



Holy Family Primary School

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

September
2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the new school session for 2024– 25. We are delighted to welcome back our children, families and staff for another exciting year of learning and development. Already there are lots of exciting things planned for the school year ahead, from inspiring learning experiences to new improvement initiatives that will support the development of our learners'. We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your child has the best experience at school.

A very important welcome goes to our new P1 children and their families, everyone seems to be settling very well into school life and their new routines.

Throughout the session newsletters will come out to you regularly and will share information of up-and-coming events to allow for 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.

We look forward to working alongside you all throughout the year.

Staffing

We are blessed in Holy Family with an amazing staff team and I am proud every day of the amazing job they do. The teachers working with each class are:

P1 Mrs Simpson

P2/1 Mrs Gilfedder

P2/3 Mrs Daisley/ Mrs Cooney (APT o.4)

P4/ 5 Mrs Stevenson

P5 Miss Murphy/ Mrs Byrne

P6 Mrs Anderson/ Miss Gallagher

P7 Mrs Preston (APT)

Mrs Cook will be supporting some of our younger children at the beginning of the day and our P6 and P7 classes also.

We have Mrs Rooney joining us for this session and providing support across the school. Mrs Le Blond will also offer support across the school and assist myself in a leadership roles.

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.

Community of Faith

Father Krzysztof and I met last week to plan for this school session. All our sacramental dates have been issued to the relevant stages across the school. We also have planned lots of opportunities for our children and families to be actively involved in the life of our school and Holy Family Parish.

Each month we will continue to attend First Friday Mass with the Holy Family community. Classes will lead the Mass starting with our upper school classes.

Dates for your diary:

Sacrament of Confirmation (P7 pupils) Tuesday 19th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (P3 pupils) Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 6.30pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion (P4 pupils) Saturday 17th May 2025 at 11am in Holy Family Church.

If perhaps your attendance at Sunday Mass has lapsed, this would be a good time to return to nurturing your child's spiritual growth. Father has changed the time of Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening to 4pm and from Sunday 14th Sept at 11am Mass there will be a Children's Liturgy.

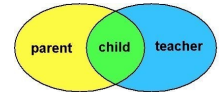


Uniform

The standard of our school uniform is excellent and this is something which is regularly commented on by visitors and the community. We have been talking about how we are connected in Holy Family and our uniform is one of the strong symbols of how proud we are of our school. Thank you for your support in keeping with the uniform policy and together we can continue to encourage the children to keep up this excellent presentation.

Homework

Class teachers will begin to issue homework if they have not already done so. Homework should not take any longer than 20 mins Monday-Thursday. P2/3-7 will have their tasks published on the school website. P1 and P2/1, class teachers will send materials home in school bags. Any issues please speak to your child's teacher. Research tells us that children who have support at home to complete homework generally do better in school. If you have any ideas of how we can support parents/carers with homework please get in touch.



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. Class teachers will share each classes days along with homework.

- A few important points to remember for P.E. 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/ bottoms please.
- Jewellery should not be worn on PE days. Earrings should be removed before children take part in the lesson.
- On P.E. days we notice some children are not able to do their tie independently. Please take time to teach your child this skill, particularly our older children who will need this skill for high school.

Labelling

Reminder- please ensure your child's name is on **ALL** heir 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

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.



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.



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.

Sustainability

In Holy Family we look for many ways to teach our children how to look after their world. One project the children identified was for us to create a uniform swap facility. Thanks to the generosity of our families, we have a very well-stocked Holy Family Uniform Swap Shop. This is located in one of our classrooms on the first floor. If you wish to view our stock please contact the staff at the gate or call the school office to arrange a visit. Please take what you need and leave a donation to School Funds if you wish. Over this session the children are going to be looking at ways to extend our range of products. See link below for more details.

[Holy Family Primary and Nursery Class \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk)

Swim and Gym

Our P5 class have started NLC's 'Swim and Gym' programme at Sir Matt Busby for 10 weeks. The school will meet the full cost of this experience from our Pupil Equity Fund. Children, staff and helpers leave the school around 12.15pm and walk to and from the sports centre. Children 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.



Communication

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

Follow us on 'X' formally known as Twitter - @holyfamily_ps.

Our main source of direct communication will be through **Groupcall** which sends emails. Please ensure you check emails regularly. Can you also check we have an up-to-date email address on your child's records.



Medical Conditions/ Medication

It is extremely useful if we are kept up-to-date with any medical conditions children have. We can store and administer medication as long as our records and processes are being followed. You can update information we hold through Parent Portal. This time of year is a good time to go on and check what information we hold and edit/ add as you see fit. Staff will guide you with what to do if prescribed medication needs to be administered during school time.

Flu Immunisation

The NHS School Immunisation teams are visiting on 30th October to administer flu immunisations to our children. Please return any outstanding paperwork.



Mobile Phones

Some of our P5-7 children may need to bring their mobile phone to school if they are developing their independence coming to and from school without an adult. If this is the case children **MUST** turn their phone off at the school gate, hand it directly into the office and collect it before they leave at the end of the day. We have spoken with the children about their responsibilities in following the expectations. The school cannot be held responsible for loss or any damage to mobile phones coming in. If it is not necessary for your child to bring the phone the best advice would be for the device to remain at home.

Attendance and Late-coming

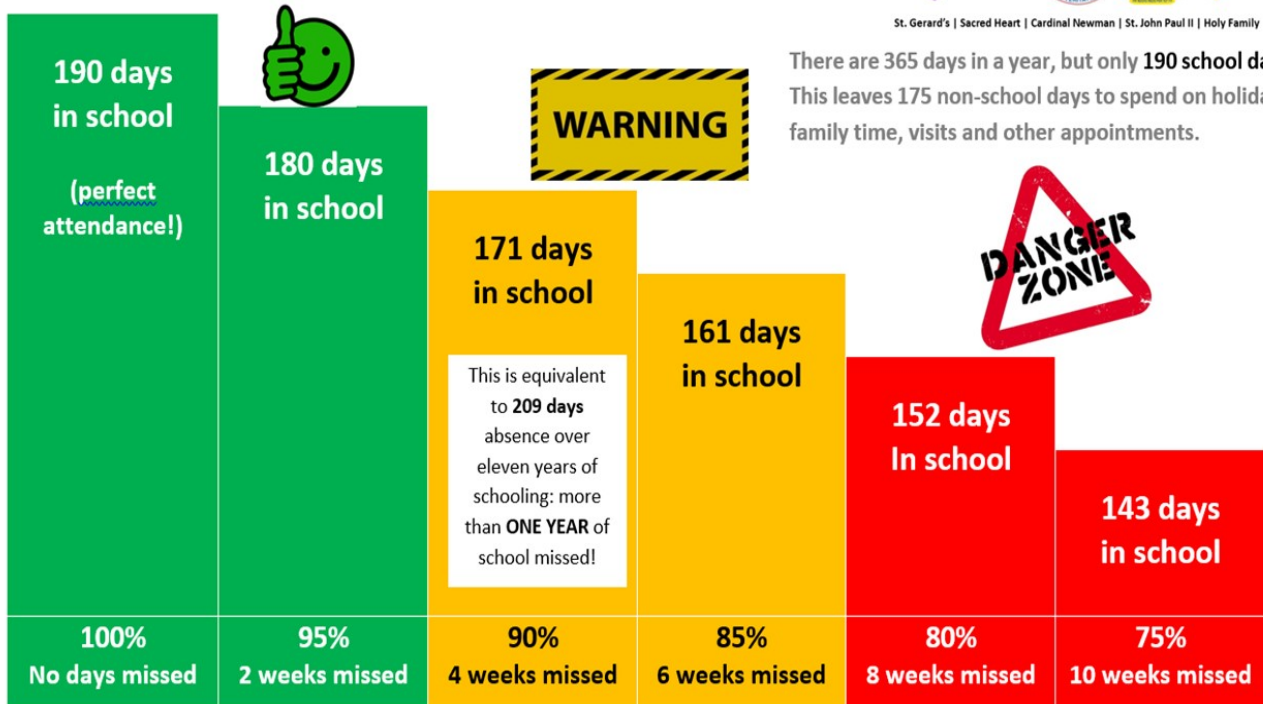
It goes without saying, the more a child attends school the better chance they have of reaching their full potential. Our staff are working extremely hard to ensure children receive good learning experiences and supports which they may require. The North Lanarkshire attendance target is 95% for every pupil. I have included an illustration summary to show the number of days/weeks lost against attendance percentages. Increased attendance at school continues to be a focus for our school improvement journey and a focus for NLC. Holidays taken during school time are not permitted and should be avoided at all costs. Holidays will not be authorised unless in very exceptional circumstances and approved after discussions with myself. **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 us understand why children are not in school on time 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 any way we can.

CARDINAL NEWMAN CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS



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

Understanding your child's attendance percentage



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 Residential Barcaple, Dumfries and Galloway

Our P7 children are being offered the opportunity to take part in a residential experience – 28th April-30th April 2025. The second payment of £30 is due to us by **Monday 7th October**. The children and staff are very excited about this opportunity and I hope to have a date very soon from the centre when they can host a session to share more information. I will be in touch as soon as this date is set. Any questions please contact the school office.

Blessing of P1 Children

Father Krzysztof has kindly invited all P1 children and their families to join with Holy Family Parish on Sunday 6th October @ 11.00am for Mass and a special blessing of our P1's. Children should come along to the church wearing their school uniform. Our P7 Buddies are also welcome to come along and support. All children should sit with their families.

Trips

Thank you to the parents/ carers who have shared some feedback and suggestions around outings and class experiences for the children. This session I have asked each teacher to plan a class trip to enhance relationships and the learning experiences they are providing. Taking into account the current economic climate we are all impacted by, I am suggesting we work on a rotation of one year a class trip and one year a whole school outing to a panto. The school will aim to subsidise outings as much as possible with the financial support you all kindly contribute to fund raising events.

Parent Council:

Holy Family is very lucky to have such an active and caring Parent Council. Last year a few new members came forward which has been great. If you can spare some time to support our Parent Council please come along to the next meeting, usually this falls on the third Thursday of the month. 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.

Next meeting is 19th September at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Community Coffee Morning

After each First Friday Mass the Parent Council host a coffee morning. The venue has now moved over to the Parish Hall where there is more space. The children are able to join the community during playtime if they have a family member attending who can be responsible for them while hot drinks are around. This is a great opportunity for families to connect with the community over a cuppa. Please encourage the extended community to come along, all welcome.

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
- View report cards

Our school website has instructions of how to register. [Parents Portal | Holy Family Primary and Nursery Class](#)
glowscotland.org.uk If you have not yet managed to register contact the office for information.

Security

All visitors to the school should enter by the main entrance door by buzzing at the intercom and state to the member of staff the reason for your visit. We have explained to the children they should never open the front door from the inside of the building even if they know the adult on the other side. All visitors are kindly asked to report to the office on the right-hand side at the top of the first flight of stairs. The office staff will then sign in visitors and help with the reason for your visit. The safety of our children is paramount.

Meet the Teacher

Parent/ carers are invited to meet your child's class teacher and see their learning environment on **Tuesday 17th September at 4pm**. To help manage numbers in the classes, can I ask a maximum of 2 adults per child come along. The teacher will explain some of the things your child experiences in class and ways you can support at home. This session is for adults, later in the year we will extend another invite for you to work alongside your child.

Parents' Evening

Our first Parents' Evening of the year will be Thursday 10th October. Very shortly the booking system will be live through Parent Portal. Using Parent Portal allows you to choose a suitable time to meet with class teachers spend time discussing your child's progress. Any problems please contact the office.

Dates for your Diary

2023-24



September 2024

17th Sept– Meet the Teacher 4pm

27th– 30th Sept (inclusive)- September Weekend (school and nursery closed)

October 2024

6th Oct– Blessing of P1 children at 11am Mass

10th Oct– Parents' Evening

14th-18th Oct– October holiday

21st Oct– Children return to school

Holy Family Primary School

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



The School Year 2024-25

August 2024

- Monday 12 August 2024 (Return date for Teachers & In-Service Day)
- Tuesday 13 August 2024 (In-Service Day)
- Wednesday 14 August 2024 (Return date for Pupils)

September 2024

- Friday 27 September and Monday 30 September 2024 (September weekend)

October 2024

- Monday 14 to Friday 18 October 2024 (October Week)

November 2024

- Monday 18 November 2024 (In-Service Day)

December 2024 - January 2025

- Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024
- Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025 (inclusive) (Christmas holidays) Schools return on Monday, 6 January 2025

February 2025

- Monday 17 February and Tuesday 18 February 2025 (Mid-term break)
- Wednesday 19 February 2025 (In-service day)

April 2025

- Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 4 April 2025
- Monday 7 April- Friday 18 April 2025 (Inclusive)* Spring Holiday (Easter)
- Good Friday 18 April and Easter Monday 21 April 2025

May 2025

- Monday 5 May 2025 (May Public Holiday)
- Tuesday 6 May 2025 (in-service day)
- Friday 23 May 2025 and Monday 26 May 2025 (May Weekend)

June 2025

- Schools Close at 1pm on Wednesday 25 June 2025

Holy Family Primary School

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



**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)