



Holy Family Primary School

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

September
2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the new school session for 2025–26. 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 that your child has the best experience at school.

A very special 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 refer to this 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 Mrs Speirs/ Mrs Anderson (Wednesday)

P3 Mrs Daisley/ Mrs Cooney

P4 Mrs Stevenson

P5/6 Miss Murphy

P6 Mrs Kennedy

P7 Mrs Preston

Mrs Anderson and Mrs Byrne will cover teacher NCCT across different classes.

Mrs Cook will also offer support across the school and assist myself in a leadership role.

We are also supported by a number of specialists within the school and I will share more information directly with parents/carers of these staff members and their respective 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 and reach their goals here in Holy Family.

Community of Faith

Father Krzysztof and I met at the beginning of term to plan for this school session. All of 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 children.

Dates for your diary:

Sacrament of Confirmation (P7 pupils) Wednesday 12th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (P3 pupils) Tuesday 24th February at 6pm in Holy Family Church.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion (P4 pupils) Saturday 16th May 2026 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. Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening is at 4pm and at 11am Mass on Sunday there is a Children's Liturgy to which you are all most warmly welcome to attend.

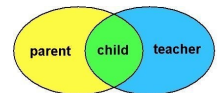


Uniform

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

Homework

Class teachers will begin to issue homework at the beginning of September. Homework should not take any longer than 20 mins Monday-Thursday. P3-7 will have their tasks published on the school website which is easily accessible to all. P1 and P2 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 again share their P.E. 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. This is to encourage good personal hygiene and independence skills.
- If you do not have a yellow t-shirt then a dark plain t-shirt is 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 that some children are unable to do their tie or shoe laces independently. Please take time to teach your child these important life skills, particularly our older children who will need this skill for high school.

Labelling

Reminder- please ensure your child's name is on **ALL** of their belongings so that we can try our best to reunite children with their lost property. Having names on items left in school 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 and please note that NLC policy is that only plain water is to be drunk throughout the day to help with refreshing and rehydrating our brains which improves concentration. I ask for your support in this matter.



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 in 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 which is located in one of our classrooms on the first floor. If you wish to view our stock, please contact any member of staff at the gate or call in to 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 will explore ways of extending the range of items available. We welcome donations of uniform, jackets, trainers and school shoes in good condition and in need of a new home.

Swimming Lessons

Our P5 class have started a programme of swimming lessons at Sir Matt Busby for 11 weeks. The school have asked the Parent Council to meet the full cost of this extremely important experience. Children and staff leave the school around 12/12.15pm and walk to and from the sports centre. We see this as an excellent opportunity to develop an essential life skill in our children as well as promoting positive well-being.

Communication

The school website is also a good source of communication as it is regularly updated
[Holy Family Primary and Nursery Class](#)

Our main source of direct communication will be through Groupcall which sends emails. Please ensure you that 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 important that 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 31st 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 these 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 their phone to school then we recommend that the device remains at home.

Appointment—we ask that you make all non-emergency appointments out with school hours. If children need to attend an appointment i.e. hospital please present their letter, text or text confirmation to the office to ensure we record these instances in line with NLC policy. Parents/carers will be asked to sign the child out of the building when collecting.

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 deliver high quality learning experiences and support any needs that children may have. North Lanarkshire's 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 only approved after discussions with myself.

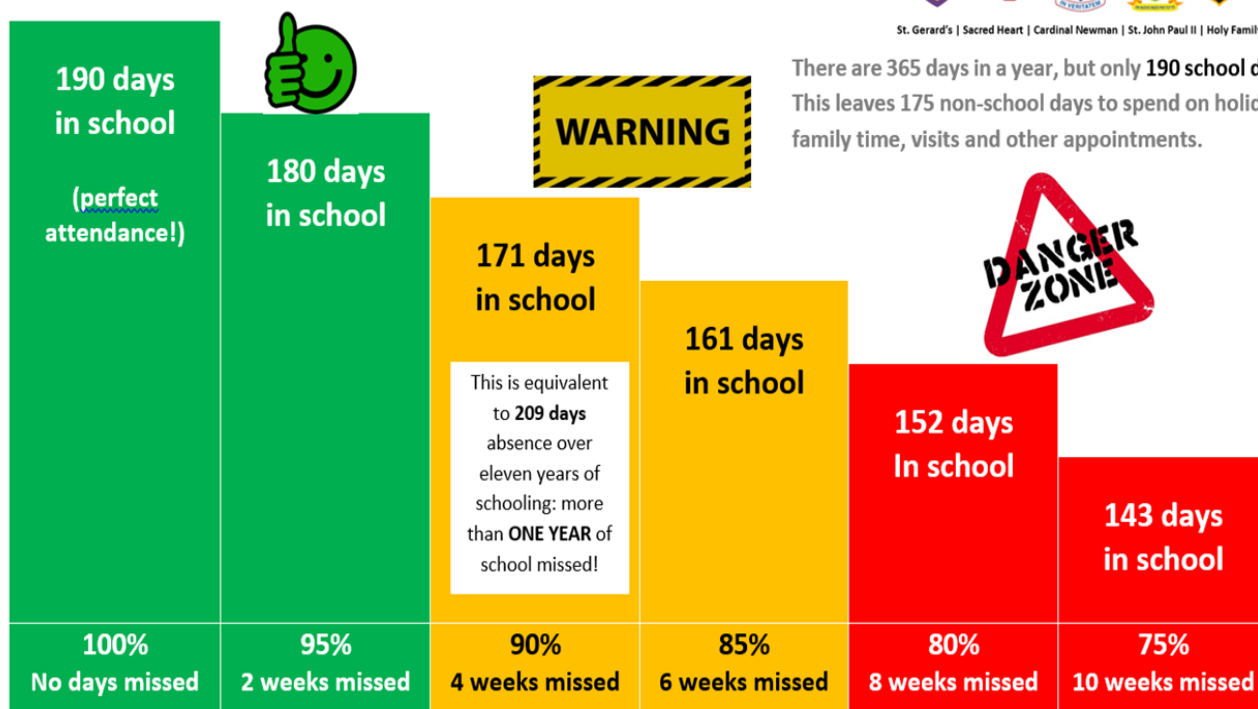
Late-coming is very disruptive to our classes and stressful for children. We understand that occasionally situations arise where this is unavoidable but and I would ask that you share any information in this regard as I expect all children to be in the yard for the bell ringing at 9am . Persistent late-coming is a concern and we will continue to support families in any way 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 Residential Barcaple, Dumfries and Galloway

Our P7 children are being offered the opportunity to take part in a residential experience – 27th April-29th April 2026. The deposit payment of £30 is due to us by **Friday 26th Sept**. The children and staff are very excited about this opportunity. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact the school office. This experience can be paid up, the office will issue each child with a payment card/ schedule to help keep a record of any payments. Families can pay using iPayimpact.

Blessing of P1 Children

Father Krzysztof has kindly invited all P1 children and their families to join with Holy Family Parish on Sunday 5th 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.

School Outing– Panto

We have booked NLC's pantomime for the whole school this year on Wednesday 17th December when we will venture to Airdrie Town Hall to see Snow White. In the month of October we are looking to host some fundraising events to help towards the cost of this magical experience for our children. We are aware that some children may find taking part in this type of experience difficult, if this is the case please speak to Mrs Cook or Mrs Harley.

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.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council plays a key role in school life by representing the voice of parents and working in partnership with staff to support our children's education and wellbeing.

One of the main ways the Parent Council contributes is by planning and hosting fundraising events throughout the year. These events not only raise valuable funds for resources, trips and activities that benefit all pupils but also create fun opportunities for families and the school community to come together.

Thanks to the hard work and creativity of the Parent Council, pupils enjoy exciting events such as our discos, Christmas Fayre and Community Coffee Mornings to name a few. The money raised goes directly towards enhancing the children's experiences in school. Look out for their newsletter sharing more detailed information of how our children benefit from their support. To ensure we can continue and extend the efforts of our Parent Council we are asking all parents/carers to consider if they would like to become a new member. New ideas are always welcome, so if you'd like to get involved or find out more, please contact the office for more information or speak to one of the current members.

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. Mrs Harley is 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 through head-to-head contact. Weekly, check your child's hair and seek advice from a local pharmacy if you need to treat this common childhood issue.

Parent Portal

Many of our Parents/ Carers are already registered with Parent Portal. This is an important 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 Parents' Evening
- Report absences
- Receive information about the school
- View report cards

This link to NLC's main website has instruction of how to access and register for this service.

[How do you sign up for parentsportal.scot? | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Security

All visitors to the school should enter by the main entrance door by buzzing the intercom and advising 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 and we kindly ask that parents access the office only and not the classes directly.

Meet the Teacher

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our recent Meet the Teacher session. We hope you found it helpful in getting to know your child's teacher and in learning more about how you can support your child's progress at school.

We really value the partnership between home and school and it was wonderful to see so many families taking part.

Looking ahead, there will be another opportunity for you to come into school and work alongside your child in class on a curricular area. This will give you a chance to see learning in action and experience some of the activities your child enjoys each day. Further details will be shared soon – we hope to see you there!

Parents' Evening

Our first Parents' Evening of the year will be Thursday 9th October. Very shortly the booking system will be live through Parent Portal. Using Parent Portal allows you to choose a suitable time which suits the routine of your family and other commitments. All class teachers are looking forward to discussing your child's progress and settlement into their new class. Any problems, please contact the office.

Dates for your Diary

2025-26



September 2025

18th– Parent Council Meeting

24th– St Michael Statue arriving at Holy Family Church
Roots of Empathy begins for P4

25th– Nursery PJand Movie afternoon

26th– 29th (inclusive)- September Weekend holiday

October 2025

3rd– First Friday Mass (P6) and Coffee Morning

5th– Blessing of P1 children in Holy Family Church

6th– Jotters coming home before Parents' Evening

9th– Parents' Evening

13th– 19th (inclusive)- October Week holiday

30th– Flu Vaccinations

November 2025

7th– First Friday Mass and Coffee Morning

12th– Sacrament of Confirmation

Holy Family Primary School

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



The School Year 2025-26

August

- Tuesday 12 August 2025 (Return date for teachers & in-service day)
- Wednesday 13 August 2025 (In-service day)
- Thursday 14 August 2025 (Return date for pupils)

September

- Friday 26 September and Monday 29 September 2025 (September weekend holiday)

October

- Monday 13 to Friday 17 October 2025 inclusive (October week)

November

- Monday 17 November 2025 (In-service day)

December - Christmas and New Year

- Schools close at 2:30pm on Thursday 18 December 2025
- Friday 19 December 2025 - Friday 2 January 2026 inclusive (Christmas holidays)

January

- Schools return on Monday 5 January 2026

February midterm break

- Monday 16 February 2026
- Tuesday 17 February 2026
- Wednesday 18 February 2026 (In-service day)

April - Spring holiday (Easter)

- Schools close at 2:30pm on Thursday 2 April 2026
- Friday 3 April - Friday 17 April 2026 inclusive (Spring break)
- Schools return on Monday 20 April 2026

May

- Monday 4 May 2026 (May holiday)
- Thursday 7 May 2026 (In-service day to coincide with Scottish Parliamentary election, but may be subject to change)
- Friday 22 May 2026 and Monday 25 May 2026 (May weekend)

June - Summer holidays

- Schools close at 1pm on Friday 26 June 2026