



# St Brendan's Primary & Nursery Newsletter – 26th February 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are in the middle of another busy term, here is some important information and dates for you.

## **Attendance and Late-coming**

North Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Government are encouraging schools to look closely at how attendance rates impact on a child's learning.

Some interesting facts about attendance:

- A child who is absent one school day per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.
- 90% of young people with absence rates consistently below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades at National exams.

To this end we are actively monitoring our children's attendance rates. All children whose attendance rates fall below 90% (St Brendan's Primary school's target rate) will receive a letter detailing their attendance rates for the past 8 weeks along with codes which NLC schools use to record absences. Children whose attendance in the past 8 weeks has fallen below 90% will receive a letter, we do understand if children are sick they are not fit for school and should be kept at home, however, these letters will keep you informed of your child's attendance rate and reason for absence.

In addition to this if your child's attendance is significantly below 90% you will be contacted to discuss the matter further.

<b>Codes used:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>Late</b>
	<b>D</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
	<b>U</b>	<b>Unauthorised or unexplained absence</b>
	<b>G</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
	<b>P</b>	<b>Dental/Doctor/Hospital Appointment</b>

## **Kilbowie**

Our P7 children are excited about their outdoor learning and activity week at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre in May. Please contact Mrs Oates should you have any concerns regarding the payment.



## Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6th March. Father Ness has informed us that morning Mass will be in St Brendan's school every morning during Lent at 8.25am. All parent/carers and parishioners are welcome to join us in the school for Mass.

Children who attend will be given juice and a biscuit after Mass. We hope that many of our children will manage to attend these Services.

As in previous years we will be encouraging the children to sacrifice during Lent by giving alms. Our main charity is SCIAF. The classes will be given a SCIAF box and this will allow the collection of their pocket money, loose change from home and any other donations. We will also be organising our usual Fun Friday Fundraising activities within the Lenten period.

Week 1	Friday 8th March	World Book Character Day
Week 2	Friday 15th March	Crazy Hair Day
Week 3	Friday 22nd March	Silly Sock Day
Week 4	Friday 29th March	Dress Down Day
Week 5	Thursday 18th April	Disney Day

The themes for our Fun days were decided on by the children from "The Enterprise Committee".

Children are "fined" £1 for the privilege of taking part in the fun days. All money collected will of course go to our charities.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**



## Monthly Mass

Father Ness has changed the Mass each month to Friday. First Friday Mass for March will be on Friday 1st March at 9.30am. All parents/carers are welcome.

## Primary 3 and Primary 4

On Thursday 28th February Primary 3 and Primary 4 will attend 9.30am Mass for the children to hand over their enrolment promises to Father Ness. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

## Swimming Programme

Our Primary 5 children will start the swimming programme on Tuesday 19th March, more information to follow.

## School Uniform

Parents have advised us BE Schoolwear (Trutex) Wishaw are very low on some school uniform. We have contacted BE Schoolwear who have confirmed new stock will be arriving in store within the next few weeks.

## Important Dates for Diary

Thursday 7th March		Primary 3 Retreat
Sunday 10th March		Confirmation Enrolment Mass
Thursday 21st March	6.30pm	First Reconciliation
Wednesday 27th March		Primary 4 Retreat
Thursday 28th March		Parent's Reporting Evening
Tuesday 30th April	7.00pm	Confirmation
Saturday 11th May	11.00am	First Holy Communion
Sunday 12th May	10.30am	Thanksgiving Mass

## School Holidays

Spring break	Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April (inclusive)
*Good Friday/ Easter Monday	Friday 19th April/Monday 22nd April
May Day holiday	Monday 6th May
In-service day	Tuesday 7th May
Mid-term holiday	Friday 24th May and Monday 27th May
School closes	Friday 28th June

## Parent's Reporting Evening

Our Parent /Teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, 28th March. After the success of the Parent Booking System last year we will continue to use this system, this will go live on Thursday 7th March at 7.00pm. If you are unable to access the system please contact school office after this date to make an appointment.



## Fairtrade Fortnight

We will be highlighting the work of the Fairtrade Movement in Fairtrade Fortnight beginning Monday, 25th February.

A Fairtrade Focus Day will be held on Friday 1st March. Mrs Colton has planned a variety of activities for the children.

On Friday afternoon Mrs Colton will run a Fairtrade smoothy bar, raffle tickets will be on sale with Fairtrade prizes. All classes will get an opportunity to attend.

## **Parent Council**

Next Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 26th February at 6.00pm. All welcome.

## **Pantomime 2019**

We have provisionally booked Motherwell Civic Centre for Beauty and the Beast Panto on Wednesday 18th December, the cost for this will be £10 per child.

This year 'The Lion King' will be performing at Edinburgh Playhouse, we have priced this for the matinee performance on Wednesday 11th December and the cost would be £20 per child, this would be for ticket, snack/drink and would help with the cost of the buses.

We understand going to Edinburgh is double the cost of going to Motherwell Civic Centre, unfortunately the buses for this trip are very expensive. We would allow parents to pay this in instalments if this would help with the cost.

We would like to hear from parents/carers what their preference would be. Please complete the attached slip and return to school no later than Monday 4th March.



## **Website and Twitter**

Please keep up to date with all that is going on in the school and nursery by checking our website and logging into [www.st-brendans.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.st-brendans.n-lanark.sch.uk). You can also follow us on twitter @StBrendansPS.

Dinner Money

## **Fundraising**

When making purchases online please log into [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

All money raised will be used by St Brendan's Fundraising Group to help support your children.

## **Parking Reminder**

The school car park is for staff use only.

## **Hair Checking Once a Week - Take a Peek**

Please check your child's hair on a regular basis. Treatment can be prescribed by your doctor or bought from your local chemist. It is advisable for children with long hair to wear it tied back.

Mrs M Oates  
Head Teacher

**St Brendan's Primary School**

We have provisionally booked Motherwell Civic Centre for Beauty and the Beast Panto on Wednesday 18th December, the cost for this will be £10 per child.

This year 'The Lion King' will be performing at Edinburgh Playhouse, we have priced this for the matinee performance on Wednesday 11th December and the cost would be £20 per child, this would be for ticket and a snack/drink and would help with the cost of the buses.

We understand going to Edinburgh is double the cost of going to Motherwell Civic Centre, unfortunately the buses for this trip are very expensive. We would allow parents to pay this in instalments if this would help with the cost.

My preference is :

- Motherwell Civic Centre
- Edinburgh Playhouse
- No preference

Child's Name ..... Class .....

Parent/Carer Signature ..... Date .....

**Please complete the attached slip and return to school no later than Monday 4th March.**

