



Our Lady & St. Francis Primary School & Nursery Class



August/September 2023 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.

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, can be very disruptive for the class and as little as 10 minutes per day equals half a year of missed education over the course of your child's schooling. Unfortunately our latecoming rate has increased over the last year, so I urge you to ensure your child gets to school on time.

I am delighted to say our attendance improved last year by 1%, taking us to 92% attendance, though our school target continues to be 95%. Understandably there will be occasions where your child will not be able to attend school due to illness, please inform the school office of this at your earliest convenience. Attendance is monitored monthly and letters issued to parents/carers should a child's attendance drop below 90%. Excellent attendance is crucial for your child to reach their maximum potential therefore if you need any support getting your child to school contact the school office.

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. 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 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	Wednesday/Monday
P1b	Friday/Monday

P4/5	Wednesday/Friday
P5	Thursday/Tuesday

P2a	Thursday/Wednesday
P2b	Thursday/Wednesday
P3	Tuesday/Friday
P3/4	Tuesday/Friday

P5/6	Wednesday/Tuesday
P6	Friday/Tuesday
P7a	Monday/Thursday
P7b	Monday/Thursday

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 **nut free zone**, with no exceptions. 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 and Lunches

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.

Primary 6 and 7 do not receive free meals. To pay for a lunch you must register for an online account. This can be done through this link. <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/school-meal-payments/register-online-school-payments>

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. We will also send out a paper copy of data forms.

HT Blog, X and Emails

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

Yard

As always we are looking to improve our yard so that our children may have fun and exciting outdoor learning experiences. We would appreciate any donations of trellis, top soil, bark, wood paint and general garden accessories to help us.

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.

Welcome back Mass and First Friday Mass/Coffee Morning

Our whole school will go to the church on Friday 1st 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. P7a and P7b will also entertain us with a few songs.



Curriculum Night

We will hold a Curriculum Night on 19th September at 4:30pm. 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/b25th 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 22nd and 25th 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.