



Holy Family Primary School

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November/
December
2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As we approach the festive season, the school is buzzing with excitement and anticipation! The weeks leading up to the Christmas break are always a special time in our school community, filled with joy, creativity, and togetherness. In this edition of our newsletter, you'll find all the latest updates and important information about upcoming events, celebrations, and opportunities for families to get involved.

From seasonal performances and classroom activities to charity drives and community visits, there's plenty to look forward to.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you and your families a joyful lead-up to the holidays!

Kind regards,

Mrs Harley and the Holy Family Team.

Community of Faith

Sacramental Celebrations and Preparation

Our children are looking forward to a very special occasion as we welcome **Bishop Toal** to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. This will be a joyful moment in their faith journey, shortly followed by their **Mass of Thanksgiving**, where we will come together as a community to give thanks.

After the Christmas break, our **Primary 3 and Primary 4 children** will begin their preparation for **First Holy Communion** and **First Reconciliation**. This is an important and exciting time for them as they grow in their understanding of the sacraments and deepen their relationship with God.

During this holy season of **Advent**, class teachers will be focusing on learning that helps us prepare for the very important celebration of **Jesus' birth on Christmas Day**. Advent is a time of hope, reflection, and joyful anticipation, and we look forward to sharing this journey together.

Staff Faith Development

Recently, Mrs Harley joined Catholic Head Teachers for a conference with the theme "Called by Name." This two-day event provided an opportunity to work alongside colleagues and engage with inspiring speakers, deepening her own faith and understanding of her role as she continues to lead our community in the Catholic faith.

This week, Mrs Cook will join with Principal Teachers and our Depute Head Teacher to further develop her understanding of her important role in supporting the faith life of our school.

Scripture for Reflection

"I have called you by name, you are mine."

(Isaiah 43:1)

As we journey through Advent and prepare for the sacraments, may this scripture remind us of God's love and His call to each of us.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

I am the Child Protection Co-ordinator for the school and nursery. If you have concerns for any 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.

If you need to come into the school building for any reason please buzz at the main door. The staff will let you in then report to the school office and staff will deal with your requests.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our families for your incredible generosity and support during our recent Halloween Disco. Your donations of snacks helped make the event a fun and festive celebration for our students!

We are also deeply grateful for your thoughtful contributions to our local food bank and for the winter jackets donated for recycling. These acts of kindness make a real difference in our community and reflect the caring spirit of our school.

Thank you for helping us spread warmth, joy, and support this season!

School Choir Spreading Festive Cheer

We're delighted to share that our wonderful school choir will be heading out into the community this festive season to perform and spread some holiday cheer!

The children have been working hard rehearsing a selection of seasonal songs, and we're excited for them to share their talents and brighten the days of others with music and joy.

More details will follow soon, including dates, locations, and how you can support or attend these special performances.

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.



Important Information for Parents/Carers of Children Starting School in August 2026

If your child is due to start Primary 1 in August 2026 and you are considering deferring their entry, we would like to draw your attention to the North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) website, where you will find detailed information about the deferral process and eligibility criteria.

In the first instance, we kindly ask that you speak with the nursery team at your child's current early years establishment. They will be able to offer guidance and support in helping you make an informed decision.

Should you wish to proceed with a deferral request, please ensure that all relevant paperwork is completed and submitted to your child's current nursery by Friday 5th December 2025.

Please note: If you later decide to change your mind and wish your child to start school as originally planned, this can be re-visited.

For more information, please visit the North Lanarkshire Council website and search for "Primary 1 deferral".

Enterprise Learning Continues!

We are excited to share that our pupils and nursery children will be continuing their enterprise learning this term. They have been busy creating beautiful **Christmas-themed crafts**, which will be available for families and friends to purchase during our **Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday, 5th December**.

This festive event will also include the **P1–3 Nativity** and the **Nursery Christmas Concert**, making it a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together and support the children's creativity.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Council News

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Parent Council and Families

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Parent Council for their incredible commitment and dedication to our school. Their support touches every aspect of school life—from helping with improvements and the smooth running of our day-to-day activities to creating opportunities that make our children's experiences truly special.

The Parent Council works tirelessly to provide moments for our children to celebrate, make lasting memories, and enjoy experiences that enrich their time at school. From thoughtful gifts to exciting events, their efforts ensure that every child feels valued and supported.

We also want to thank all the parents who stand behind these initiatives. Your encouragement and involvement make these achievements possible, and together, we create a nurturing and vibrant school community.

Thank you for everything you do to make our school a place where children can thrive and shine.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, 20th November at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Centre. We've recently welcomed new members, which is great news! At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the roles within the council were re-assigned.

We're aiming to resume regularly uploading the minutes to the Parent Council page on our school website. There's still space for a few more members, so if you can commit a small amount of time, we'd love to have you join us.

Christmas Fayre

7th December in Holy Family Parish Centre

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Please spread the word to your extended family, friends, and the wider community!

There will be a fantastic range of stalls for you to browse—perfect for picking up some Christmas gifts. We're also planning great prizes, the ever-popular tombola stall, and... you never know, we might even have a very special visitor!

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing some festive cheer.

Donations for Our Christmas Fair

This year, we are kindly asking for donations of pre-loved toys and games that can be sold at our stalls, as well as prizes for our raffle and tombola.

If you know of any local businesses that would be keen to make a donation, please encourage them to hand items in to the school office.

To support this, we will be holding **two dress-down days** for the children in exchange for donations:

- **Friday 14th November** – Please bring toys or games
- **Friday 28th November** – raffle and tombola prizes

Thank you in advance for your support.

School Support

So far this year, the Parent Council has covered the cost of our buses to the pantomime, met the cost of our P5 children accessing swimming lessons, and plans are underway for mementos for our P7 children.

All of the work by our Parent Council is a true example of our establishment's vision: 'Our children are at the heart of our community.'

PVG Scheme

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to join the PVG scheme and help support the work of our school and nursery. Applications will be processed as soon as possible.

Some of the experiences we offer to the children would not be possible without people who are willing to kindly give up their time to help. If you wish to become one of our PVG-approved volunteers, please contact the school office.

Improvement Journey Update

Supporting Our Children's Learning: A Focus on Questioning and Numeracy

Over the past few terms, our teaching staff have been working closely with colleagues across North Lanarkshire Council to deepen their understanding of effective questioning strategies. This work is designed to help children think more critically, engage more fully, and develop a stronger grasp of their learning.

To support this, teachers have been investing in their own professional development by reading research-based articles and applying new approaches in their classrooms. These strategies encourage children to explore ideas, explain their thinking, and build confidence in problem-solving.

Alongside this, we have been reviewing how we structure and deliver numeracy learning. Our teachers have attended training sessions and shared their learning with one another, ensuring that best practice is embedded across the school. We have also identified a range of high-quality resources that will help children develop a deeper understanding of key mathematical concepts.

We are excited about the positive impact these improvements will have on your child's learning journey and look forward to continuing to work together to support every child's success.

Improving Attendance – Our Ongoing Focus

At Holy Family Primary and Nursery Class we are committed to supporting every child in achieving their best, and one of the most important factors in this is regular attendance. We are continuing to focus on improving attendance across the school because being in school every day makes a real difference.

Why good attendance matters:

- **Better learning outcomes:** Children who attend regularly are more likely to keep up with lessons and make steady progress.
- **Stronger social connections:** Being in school helps children build friendships and develop important social skills.
- **Confidence and routine:** Regular attendance creates a sense of stability and helps children feel confident in their learning environment.

Preparation for the future: Good habits now set the foundation for success in later education and employment.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school every day, on time. Together, we can help every child thrive!

Average Monthly Attendance		
Month	%	%
	24-25	25-26
August	97%	91%
September	95%	95%
October	93%	94%
November	93%	
December	87%	
January	95%	
February	95%	
March	93%	
April	93%	
May	93%	
Year over-all	94%	

Average Monthly Attendance by Stage	
Stage	November 2025 (current)
P1	94%
P2	92%
P3	94%
P4	98%
P5	95%
P6	95%
P7	95%

House Captains and Vice Captains

At the beginning of term, our senior pupils were busy applying for the roles of House Captains and Vice Captains. Every child who applied should be proud of themselves—the standard and level of interest in these roles were extremely high.

Some pupils progressed to the next stage of the process, preparing campaigns and speeches that were delivered during school assembly. All P3–7 children voted in a secret ballot to elect their House and Vice Captains.

The successful candidates are:

- **Muirmadkin:** Captain – Sean Clark | Vice Captain – Max Nelson
- **Milnwood:** Captain – Amber Rooney | Vice Captain – Darragh Traynor
- **Orbiston:** Captain – Kamila Tomina | Vice Captain – Grace Coakley
- **Mossend:** Captain – Aena Sadaf | Vice Captain – Dacri Lafferty

At the end of last session, the current P7 children voted for their *Pupil of Achievement*. They were asked to choose a pupil who consistently displays our school values, is responsible, and sets a great example to others. Eva Keeney was the winner of this vote, and Eva will oversee and work alongside the Captains and Vice Captains this session.

We wish them all every success in their roles!

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
16th–30th November	Catholic Education Week
17th November	In-service Day (school and nursery closed to children)
19th November	School photographer
20th November	Reading Buddies – P7 pupils visiting each school to read to P1's
20th November	Parent Council, Holy Family Parish Centre
21st November	Nursery photographer
24th November	Annual Education Mass in Motherwell Cathedral
28th November	School Tabletop sale to raise funds towards the cost of the pantomime
1st December	St. Andrew's Day Celebrations
4th December	Nursery Christmas Concert (1.45pm)
5th December	School Christmas Dinner (Christmas jumper optional)
8th December	Nursery Christmas Party
9th December (PM)	P1–3 Nativity – more information to follow
10th December (PM)	P1–3 Nativity
10th December	School Choir performing at Mossend Primary
11th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Reindeer Rave
11th December	Mossend Primary Choir performing at Holy Family Primary
12th December	P7 transition visit to CNHS
12th December	P1–3 Christmas Party
15th December	P7 Christmas Party
16th December	P4–6 Christmas Party
17th December (PM)	Panto PM
18th December	School and Nursery close at 2.30pm for Christmas holiday