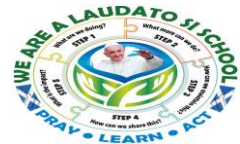


November – December 2023

# St. Augustine's Primary

## NEWSLETTER



**Winner of NLC Sport Award – Primary School of the Year 2019**



**DIGITAL SCHOOLS**  
AWARDS SCOTLAND

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our term before the October break was a very busy one with lots going on in school and many pupils getting out and about representing St. Augustine's beautifully in the wider community and beyond. We hope you have kept well informed about all that has been going on by checking our blog on the school app and our tweets on twitter. The term that lies ahead is always a hectic one so please take note of all the dates to add to your diary.

*Mrs. C. Docherty*



### Parking

Parking is available in the Time Capsule car park and St. Augustine's Church. Many thanks to everyone for showing such consideration and taking the time to park and stride. Your considerate actions keep everyone safe. Please do not park on the zig zags, at the roundabout or near the entrance to the Time Capsule as this can obstruct emergency services should they be required.



Please note Community Police and Traffic Wardens will be making unannounced visits to our school campus as the zig zags around the school are now enforceable and fines can be given for unlawful parking. Our school JRSO Officers will be out and about and will issue our own St. Augustine's Parking Ticket. You really don't want one of them!



## PE.Days

Our P.E. kit is white polo shirt or white T-shirt, black shorts or black/grey jogging bottoms. Bright emblazoned T-shirts are not part of our uniform.

Please note your child/children's P.E. days for this term. Children are required to change for their P.E. sessions.

Rm 1 – Thurs, (Wed- outdoors) (Pr. 1)

Rm 2 – Thurs, (Wed. – outdoors) (Pr 1)

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

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

Rm 7 – Tues, (Wed- outdoors) (Pr.3)

Rm 8 – Wed, (Mon – outdoors) (Pr. 4/5)

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

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

Rm 12 – Frid, (Mon – outdoors) Pr. 6

Rm 13 – Frid, (Tues – outdoors) Pr. 4

Rm 16 – Tues, (Mon – outdoors) Pr. 5

These days may change during the term ahead to accommodate any visiting specialists. PE slots may be impacted in the coming weeks due to Nativity and Christmas show practices.

Please ensure your child brings gym shoes/trainers for changing for P.E. sessions along with a zipper for outdoor PE. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard. Children will only be exempt from a P.E. session if a letter is sent to school stating the need for an exemption on medical grounds.

### Early Friday Pick Ups

We are once again experiencing an increased number of requests for children to be picked up early on a Friday with constant calls to the school office. Please ensure that such a request takes place only in exceptional circumstances and is not a weekly occurrence. Late phone calls and actively having to locate children takes staff away from their office duties and interrupts lessons. Thank you.

## Looking after the planet

We have a large collection of used/new uniforms/jackets that are freely available for uplift. Mon and Frid afternoon are pick up days. You are more than welcome to select what you need and save clothing landing in landfill sites and impacting our environment.

Please make our life much easier and **label your child's belongings – blazer, jacket, cardigans, jumpers, lunch boxes.** Please note we have a number of unclaimed clothes that are available in the front foyer to be uplifted. If you are missing some parts of the school uniform or are missing a jacket please contact the school.

## School Improvement Plan and Report

A copy of this year's School Improvement Plan can also be found on our school website. Please take some time to review our cluster and school priorities.

**Cluster Priority** - To develop a consistent approach to supporting good attendance across the cluster through rigorous tracking; monitoring and self -evaluation processes which direct interventions to support.

### School

1. To continue to impact attainment in Literacy and Numeracy at key stages.
2. To further improve outcomes for learners with further developments in HWB for all
3. To improve outcomes for learners with a review of our Curriculum Rationale

## 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.

## Attendance and Late Coming

Please note our school bell rings at 8.58am to ensure children are lined up in preparation for morning prayers each day. The bell rings at 9am each morning with prayers commencing directly afterwards. Please ensure your child is dropped off in time for the start of the school day. Late arrivals, particularly if this is a regular occurrence, greatly affect children and impact on their learning. Arriving late can lead children to experience high feelings of anxiety, missed learning opportunities and ultimately gaps in learning. **Please note as part of important safe guarding procedures the doors and subsequently the gates are closed when classes enter the school.** Attendance figures will continue to be reviewed as part of ongoing school policy. Please notify the school if your child is unable to attend school or if they will be late for school.

## Sponsored Walk

A huge thank you is extended to all parents, carers, grandparents and wider school community who supported our recent Sponsored Walk. You helped us raise the astonishing sum of £ 3,560.55. This is a fantastic sum of money from our sponsored walk and we thank you for your generous support. This money will make a huge difference to all.

## School attendance at Mass

It has been wonderful to see the school represented so well each week at Friday Mass. It has also been extremely heartening to hear from so many parishioners and visitors to the parish, both in person and online, taking the time to get in touch and give the children such lovely compliments on the reverence and respect they have shown at each service. Please anticipate an invite in the coming weeks to attend a class Mass for your child in school – it will be a Thurs afternoon.

## Parents Evening

Please note following the issue of interim reports our Parents evenings will take place on Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> Nov and Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Meetings will be face to face and will strictly keep to the set 7 mins. Appointments can be made via the online booking system. Pupils are encouraged to sit beside their parents during the report – particularly Pr. 6 and 7 pupils.

## BOOK FAIR

The book fair will be running during BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND, week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. Classes will be timetabled to make a visit with the Book Fair also open during the Parents evenings.



## Sporting Calendar

A full calendar of festivals and competitions are now in our school diary.

Coming up....

Cross Country Qualifier Pr. 4 - 7 – Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.-am. Dunbeth Park

Handball Qualifier –Pr. 6/7 - Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> Nov – Time Capsule

Benchball Pr 5 – St.Ambrose Sports Leaders- school - 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Basketball Festival Pr6/7 Coatbridge HS - 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Pr. 7 currently working with coach for Gaelic Football sessions.

Please note swimming blocks are booked for Pr. 5 pupils - March to June

## MUSIC TUITION

Our Pr. 7 pupils continue their brass music instruction with staff from St.Ambrose HS. We look forward to their next showcase. Pr. 6 will start to receive tuition very soon. Details to follow.

## Celebrating Halloween



Many thanks to our wonderful PTA who helped us celebrate Halloween in style. The Halloween disco raised an astonishing £1223.10. Many thanks to the many parents who helped out at the disco to ensure the children had a wonderful time and to all parents for their patience and understanding at pick up time.

## Faith in Action

At our recent whole school assembly we were delighted to be joined by a number of invited guests to whom we presented money raised through our charity work. Despite a cost of living crisis St.Augustine's continues to show it cares.

St.Andrew's Hospice £955.00

St.Andrew's Hospice – Nursery donation £255.00

SCIAF £530.00

MISSIO £655.00

Marie Curie £650.00

Marie Curie – Nursery Donation £255.00

PEOPLES PANTRY £ 300.00  
donation made by Pr. 3 Enterprise Committee – Recipe Book sales

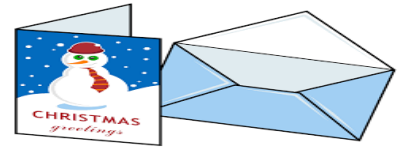
Our 12 Days of Giving Christmas Appeal continues to grow from strength to strength and supports both the People's Pantry and Coatbridge Foodbank.

A huge thank you to all parents and families for your great support that enabled us to make such generous donations. All our small actions and donations, together, will make a huge impact on those in need.



## Christmas Card Project

Every year our PTA organise The Christmas Card Project that involves all pupils designing their own Christmas Cards. Many thanks for supporting this venture as any commission helps school funds.



## Catholic Education Week

This year we celebrate Catholic Education Week from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This year's theme is Pilgrims of Faith. Children will engage with a variety of resources during that week. Please anticipate an invitation from your child to attend Mass and to make celebration and worship at Holy Mass an important feature of your weekly family life.

**“The beauty of the Christian faith lies not in its theological explanations but in the lives of people who dedicate themselves to prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel..Be discoverers of beauty, seekers of the treasures of faith...because faith cannot remain a memory of the past, something ‘museum-like.’ No, it always lives again in the joy of the Gospel, in the community made up of people, in the assembly of those who experience mercy and recognize themselves as brothers and sisters loved by God by grace...**

**Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith,”**

**Pope Francis**

## Pupil Retreats

NET Ministries – Pr. 7- 10<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parish Centre

### Enterprise Fortnight

All pupils will take part in Enterprise fortnight with project work leading to products for the Children's Christmas Fair. week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

### Road Safety Week

Our whole school Road Safety week will take place week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. Our Junior Road Safety Officers will lead this whole school focus with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of safe crossing and parking (most notably around our school) and careful driving. This year's theme is 'Let's Talk about Speed'.

### 12 Days of Giving Christmas Appeal

Following on from our very successful appeal last year and the need within our community we aim to repeat our appeal and hopefully replicate the success of last year. Details to follow at the end of November.



### Christmas Panto

In response to the current cost of living crisis the school made a decision, in the interest of all families within our school community, to bring a visiting theatre company to the school for our Christmas Panto. M & M Productions will entertain the children with their version of A Christmas Carol on Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – am. The children have been already entertained with a production of Cinderella in October as a whole school treat. There will be no cost to families with payment made from school funds and PTA. Children can come to school in their own clothes resplendent in their Christmas jumpers and antlers for some festive fun on the day! Many thanks to our PTA.



Happy Birthday

to all our

November

and

December

birthday

boys and girls.

### Pr. 7 Transition

Our Pr. 7 pupils have started an enhanced transition to S1 involving staff from St.Ambrose. The focus is currently on reading and analysing text. Parents are invited to attend an Information Evening on Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.6- 7.45pm. The presentation will be available online and there will be another in May.

### SACRAMENT DATES

Pr.3 First Reconciliation – Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm

Confirmation – Pr.7 pupils only – Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7.00pm

Pr.4 First Communion –

12<sup>th</sup> May Rm 13 - 10.00am

19<sup>th</sup> May Rm 8 - 12.00

Please check Parish Bulletin for all details in regard of Ignite club as part of home/parish partnership working.

### Flu Vaccine

Date of Vaccine Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

### St.Andrew's Day Celebration

Children will attend Mass at 10am on the morning of St.Andrew's day.

### Parent Council

Our Parent Council are committed to supporting the school on its' improvement agenda. Next Meeting Wed.8<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 6pm in Parish Centre.

### Parent Teacher Association

Our PTA is now a sub group of the Parent Council with a specific focus on fundraising events that support the community life of the school. Agenda items to be discussed at 7.15pm on Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. at Parish Centre.

### Christmas Fair

The school welcome donations for our forthcoming Christmas Fair on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. We are looking for donations of bottles (bottle stall), tombola gifts (adults and children stall), unwanted, good condition toys, books. Please send all donations to the school.

If you wish to help out on the day please notify the school or PTA members. We would love your support. Thank you.

### Christmas Nativity and Christmas Show

This year we have two productions taking place. This will mean performances for Pr. 1- 3 pupils on set days and performances for Pr. 4 – 7 on different set days. Auditions have already taken place with parts allocated.

Details will follow in regard of ticket sales nearer the time. Please anticipate that initially 2 tickets will be available for each child ( either evening or afternoon performance). Thereafter, the remainder of tickets will go on general sale should you require more for your family.



## DATED FOR THE DIARY

### NOVEMBER



Frid. 10<sup>th</sup> Pr. 7 NET Ministries Retreat

**Mon.13<sup>th</sup> – In-Service Day** (children do not attend school)

Tues. 14<sup>th</sup>, Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening

Frid. 24<sup>th</sup> – End of Month Assembly

Mon. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov - Pr.2 Retreat

Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> – St.Andrew's Day Mass

### DECEMBER



Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Fair

Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Nativity and Show – Pr. 1 – 3 (6.30- 7.30pm)

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Nativity and Show Pr. 1 – 3 (1.30pm)

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> –Senior Christmas Show Pr. 4 – 7 ( 6.30 – 7.45pm)

Frid 8<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Nativity - am

Frid. 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Christmas Show Pr. 4 – 7 (1.30pm)

Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS LUNCH

PTA Christmas Stall

Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> Pr. 4 and Pr. 5 – Christmas Party

Frid. 15<sup>th</sup> Pr. 6 & Pr. 7 Christmas Party

Mon.18<sup>th</sup> Pr. 3 Christmas Party

Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> – Pr. 1 and 2 Christmas Party

Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Christmas Party

Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> – A Christmas Carol – Panto – M & M Productions

Frid. 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Service – 10.00am. Children can be collected directly after Mass.

School closes Frid. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.30pm. School re-opens Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am

## 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:



