



St Brendan's Primary School

"Voyaging Together as a Community of Faith, Love and Learning"



Newsletter – 21st August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

A very warm welcome back to the new school session. On Wednesday 14th August all of our children including 28 new little ones arrived for the new term. We have been thinking of our previous Primary 7's and wishing them a great start to their secondary school career.

Here is a reminder of the new class arrangements:

Nursery	Vacancy
Primary 1	Mrs Shaw
Primary 2/1	Miss Cochrane
Primary 2	Miss Smith
Primary 3	Miss Paterson
Primary 4/3	Miss Peattie
Primary 4	Mrs Bridge / Mrs Colton
Primary 5B	Miss Burns / Miss McShane
Primary 5F	Mrs Ferns
Primary 6	Mr Bradley
Primary 7/6	Miss Mitchell
Primary 7	Mrs Williamson / Miss McShane

Non class collegiate time will be covered by Mrs McLaughlan and Mrs Doherty. This year we are again very fortunate to have Mrs McLaughlan out of class to lead Health and Wellbeing.

We are pleased to welcome back Miss McShane who will be covering in Primary 5B and Primary 7 until Miss Hill's return. We are delighted that Miss Burns will continue to be our Acting Principal Teacher at this time.

We welcome two probationer teachers this year Miss Smith and Mr Bradley.

All classes have been formed in compliance with North Lanarkshire Council policy on class sizes and teaching staff allocation. In our school this term we have three composite classes each with 2 stages: P2/1, P4/3 and P7/6. In St Brendan's all classes are mixed ability classes which means a difference in progress through learning. The teacher plans the children's work to suit the learning needs of individual children and groups of children within the class so all children are fully catered for in every class.





School Uniform

Every child has returned in perfect uniform. They are a credit to you and your commitment to our school. Thank you all very much. The children look very smart and they are obviously ready for work, please encourage the children to keep up this super effort throughout the year.

Can I remind you to mark your child's name on jumpers, skirts, trousers etc. When clothing gets mixed up it can be extremely difficult to track down if it is not labelled. We will, as usual, be using our outdoor environment for lots of learning. Please ensure that your child always has their jacket in school, even in warm weather.

Please remember formal shoes for school as they are much more suitable than casual trainers. Trainers/soft shoes should be kept for P.E.

Record Checks

We are required to update our pupil records at the beginning of every session. We ask your assistance in this important task by checking, completing and sending back to us promptly. These forms will be with you soon.

Mobile Phones/Recording Devices

I would ask that you discourage your child from bringing a mobile phone to school. We do not have insurance for any devices not belonging to North Lanarkshire Council. If you require your child to bring a mobile phone to school **IT MUST BE HANDED INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT 9.00AM AND WILL BE RETURNED AT 3.00PM.**

Many new devices including some watches can be used as recording devices, it is illegal to record anyone without permission. Please do not allow your child to bring any such devices to school.

Attendance

If your child is unable to come to school you have the responsibility of informing the school. We ask that you let the school office know by phoning or calling in as soon as possible on the morning of your child's absence.

Late Coming

Important teaching time takes place at the beginning of the school day so please try to make sure your child is on time for school. If your child arrives after 8.55am the pupil entrances will be closed for security therefore children should use the main entrance and report to the office.

Re-wire programme

As you may be aware our school is in the middle of a full re-wire. It is expected this work will be ongoing for approximately 40 weeks. To minimise the disruption in the infant / nursery areas of the school the work was completed during the summer holidays. It is our intention to decant all other classes on a rolling basis for a short period of time for the duration of the re-wire.

The safety and well-being of our children as always is our priority, during the works the children will be unable to access some parts of the school.

Currently the area where our water dispenser is located has restricted access, at this time we ask if you will supply your child with a filled water bottle each day. This area is also where the senior toilets are located. For the next three weeks approximately the children in the upper school will use the toilets in other areas of the school.

Children will be asked to follow safety rules in school and in playground areas. We ask you to remind your child to follow all safety instructions at all times particularly during the re-wire.

Water in School

A reminder that children should bring a safety top plastic sports bottle of water to school so that they can keep it on their desk to sip throughout the day, this must be plain water. We are a health promoting school and fizzy juice is not permitted in school at any time.

Security

Safety of our children is of prime importance therefore visitors to the school, including parents are asked to use the main entrance and sign in at the main office. You are always welcome to call or ask for an appointment to speak to a member of the senior management team, but please can I ask that you do not wait in the foyer unless you wish to make an appointment as it can be very busy. All doors will be locked and are alarmed during class time for security reasons.

Our playgrounds are for staff and children only, please DO NOT ENTER our playgrounds.

Primary 1 parents – if your child is upset you are welcome to wait with your child outside the playground and a member of staff will come to you and collect your child. Staff will hand P1 children over to their parents at the end of the day.

Could we also discourage parents/carers from visiting the playground area at playtime and lunch time as this can be unsettling for the children, if your child is distressed please be assured we will contact you.

Primary 2 to 7 parents should wait at the main gate to collect your child.

If your child forgets something at the end of the day and has to return to class please make sure he/she uses the main entrance.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open from 8.15am and breakfast is provided at a cost of £1.00 for one child. For a family of two children the cost is £1.50 and for a family of three children the cost is £1.80. If your child is entitled to a Clothing Grant for 2019/20 then they are also entitled to free breakfast. Please ensure your child has money on their card, see the school office for more information. If your child is not attending breakfast club the playground is supervised from 8.45am and **children should not arrive before this time.**

Nut Allergy

Can I remind you that we have children in the school who have severe nut allergies, therefore we ask for your co-operation in ensuring that **all snacks/lunches etc. are nut free at all times.** In particular please ensure that chocolate spreads which are sometimes used in lunches are nut free.

School Holidays

A list of the school holiday dates are attached for your information. These are also available on North Lanarkshire's website and our own school app.

School will be closed on **Friday 27th and Monday 30th September.**

Sacramental Dates

P1 Welcome Mass	Sunday, 8th September 10.30am
First Reconciliation	Thursday, 19th March 6.30pm
First Holy Communion	Saturday, 30th May 11.00am

Parent Council

Here is a list of the Parent Council meetings throughout the year. All parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 20/08/19	Tuesday 17/09/19
Tuesday 12/11/19	Tuesday 07/01/20
Tuesday 10/03/20	Tuesday 21/04/20
Tuesday 12/05/20	Tuesday 09/06/20

Newsletter

If you would like to receive a paper copy of this newsletter in future please contact Mrs Hogg at the school office and she will ensure your child receives this monthly.

This month we are issuing every pupil with a paper copy of our newsletter, however as an Eco school we are keen to reduce our photocopying, so please check the school website following the text message indicating the newsletter has been uploaded.

School App

We would like to make you aware of some minor changes to our school app. The company that provides the app has changed hands, and so, anyone who wishes to access the app is invited to download the updated 'school app for parents' from the Apple or Google Play App stores.

Once downloaded, search for and select St Brendan's. The app will then invite users to enter the username and password to access our content.

To cover some of the cost providing this helpful service, we would ask for a donation of £2 per family. An envelope has been provided, we ask that payment is returned to the school office as soon as possible and an updated password will then be provided.

Number Box Support Parent Volunteers

We are looking for parent/carer volunteers who are able to offer us two half hour sessions per week to work with individual children on an exciting Maths resource. Training will be provided, please contact the school office for more information.

Gardening Volunteers

Over the past few years our gardens have been well maintained by Mrs Cusick one of our parents. Unfortunately for us her son has moved on to OLHS and we are now asking for anyone who is able to volunteer their services to help maintain the gardens. Please contact school office if you are able to help us.

Blogs

Follow us on Twitter @StBrendansPS and [Blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans). Please check every week for the most up to date information.

If you do not wish your child to be included in photographs on twitter or school blogs please contact the school office no later than Friday 23rd August 2019.

We look forward to this new school year and working in partnership with you and your child.

Mrs Maura Oates
Head Teacher

St Brendan's Primary School

School Holidays August 2019 to June 2020

August 2019

In-service day: Monday 12th August 2019
In-service day: Tuesday 13th August 2019
Pupils return to school: Wednesday 14th August 2019

September 2019

September weekend holidays: Friday 27th September to Monday 30th September 2019

October 2019

October break: Monday 14th October to Friday 18th October 2019 (inclusive)

November 2019

In-service day: Monday 18th November 2019
In-service day: Tuesday 19th November 2019

December 2019/ January 2020

Christmas / New Year Holidays: Friday 20th December 2019 - Friday 3rd January 2020 (inclusive)

February 2020

Mid-term break: Monday 10th February 2020 and Tuesday 11th February 2020
In-service Day: Wednesday 12th February 2020
In-service Day: Thursday 13th February 2020

March/April 2020

Spring break: Monday 6th April 2020 to Friday 17th April 2020 (inclusive)
Good Friday 10th April 2020 and Easter Monday 13th April 2020

May 2020

May day holiday: Friday 8th May 2020
In-Service day: Monday 11th May 2020
May weekend holiday: Friday 22nd May 2020 and Monday 25nd May 2020

June 2020

School closes: Wednesday 24th June 2020