increase language and communication of our children. Our outdoor areas are used daily and by lots of children.



## 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.

Any problems please accessing contact 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 in August and have regular updates throughout the year. 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.

**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. Please remember to add names to winter jackets, hats, scarves and gloves if possible.

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Dates for your Diary

2023-24

## March 2024

### After School Clubs:

**Netball** finished.

**STEM** finished

**Multi-sports** (Thursday)– finishes 14th March.

**Dancemania**– 2.45-3.45pm

Tuesday 5th March

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 19th March

Tuesday 26th March

Dancemania Event– Wednesday 27th March 10am-12 noon

**Multi- sports** (Monday) P2 continuing for the rest of the term

**World Book Day**– Thursday 7th March

**No- tie Day**– Friday 8th March, donation for Lenten charities

**Science Week Parent/ Carer Open Afternoon**– Wednesday 13th March

**P7 Activity Morning**– Thursday 14th March, donation for Lenten charities

**P7 Visit to CNHS Science Dept**– Friday 15th March PM

**P7 Wacky Science Morning**- Wednesday 20th March, donation for Lenten charities

**Friendship Day**– Thursday 21st March

**Parents' Evening**– Wednesday 27th March

**School and nursery closes for Spring holiday**– Thursday 28th March (school closes 2.30pm/ nursery normal session)

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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**