

St. Bartholomew's Primary School

October 2023



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Thank you for all of your continued support, especially as we embark on term 2 where it will be Christmas before you know it! As always, we have created many wonderful opportunities for our boys and girls in order for them to reach their full potential and be the best that they can be. Ms Allington continues to work with a 'Digital Leaders' programme that allows for our senior pupils to be trained in all things ICT and to help and support younger children in the school. The creation of such groups and subsequent experiences for our pupils will contribute towards our Silver Award for Rights Respecting Schools, which we are currently working towards.

Our pupils continue to celebrate 10'o'clock mass at St Bartholomew's Church on a Wednesday morning and next week the whole school will celebrate mass for All Saint's on the 1st of November. You are all most welcome to attend. The faith life of the school and its community is further strengthened by our 'Minnie Vinnie's' group and 'Pope Francis Faith Award' cohorts who enjoyed a lovely initiation mass recently. Thank you to those from our Parish community who shared in this celebration. Please remember that mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11.30am where our pupils are regular contributors to the choir. The singing is beautiful and a huge thank you to Mrs MacFarlane for cultivating this group.

The sporting lives of our pupils continues to expand with many opportunities in netball, running and general fitness after school clubs. Additionally, Joe Bradley has created opportunities for both Gaelic football and yoga for our senior pupils as part of their physical education experience. A huge thank you to Joe for supporting us. It is much appreciated. The musical talents of our children continues with opportunities for senior pupils in instrumental tuition in addition to vocal coaching through Kodaly. We have some very talented children in our school who will be able to develop these skills in the future from this wonderful foundation.

Last but not least a huge thank you to Mo Fraser from Restorative Justice who has created opportunities for our children to visit local allotments where they planted various items and enjoyed some lovely fresh vegetables to take home. We have also worked with Restorative Justice to mend children's bikes in the nursery and children in the school will also benefit from this wonderful scheme in the very near future.

As always, thank you for your continued support, especially as we move closer to a very busy period in the school's calendar. Your help, support and contribution to the life of the school, is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Deirdre Bolland, Head Teacher

Kindness

Honesty

Respect

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. 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.



PARISH LINKS

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

Thank you to our Parent Council for organising the Halloween Disco which was a huge success. Thanks also to those who kindly volunteered to ensure that the event ran smoothly and safely. The amounts below have been raised by Parent Council events to date:

80's Day - £128.75

Halloween Hamper - £217.14

Crazy Hair Day - £100.80

Halloween Disco - £260.45



The Parent Council extends thanks to Deans Convenience Store, Leven Road, for their very generous donations of crisps and juice for the Halloween Disco. Thank you to our Parent Council for their fundraising efforts and also to Ms K Stierankova, who raised £250.00 to support the Running Club. This will allow some of our dedicated P6 and P7 children to attend the forthcoming running trials at Dunbeth Park where they will compete against other schools wearing the school's specially designed Running Club T-Shirt. Finally, huge thanks to our parent/carers and wider school community for supporting our fundraising efforts and making trips/events possible for our children this year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK

We have some 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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 2 (Oct – Dec 2023)

Thursday 26th October - Halloween Disco, P1 - 3 and P4 - 7

Wednesday 1st November - All Saints' Day - Whole School Mass at St. Bartholomew's Church

Thursday 2nd November - Parent Council Meeting, 4:30pm

Friday 10th November - Flu Vaccination - Nasal Spray

Monday 13th November - Inservice Day (school closed to children)

Thursday 16th November - Primary 3 Class Assembly

Thursday 30th November - Primary 4 Class Assembly & Parent Council Meeting, 4:30pm

Friday 1st December - School Christmas Fayre (schedule to be confirmed)

Tuesday 5th December - Christmas Lunch

Friday 8th December - Pupil Progress Reports to Parents/Carers

Wednesday 13th December - P1 - P3 Nativity Performance

Thursday 14th December - P1 - P3 Christmas Party

Friday 15th December - P4 & P7 Carol Concert

Tuesday 19th December - P4 & P5 Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th December - P6 & P7 Christmas Party



Primary 6 Pope Francis Faith Award & Primary 7 Mini Vinnies

Well done to our Primary 6 children who began their Pope Francis Faith Award journey last month with a wonderful whole-school Mass celebration. We were delighted to welcome Fr. O'Kane and the Parish Community into the school for the initiation Mass which also welcomed our Primary 7 children into the St. Vincent de Paul 'Mini Vinnies.' The Pope Francis FAITH AWARD is an award of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, designed to help children to show signs of love in their daily lives and to be active members of their local Church. The Mini Vinnies gives children opportunities to live their faith and draw closer to Jesus by being kind and thoughtful to others. Jesus asked us to always look out for the poor and the lonely and treat them with respect. The good work carried out as a Mini Vinnie contributes to the Pope Francis Faith Award and helps prepare the children for Confirmation.



CURRICULUM

P6 and P7 continue to enjoy the support of our music tutors this session, Mr Woods and Mr Miller. P5 are receiving music tuition from our specialist Kodaly teacher this term and have been invited to perform a Christmas

We are also delighted to see the return of Joe Bradley, Gaelic Football Coach, this year. Joe has very kindly sourced funding this year that will allow our P6 and P7 children to continue learning Gaelic Football skills and compete against other schools, an endeavour that our children have had much success with over the past few years. Joe also sourced funding to provide our P7 children with a block of yoga lessons, which they very much enjoyed. A huge thanks to Joe and his donors for their continuing support of our school.

This term we retain Mr McBrier who provides Health and Wellbeing support to our children and we are delighted to welcome two new learning support teachers to St. Bartholomew's. Mrs Raitt and Ms Wong will provide additional support in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing to children across the school.

Kindness Honesty Respect

PARENT'S / CARERS EVENING

There was a 70% turnout at our October Parent's/Carer's Evening with lots of positive news to share about the wonderful learning experiences children have already benefitted from this school session. As always, we had the opportunity to chat with our parents/carers and seek their views. The results of the survey are summarised below:

<i>Parent/Carer views</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>% Positive</i>
<i>The school helps my child to be more confident.</i>	47	31	1	3	0	95%
<i>My child enjoys learning at school.</i>	51	29	0	1	1	98%
<i>My child's learning is progressing well.</i>	51	29	1	1	0	98%
<i>My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability.</i>	49	30	2	1	0	96%
<i>The school keeps me informed about my child's progress.</i>	41	33	1	5	2	90%
<i>My child feels safe at school.</i>	57	23	0	1	1	98%
<i>My child is treated fairly at school.</i>	58	21	1	1	1	96%
<i>I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support them well.</i>	50	27	1	2	2	94%
<i>The school asks for my views.</i>	34	32	5	8	3	80%
<i>The school is well-led.</i>	45	28	2	5	2	89%
<i>Overall, I am happy with the school.</i>	48	32	0	0	2	98%

Total respondents: 82 families represented from a possible 117 (70%)

Analysis of Data

- 2 questionnaires out of 82 expressed strongly negative views in all areas.
- A further 5 out of 82 expressed negative views towards leadership of the school, while holding very positive views in all other areas. While the school will take these views on board and seek to understand them, it is difficult to correlate poor leadership with a school performing well in all other areas. We therefore intend to provide parents and carers with a further opportunity to express their views in a survey where comments can be offered to clarify areas of strength/dissatisfaction. This will allow us to understand better how we can strive to improve, particularly in the areas below 90%.

We would like to thank our parents/carers for their views, which are very important to us. A further online survey will be issued in the very near future and we would encourage all parents/carers to complete it as fully as possible. This will greatly assist us in our commitment to improving experiences for our children and wider school community.

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 all other accessories. Thank you in advance for your support.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES, 2023 - 2024

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***