



Our Lady & St. Francis Primary School & Nursery Class



September 2018 Newsletter

Primary One



Our Primary One pupils have settled in really well as I am sure you can see from their fabulous line in the morning. They have already learned some sounds and numbers and we are all very proud of them. We must also commend their P7 buddies who have taken such good care of them in their first few weeks at school. A P1 settling-in report will be issued just prior to the September weekend.

Meet the Teacher Evening

I am sure you are keen to find out what your child will be learning this year; in order for us to give as much information as possible we are holding a Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Information Evening on Wednesday 19th September at 6.30pm. You will have the opportunity to visit your child's class and teacher and find out about their plans for the year ahead. You will also have the opportunity to hear a presentation from Deacon Mark O'Donnell on 'Catholic Schools, Good for Scotland' as part of our celebrations of 100 years of Catholic Education. A letter with further details of this will be issued today and we ask that you return this indicating your attendance so that we can plan for numbers.



Parents' Evening



Our first Parent/Teacher interviews of this session will take place on Thursday 10th October. Details of our online booking system will be issued nearer the time.

School Uniform

We pride ourselves on our beautiful blue and grey uniform here at Our Lady & St. Francis Primary. **Please note that white shirts/blouses, white polo shirts and white t-shirts are not part of our uniform.** A white t-shirt or polo shirt can be worn for PE only, but this should be brought to school with your child to change into. Please also ensure your child wears black shoes or trainers to school each day.



First Friday Mass

Please note, due to parish events and commitments, **there will be no first Friday mass in September** (or coffee morning). Our planned Mass and coffee morning for Friday 5th October will now be led by our P7 class.

Parking



Parking is an ongoing issue and we ask that parents park responsibly and safely when dropping off and picking up children. We are very fortunate to have use of the Holy Ghost Fathers car park and the Grotto, and we ask that you use these for parking, but do so considerately. Please **do not** use our car park to 'cut through' with your children as it is unsafe to do so.

Time Keeping



Time keeping is an ongoing issue for our school. A significant number of children are not making it into school before the bell every morning. We appreciate that there will be the odd occasion where families will be running a little late for one reason or another but we ask that you endeavour to get children into school on time as valuable teaching time can be missed. In line with North Lanarkshire policy, we must mark children as 'late' if they are not in school for 9am. If you are arriving with your child after 9am in the morning, please use the main entrance as all other doors will be locked and alarmed. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

P7 Welcome Mass



Taylor High School are having a P7 welcome Mass at 7pm on the 4th October and we hope that our P7s are represented well at this. Letters will be issued nearer the time with further details.

Water Bottles

We are fortunate that our Parent Council has kindly ordered a water bottle for every child in our school. In line with North Lanarkshire Council policy, only water is allowed to be drunk whilst in class; please do not fill water bottles with anything else. We also ask that they are filled with water before leaving the house in the morning so that children can quickly settle in the classroom. Children have the opportunity to fill up their water bottles throughout the day if they need more.

World of Work Week

This week is our World of Work Week and children will be participating in many activities that will give them a better awareness of the world of work. We are having a 'Careers Day' for our senior pupils on Thursday and some of our parents and friends are coming to speak with our pupils about what their jobs entail. Many thanks to Mr Rankin for organising the whole week - I'm sure our pupils will benefit greatly from it.

School Photographs

John Wilson will be in our school on Tuesday 18th September to take school photographs. We ask that children are dressed in full school uniforms, including shirts and ties for this please.



Kilbowie

Our P7s go to Kilbowie on Tuesday 24th September until Friday 26th this year. As you know, this immediately follows the September weekend, and a letter with final arrangements will be issued nearer the time. Please ensure that full payment, including a maximum of £10 for tuck shop, is sent to the school office by Thursday 20th September at the latest. Please also ensure all permission slips and medication are also sent in by Thursday 20th September.

Walking Challenge

We are starting a Walking Challenge in Our Lady and St. Francis. Stuart Farr, our active schools coordinator, will be organising a 'walking for fitness' activity every Wednesday at 8.45am until the October week. Introducing exercise before periods of learning can have a positive impact on learning and has many added health benefits. We are hoping to encourage our children to walk more and make use of opportunities to stay active. If your child would like to participate, we will be meeting in the large playground at the back of the school on Wednesday 5th September at 8.45am.

2018 - Catholic Schools, Good for Scotland

This year we celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Education Act which saw catholic schools transfer from Diocesan control to State governance. We will be marking this very special occasion in a variety of ways. A copy of the icon, Jesus Our Teacher, now has pride of place on our school wall and has been used by classes as a focus for prayer and reflection. On Friday afternoon, we took our children over to the Grotto and arranged them into the numerals '100' and took a whole school photograph. Thursday of this week (weather permitting) we will go back over to the Grotto for a picnic packed lunch; children can order a snack to go if they are having a school meal that day. If you have any picnic rugs that you could send in for this, it would be extremely helpful. Whilst there, they will participate in prayer and reflection. We are also in the middle of a wall display of previous pupils, so please send in any school photographs that you have (these will be returned to you). Our Mass that is scheduled for 5th October will be a celebratory Mass for this occasion too. Finally, as you know, the focus in the hall for Meet the Teacher evening, will also be 'Catholic Schools, Good for Scotland'. A huge thanks to Mrs Taggart for overseeing and organising all of this.

Holiday Dates

Our school will close at 3pm on Thursday 20th September for our September weekend and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 25th September. October week this year is week commencing Monday 15th October to Friday 19th October inclusive.

