

St. Bartholomew's Primary School

September 2023



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents / Carers

A huge welcome back to the new session from all of the staff at St Bartholomew's, we are all delighted to be working with our wonderful children again. I hope that parents and carers enjoyed some rest and relaxation over the summer holiday and feel recharged for the year ahead. The children all look so smart in their St Bart's uniform and I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting our uniform policy. It makes such a difference. As always, we have many plans in place to enhance our children's experience of school and already our Primary 7 children are enjoying Yoga and Gaelic football this term. Parish retreats are in place for Primary 5 and Primary 7. Further spiritual experiences for children include the 'NET' team working with our Primary 7 pupils in November and this is always a fun filled and meaningful experience. Weekly mass will start again, with Primary 7 visiting St Bartholomew's Church for 10 O'clock mass and as always, we rely on parental support in supervising the children on the walk to and from the Church. Updates on after school clubs will be with you shortly and a huge thank you to our staff for donating their time. We are very keen to engage as many parents with children's learning as we can this year, and it is a proven fact that it makes such a difference to their progress. Thank you to those who have already engaged with our 'Stay and Read' programme in the infant department and please look out for similar upcoming events to share in your children's learning throughout the year. Our Parent Council will be relying on your support for upcoming events and planning is already underway for a variety of exciting events. Please keep your eye on group call messages for further information. Thank you in advance for your much needed support.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS/CARERS

In line with North Lanarkshire Council's aspirations to become a leading digital authority, the main portals that we use for communicating with parents are:

Email and text – please provide our office staff with your up-to-date details to ensure you receive our most recent updates.

Class Dojo – all parents and carers are invited to join Dojo where they will see regular updates about their child's social and emotional learning/progress.

School Website – class pages on the school website provide parents and carers with regular information on their child's learning as well as updates from our weekly school assembly i.e. winning House, Cool Class and Pupils of the Week.

X (Twitter) - There is a Twitter feed on the home page of our website and you can also follow us on your phone or home computer/tablet. We use Twitter to share news of the wide range of activities St. Bartholomew's pupils are involved in and to celebrate children's wider achievements.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW P7 HOUSE CAPTAINS!

Well done to all of our Primary 7 children who stood for House Captaincy. The speeches delivered by the children greatly impressed their peers and they should all be very proud of themselves. After a democratic vote by the P6 and P7 children, we are delighted to announce our new House Captains as follows:

Monklands – Eireann and Mark

Lochend – Elyse and Ryan

Drumpellier – Ayla and Brooke

Summerlee – Roma and Ewan



Kindness Honesty Respect

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Uptake of last session's school photographs was very low and Parent Council are currently looking into other more costs effective options for this school session. We will be in touch as soon as possible with dates and further information.



ATTENDANCE AT MASS

All classes will have the opportunity to attend 10am Mass at St. Bartholomew's Church on a rotational basis. Dates will be scheduled for the term ahead, usually taking place on Wednesdays. We are always seeking parent helpers to accompany classes to Mass and would greatly appreciate as much support with this as possible.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARENT COUNCIL

Our first Parent Council meeting of the new school session took place on Thursday 31st August. We were delighted to welcome our new and existing members and look forward to working in partnership with our parents this year. The Parent Council will send out a calendar of events for the 2023/24 school year ahead and will survey parents to seek their views, particularly around funding for extra-curricular activities. The focus of fundraising activities this year will be:

School trips - with rising economic costs, school trips, particularly transport, have become prohibitively expensive. The Parent Council intends to focus on raising funds to help subsidise school trips across the school.

Sports Kits - St. Bartholomew's has achieved much success at inter-school sports tournaments including Gaelic Football and Cross Country Running. Strips and kits connect our teams and promote the identity of the school.

P7 End of Year Party - our Primary 7 children always enjoy a fabulous send-off before the next step in their educational journey. Funding is required to ensure this can continue and that it remains a part of our P7 celebrations.

We are always seeking to welcome new members to the Parent Council. The time commitment is 40 minutes of online meetings per month with attendance requested at 10 meetings over the course of the year. Potential new members should contact Mrs Bolland, in the first instance, using the general enquiries email address.

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK

We still have number of freshly laundered new/nearly new items available for immediate collection in our school uniform bank, which is located in the Music Room. Collections can be arranged discreetly by contacting the office. We are also appealing for donations of school uniform items to replenish our stocks for the new school session. These can be new or nearly new and handed into the office at any time. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE TACKLING POVERTY TEAM The team works with families to maximise their income and ensure they are receiving everything they are entitled to.

Tel: 01698 403170

Email: TPTeam@northlan.gov.uk

Kindness Honesty Respect

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Please look out for updates, via text/email closer, to each event:

September 28th – Parent Council Meeting, usual start time is 4:30pm

October 5th – Parent's/Carers Evening, usual start time is 3:15pm

October 12th – P2/3 Class Assembly, during the school day (time to be confirmed)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND RAISING ATTAINMENT

Our school improvement plan aspires to exceed 80% attainment in Reading and Writing across the school by June 2024. In order to achieve this, staff continue to work with our 'Talk for Writing' consultant to embed approaches to teaching writing. This has proved to be very successful with the majority of children across the school making progress and, most importantly, enjoying the writing process. This school session, we will take a similar approach with Reading, utilising the 'Talk for Reading' approach to develop children's fluency and comprehension skills. All of this is possible with the support of the Pupil Equity Fund and the dedication and commitment of all staff to achieving the highest levels of learning and teaching across the school.

In a recently published Sunday Times school league table, St. Bartholomew's Primary featured 17,th out of 128 North Lanarkshire schools, for attainment in Numeracy and Literacy at P1, P4 and P7. While performance in league tables is not our priority, we were delighted to see our children's achievements recognised among some of the best performing schools in North Lanarkshire. We continue to work on these targets and will keep parents/carers updated on progress in the new school session.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and wellbeing remains a school improvement priority and continues to be supported through our partnership working with Education Psychology and the Pupil Equity Fund. This session, we continue to receive a number of services that will support our children:

Teen Talk Counselling Service – one-to counselling service available to P6 and P7 children

Mr McBrier – Cluster Support Teacher, offering Nurture Sessions across the school

P7 Yoga – sessions kindly donated by Joe Bradley (Gaelic Football Coach)

Afterschool Clubs – a number of clubs will be offered across the school year to support children's physical, social and emotional wellbeing

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire – we will continue to use this data to monitor and track children's social and emotional wellbeing and obtain child and parent views.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT & INVOLVEMENT

Parents have an important role to play in helping their child's learning and development at home and also in school. Research evidence shows that when parents, carers and other family members are effectively involved in their children's education, the outcome for their children is better. This year, we will continue to offer opportunities for our parents and carers to become involved in school learning beginning with our very popular 'Stay and Read' sessions in P1 and P2/3. These started on Friday 1st September – many thanks to our parents and carers who were able to come along. Please be on the look-out for further opportunities to become involved in your child's school learning, which will be communicated via Class Dojo.

CURRICULUM

We continue to enjoy the support of our music tutors this session. Mr Woods and Mr Miller will work with Primary 6 and 7 children, giving them opportunities to work with a range of instruments including the trombone and trumpet. Last year, our children performed alongside other schools to a large audience in a Christmas concert, providing them with the opportunity to showcase their music skills.

SCHOOL UNIFORM Pupils in St. Bartholomew's wear the school uniform with pride. We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging children to adhere to the agreed dress code and wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school. Our school colours are Red, Black and White with white shirts / polos and black trousers / skirts. Summer dresses are also available in red and white check.

Daily Uniform:

- White shirt / polo shirt
- School tie
- Black trousers / skirt / pinafore
- Plain black shoes / trainers
- Black sweater / cardigan
- Red gingham summer dress (appropriate to weather)



P.E. Kit

- White polo
- Black shorts / joggers
- Plain black trainers

Children should come to school on P.E. days dressed in full uniform with P.E. kits in bags. Football colours of any kind **are not permitted** in school - this is North Lanarkshire Council's policy and includes all football teams i.e. local, national, international. This also includes pencil cases, bags, water bottles and other accessories. Thank you in advance for your support.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES, 2023 - 2024

September 2023 - September weekend: Friday 22 September and Monday 25 September 2023 (inclusive)

October 2023 - October week: Monday 16 to Friday 20 October 2023 (inclusive)

November 2023 - In-service day: Monday 13 November

December 2023 - January 2024 Schools close: Friday 22 December 2023 at 2.30pm
Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 25 December 2023 - Friday 5 January 2024 (inclusive)

February 2024 - Mid-term break: Monday 12 February and Tuesday 13 February 2024
In-service day: Wednesday 14 February 2024

April 2024 - Schools close: Thursday 28 March 2024 at 2.30pm. Spring holiday (Easter): Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April 2024 (Inclusive). Good Friday 29 March. Easter Monday 1 April 2024

May 2024 - In-service day: Thursday 2 May 2024 (to coincide with UK Parliamentary elections, but may be subject to change)
May holiday: Monday 6 May 2024
May weekend: Friday 24 May 2024 and Monday 27 May 2024 (inclusive)

June 2024 - Schools Close: Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 1pm.

Kindness Honesty Respect