



Our Lady & St. Francis Primary School & Nursery Class



August/September 2022 Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome back to our new school year. It is lovely to see our corridors busy again with familiar faces. Our children have settled quickly into their new classes and have shown they are ready for the challenges of the new term. Our Primary Ones have already learned many of our routines and are impressing us every day with their independence.

This year school starts at 9am for all stages, please ensure your child is in the line and ready for the class teacher at 9am. Latecoming can negatively impact your child's education and can be very disruptive for the class. Unfortunately our latecoming rate has increased over the last year, so I urge you to ensure your child gets to school on time.

Anniversary

Mrs Taggart will celebrate 30 years teaching at Our Lady and St Francis Primary on the 30th August 2022. Mrs Taggart has dedicated her whole teaching career to our school and she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the staff team. During her time in OLSF she has taught over 900 children, launched PFFA, developed strong links with our church, taken on many leadership roles, knitted garments for every newborn baby in the school (and one for Mrs Crooks), made lifelong friends and delighted staff and pupils with her performance of 'Honey T' a few hallowe'ens ago. Mrs Taggart is a hugely valued and important member of OLSF and her commitment and loyalty to the school goes above and beyond. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Taggart a "Happy School Anniversary"!

School Uniform

The children all look fantastic in their school uniforms – they are a credit to you and your commitment to our school. Please remember to **mark your child's name** on jumpers, jackets etc. if you've not already done so. It is helpful to ensure your child has a hooded jacket in school for outdoor learning purposes. We will be using our outdoor area as much as possible for learning so please ensure that your child always has a hooded jacket in school. If you have any old uniforms that are still in good condition, please hand them into the school as we can make good use of them. Please note our school uniform consists of a blue shirt with a tie or a blue polo shirt, grey jumper/cardigan, grey skirt/trousers and black footwear (no white trainers, please).

On PE days, children should wear their uniform and change into their PE Kit, which consists of blue polo shirt, grey school jumper, dark/grey joggers/shorts/leggings and indoor shoes such as plimsoles. No tracksuits or cropped tops. As per our school policy, pre covid, a reminder letter will be sent home if your child does not wear their uniform and PE kit. If you require uniform items, contact the school as we have lots of pre-loved clothes available and in very good condition.

Due to health and safety concerns, no jewellery should be worn on PE days. If your child wears earrings that cannot be taken out, please provide your child with plasters or micropore tape to cover them. Nail

extensions also pose a risk to health and safety and I would ask that you do not allow your child to wear them in school.

Our PE days are as follows:

P1a	Friday
P1b	Tuesday
P2	Tuesday
P2/3	Friday
P3/4	Wednesday
P4	Wednesday

P5	Wednesday
P5/6	Tuesday
P6a	Thursday
P6b	Thursday
P7a	Thursday
P7b	Friday

In line with North Lanarkshire Council Policy, at no time should football colours/badges be brought into school, this includes clothing, pencil cases, lunch boxes and water bottles.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

We would like to remind you that we have children in our school with severe nut allergies, and in line with North Lanarkshire policy, our school is a completely **nut free zone**. This also applies to 'hidden' nuts contained in most chocolate spreads which contain hazelnuts and some Kinder products.



If you are giving your child grapes or cherry tomatoes as part of their snack/packed lunch, please cut them in half, length ways.

Children can drink water throughout the day, no juice is permitted in the class. Children can top up their water bottles throughout the day in the school.



Breakfast Club

As you know, our school offers a Breakfast Club and this is available in the dining hall each morning between 8:15 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. It is staffed by a Breakfast Supervisor and Kitchen staff. Children coming to the breakfast service should enter via the main door. The price of this is

One child £1, 2 children £1.50, 3 children £1.80, and 4 children £2.10.

Children in P1-5 can benefit from this service free.

Please note that North Lanarkshire Council sets the pricing for breakfast club services.

Children in receipt of Free School Meal entitlement will also be entitled to a free breakfast. If you think that your child is entitled to this but you have not applied, then you should go to <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grantsv> and complete the free school meal application. Please note that free breakfast entitlement will only begin once this award is made, so it's important that this is done as soon as possible.

Data Forms

Data forms can be completed through the parent portal this year. If you have not signed up for this service, please do so by visiting <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/nl-digital-school/parents-portal> for more information.

HT Blog, Twitter and Emails

Remember to check Twitter regularly (@olsfschool) and our blog on our school website (<http://www.ourlady-st-francis.n-lanark.sch.uk/>) regularly for updates. We have uploaded an annual calendar with important dates for your diary to our school website under school events. Please treat all these dates as tentative.

Yard

We are in the process of tidying our yard and making it more exciting for our pupils. Fortunately the staff in the nursery have some expertise in developing outdoor areas and have already started to weed and sweep. We would appreciate any donations of trellis, top soil, bark, wood paint and general garden accessories to help us create an exciting, fun, interesting garden with a variety of learning opportunities.

Head Lice

We are unable to inform parents of outbreaks of head lice so we ask that you are vigilant and check your child's head regularly. If you would like any advice from our Public Health Nurse regarding treatment, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Parking



Parking continues to be an issue for our school and we ask that parents park responsibly and safely when dropping off and picking up children. We are very fortunate to have the use of the Holy Ghost Fathers car park and we ask that you use this area for parking. Please park considerately and avoid double parking etc. Please do not park in front of the Holy Ghost Fathers or block moving traffic.

Flu Vaccine

The annual flu vaccine will be administered on 3rd November. A consent form must be signed for your child to receive this. Please return this as soon as possible if you wish your child to receive this.

Welcome back Mass and First Friday Mass/Coffee Morning

Our whole school will go to the church on Friday 2nd September for First Friday Mass. P7b will lead the liturgy at this Mass and will also lead the coffee morning afterwards in our school hall. As always, we are looking for donations of shop bought baking and biscuits (nut free, please) and raffle prizes.



Homework

Homework will be issued from 12th September. Please ensure your child completes all homework. In line with our school policy, if homework is not completed on 3 occasions a letter will be issued to parents/carers. If any part of homework is causing difficulties please alert the class teacher.

Curriculum Night

We will hold a Curriculum Night on 20th September at 6pm. This will involve a session from Mrs Semple regarding the Visions, Aims and Values of the school and then an input from the class teachers about the curriculum for the upcoming year. I would encourage all parents/carers to attend this event as important information will be given.

Maths Week Scotland

After our successful Maths Week Scotland last year, we will celebrate all things Maths w/b27th September. Please ask your child during this week what they have been learning and look out for more information nearer the time.

Holiday Dates

The school is closed on the 23rd and 26th September for the September weekend.

Once again I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish all the children a successful year.