

St. Augustine's Primary



Winner of NLC Sport Award - Primary School of the Year 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is wonderful to welcome all pupils, staff, parents, carers and grandparents back to our school community for the start of a new school year. We are absolutely delighted that COVID does not have the same degree of impact on our school community that was evident in the newsletter of August 2021. How times have changed. We hope that the year ahead provides plenty of opportunity to share learning and school successes and that we can once again plan for school events that enable us to welcome you back into our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. C. Docherty

Head Teacher

A warm welcome to our new starts

We are delighted to have welcomed 42 new pupils to our Pr. 1 classes. It is wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into their new environment, learning new routines and becoming acquainted with lots of new faces. We hope the initial enthusiasm continues and the children thrive in their new learning environment. A warm welcome is also extended to the new families who have joined our school community. We look forward to working in partnership to meet your child's needs in the years ahead.

Breakfast Club

All North Lanarkshire Primary schools host Breakfast Clubs. Our doors open 8.15am – 8.45am. Cost is £1. Breakfast club is free for Pr 1 -5 . Please note parents are not allowed into the school for drop off purposes nor is the breakfast club to be used as an early drop off for school. **Staff are on hand to supervise children who are at school for breakfast only not for early morning care/supervision.** Your understanding in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

Your children look resplendent in their new school uniforms and are wearing them with great pride. They are a credit to you. Children are expected to wear their uniform everyday and to change for PE lessons. Please note our uniform is grey (not black) trousers/skirt, grey jumper/cardigan, white shirt and black shoes or plain black trainers. Highly coloured footwear/trainers are not part of the school uniform. Please aim to ensure your child is dressed in the colours of the school everyday.

School Yard – Drop off and Pick Up

Please note that parents are **not** permitted to enter the school yard either before 9.00am or after 3.00pm. Please ensure you have informed your child/children of their pick up point well beyond the school gates. Please note the infant gates are **only** to be used by pupils from Pr. 1 - 3 and their parents. There is too much congestion at 3.00pm if this exit gate is used by other parents and pupils. Please do not gather or stand at the exit gates as this causes a high degree of congestion and makes it difficult for younger children to pass through. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated. Please try to **drop off and leave** as parents standing at the fence can be upsetting for some pupils. Pr. 1 pupils have a soft start and enter the school building on arrival at school and are not required to line up for morning prayers.

Please note the main entrance to the school is not a drop off point or pick up point for pupils to enter or leave the school on or before 9am or at 3pm. Please drop off your child in time for morning prayers at 9am

SAFE PARKING



Please remember to **Park and Stride**. Parking is available in the car park of St. Augustine's Church and the Time Capsule. Please **DO NOT** park on the zig zag lines. It is inconsiderate and endangers lives.

Please note Traffic Regulation Orders will be enforced meaning that markings will no longer be advisory and drivers can be fined. This will mean the council can carry out enforcement duties in a similar way to enforcement of double yellow lines

Staffing Update

The school said goodbye to several valued members of staff at the end of term. A fond farewell was made to Miss Platt (Pr. 6) and Mr Anderson (Pr.4/5) who have both now moved to other establishments. We thank them both for their contributions last session and wish them well for the next phase of their career.

At the end of term both Mrs Susan Rankin (Senior Clerical Assistant) and Mrs Joanna Laird (Additional Support Needs Assistant) resigned from their posts to commence their retirement. Both Mrs Rankin and Mrs Laird were highly valued, well respected and much loved members of the staff team who were a huge part of our school community. Their dedication and commitment coupled with their gentle, warm manner will be much missed by colleagues and pupils alike. . We wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement and thank them most sincerely for their service to our school community. They will be greatly missed.

We look forward to inviting both ladies back to school for a presentation to mark their contribution to the school.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Emma Webster who has joined our clerical team. We are also delighted to have some additional teaching staff this session. We will be joined for some of the year by a Cluster Attainment Teacher (Miss Stephanie Kelly) and a Cluster Resource Teacher (Miss Kirsten McPhail)

We are sure you will join with us in congratulating both Miss Watt and Miss Taggart who both got married during the summer break. They are now to be known as Mrs Johnston and Mrs Sneddon. We wish them well in their new married life. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Elder who has returned from her secondment last year.

Clerical Team

Mrs Paula Scott – Senior Clerical
Mrs Karen Ross – Clerical Assistant
Miss Emma Webster Clerical Assistant
Mrs Elizabeth Turner – Clerical Assistant

Staffing for 2022/2023

Pr. 1 Rm 1 – Mrs D Gillooly

Pr.1 Rm 2 – Miss K. Ross

Pr. 2 Rm 3 –Mrs CM Sneddon
(formerly Miss CM Taggart)

Pr. 3/4 Rm 4 – Miss Livingstone

Pr. 3 Rm 8 – Miss E.Jamieson

Pr. 3/4 Rm 7 -Miss G Ross (Mon /Tues) and Mrs O'Donohue (Wed – Frid)

Pr. 4 Rm 13 – Mrs Thomson

Pr. 5 Rm 15 Mrs. C Johnston
(formerly Miss Watt)

Pr. 5 Rm 15 Mrs T Elder

Pr. 6 Rm 12 Miss E Crockett

Pr. 6/7 Rm 9 Mr F O'Dowd

Pr. 7 Rm 10 Miss L. Drummond and Mrs H Ewing (Frid)

Attainment Teacher– providing support for learning Mrs. A. McGlone .

Attainment teachers - Mrs Chisholm (Early Intervention (Pr. 1 and 2), Miss G Ross (Pr. 3 and 4)

Principal Teacher– Mrs.Drummond - responsibility for Maths across the school, STEM, Pope Francis Faith Award

Mr. Mullen – responsibility for teaching ICT across the school

Depute Head Teacher – Mrs.M.M. Elliott has responsibility for assessment across the school, tracking attainment, timetabling and pupil pastoral support. She wishes that was all that she did!!

Support Staff

Mrs Mary Thomson, Mrs Fiona Cartwright

Mrs Angela McGuinness

Miss Patricia McShane

Miss Ewelina Kwiatowska

Committees

All pupils are members of a Make a Difference committee. In school we have a wide variety of committees to make a difference that impact at class, school, local and national level. Our committees are

Pupil Council

Enterprise Committee

Health Committee

Eco Committee

Communications Committee

JRSO Committee

Global Citizens

Rights Respecting School

Committees will meet this term to draw up their action points for the year and the term ahead.

Book Amnesty

If you have any school reading books that were not returned last session could we please have them back. It is a most costly business each year replenishing our stock of reading books and novels and we rely upon pupils returning them to school once used. If you have a collection of books or a single book could you please return to school – we really do need all stock returned as soon as possible.

School Clothing

The school amassed quite a number of school items last session that were lost /unclaimed property. Some clothing was also donated. Please visit the school as we have jumpers, cardigans and jackets available for uplift. The school will operate a drop in afternoon on a Monday and Friday for anyone who wishes to uplift any clothing. All is washed and available for collection. Please avail yourself of this service.

Afterschool Clubs



We anticipate that we will be able to resume our afterschool programme as soon as possible. Details to follow.

PE.Days

Teachers will deliver one PE session outdoors and will also deliver one session indoors each week. Please supply your child with a plain black or grey zipper for outdoor PE. Children may also wear their school jumper or cardigan. Children have been advised that we are not sponsored by any company i.e Nike, Adidas, therefore plain leggings, joggers and a plain white T-shirt is the requirement for PE and keeps everyone the same with no stress placed on parents to wear a named garment.

Rm 1 – Tues, (Frid- outdoors) (Pr. 1)

Rm 2 – Tues, (Frid – outdoors) (Pr 1)

Rm 3 – Mon, (Frid. – outdoors) (Pr. 2)

Rm 4 – Mon,(Frid – outdoors) (Pr. 2/3)

Rm 7 – Wed, (Thurs- outdoors) Pr.3/4

Rm 8 – Tues, (Thurs – outdoors) Pr. 3

Rm 9 – Frid, (Thurs – outdoors) – Pr. 6/7

Rm 10 –Tues , (Thurs – outdoors)– Pr. 7

Rm 12 – Frid, (Mon – outdoors) Pr. 6

Rm 13 – Frid, (Tues – outdoors) Pr. 4

Rm 15 – Thurs, (Wed- outdoors) Pr. 5

Rm 16 – Thurs, (Wed – outdoors) Pr. 5

Please ensure your child brings gym shoes/trainers to change for P.E. sessions along with P.E. kit. Outdoor shoes are not appropriate gym wear. Thank you.

Communication

If you have not uploaded the school app to your phone please do so this term. Our app is our primary way of communicating to you the life of the school and sharing its successes. A week ahead is posted each week so you can check what is happening in school and to confirm times. The lunch menu is posted each week for your child to review and check menu options. Please upload the school app to your phone. We are also on Twitter and Facebook so plenty of ways to keep informed. Please be aware that /content that may be of a personal nature should be brought directly to the attention of the school – via a phonecall or an e-mail. A flyer is available in the school foyer to assist with uploading the school app.

Labelling Clothes and Lunch Boxes

Please make our life much easier and label your child's belongings – blazer, jacket, cardigans, jumpers, lunch boxes. This will ensure teachers can return belongings quickly to the rightful owner when clothes fall off pegs, blazers and jackets get mixed up or items are left behind. Everyone has the same blazer and we have a lot of children wearing very similar black jackets!

Contacting School

In order to ensure the continued smooth running of the school we kindly request that parents who wish to discuss an issue in relation to their child either contact the school by phone or e-mail to request to speak to a member of the senior management team A return call will be made in the first instance. We greatly appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this regard and kindly ask that you **do not arrive at the school office** if an appointment has not been made or phone call has not been requested.

School Building News

As all the extensive building work is now complete we are looking to address school grounds. This is mainly the area to the front of the school. The large shrubs have now been cut back with the aim that we can plant spring and wild flowers to promote bio diversity. We would love to hear from any parents or grandparents who would like to assist in this work. We would also love to hear from any parent/grandparent who would be interested in assisting Pr. 1 and the nursery with their vegetable garden. Please contact the school.

Nursery News

The nursery is currently welcoming a new group of new starts to the nursery class. They are already settling into nursery life at our highly rated nursery. The nursery received an outstanding report from the Care Inspectorate last session.

School Request- Please help

As the life of school returns to pre-pandemic arrangements we have a yearly calendar with planned school events for occasions such as Halloween and Christmas. We are hoping you can assist us by way of donating old Christmas Jumpers and Halloween Costumes so that they can be re-used by children in the school. This will go some way to supporting us as an Eco School and also supporting families within our school community as the cost of living crisis worsens for so many. We kindly ask that you do a clear out and if you have any items to donate please send to the school. We would greatly appreciate your kindness whilst caring for the environment.

Celebrating Success

Whilst we will continue to celebrate pupil success and achievements in school please remind your child to share with us their achievements outside of school. We love to hear their good news and to share it!

COVID Update

Most people no longer need to take a coronavirus test. You should stay at home if unwell. All covid rules and restrictions have been lifted in Scotland, but the virus has not gone away.

*Use 'Covid sense' to help protect yourself and others: •

*get your vaccine when offered to ensure you are fully protected (adults)

*stay at home if you're unwell with symptoms or have a fever

*open windows when socialising indoors • wear a face covering in indoor public places and on public transport

*wash your hands to protect yourself

Care for yourself and others to help slow down the spread of the virus and reduce pressure on our health.

If your child is presenting with a temperature please do not send them to school.

Parent Portal

Please ensure you have checked your child's school bag for a letter in regard of Parent Portal and familiarise yourself with how to access the portal. The portal is North Lanarkshire's one stop shop in terms of accessing a wide variety of school information in relation to your own child

The Portal now gives direct access to iPayimpact, the online payment for school lunches and wider school events, your child's attendance, and the ability for the main contact parent to update contact details. Please review the data sheet sent out and amend via the portal to update data information in regard of your child. Please ensure you have checked e-mail information so that it can be updated on our system as information from school is sent via e-mail including newsletters.

Rights Respecting School Award



Last session the school drew up an action plan and worked towards achieving Rights Respecting School Silver Award - Rights Aware. This involved a whole school commitment to raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and placed it at the heart of our ethos and curriculum. Our involvement in RRSA fully reflect our work as a community of faith and learning as we continue to develop our pupils as responsible citizens. To date we are evidence gathering to support our submission for silver award.



Lunchtime Hours

Pr. 1 – 3 – 12.00 – 12.45

Pr. 4 – 7 - 12.45 – 1.30pm

Online Payments

Please ensure payments are made online for school lunches as we cannot accept cash.



August – September

Classes will visit the Church and join the Friday services. One class will visit each week.

September

Frid. 2nd Whole School Assembly

Frid 16th - Pr. 7 transition visit to St.Ambrose – am only

Sun 18th – 10.00am - Enrolment Mass for Sacraments Sun 18th – 10.00am

Frid 30th End of Month Assembly

October

Sun 2nd Oct – 10.00am Pope Francis Faith Award - Pr. 6 - Enrolment Mass

Wed. 5th Oct Flu Vaccinations

Tues. 11th Pr. 5 Retreat

Thurs. 13th Pr. 5 Retreat-

Sponsored Walk

Thursday 22nd Sept. Pr. 1- 4 -am, Pr. 4 – 7 – pm. Please contact the school if you wish to join us for the walk.

Holiday Weekend

Frid. 23rd and Mon. 26th Sept'

October Break

Mon 17th – Frid. 21st

In-Service Day

Monday 14th November



Happy Birthday

to all our

August

and

September

birthday

boys and girls.

Annual Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk in aid of school funds takes place in September. Our fingers are crossed for a rain free walk through the great landmarks of Coatbridge. Yes we do have some wonderful landmarks and we like to take a few pictures as we go along!! If any parents or grandparents would like to accompany us on our annual walk we would love to hear from you. All funds go towards supporting our many out of school activities and theatre company visits.



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Parent Teacher Association

Our wonderfully supportive PTA would love to welcome new members to their monthly meetings and help plan for school events that contribute to the community life of the school and raise much needed school funds.

Your school needs you!!!

The date of our first meeting (virtual) is Wed. 7th Sept. at 7.15pm. We would be delighted to welcome new parents and send a special invite to our Pr. 1 new parents to consider joining us and making new friends.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council are committed to supporting the school on its' improvement agenda and work tirelessly to support the school in all aspects of teaching and learning and meeting pupil needs. Date of first meeting Wed. 7th Sept' 6.00pm.

PTA ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year our PTA continued to contribute significantly to the community life of the school and every child across the school benefitted from the funds raised. All this took place in the middle of an ongoing pandemic and illustrated the commitment of the PTA to ensure school life was as normal as possible. We thank all members for their commitment. Much of who are resolute in their desire to raise much needed funds. Last year they funded visits by a number of theatre companies (virtual performances), Pr. 7 yearbooks, Pr.7 ties for High School, Pr.7 Hoodies, Pr.7 Awards, outside play equipment, class resources and much, much more. The list goes on. As a school community we thank the PTA for their outstanding work that really makes a difference and benefits all pupils what the school do could not take place without the commitment of the PTA.

Please think about joining our PTA!!! WE NEED YOU!!!!

Parental Comments/Feedback

The school greatly appreciates all feedback and comments from the wider parent body in regard of the school. Please feel free to complete the sheet and send into school if there is anything you wish to bring to our attention. Thank you.

Signed:

Date:

