



St Brendan's Primary & Nursery

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



Child Protection Co-ordinator: Mrs Maura Oates

Newsletter – 14th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our October Newsletter, the children have all settled into their new classes. Once again the children all look so smart in their school uniform, we thank you for your continued support.

The end of this term and next term are looking very busy and we want to take this opportunity to share with you some important information.

Parent Appointment

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend our first face to face Parents' Evening since Covid restrictions have been lifted. It was lovely to see so many of our parents and carers, with over 90% attendance. We hope you found the evening informative. If you were unable to attend Parents' Evening we will be in touch after our October break to arrange an appointment.

October Holidays

School will be closed to pupils on the following days: Monday 17th to Friday 21st October 2022.

School re-opens on **Monday 24th October continuing with our soft start from 8.50am to 9.00am, it is important your child is in school for 9.00am.**

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 term August to October along with codes which NLC schools use to record absences. Children whose attendance 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.

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

Christmas Panto – Cinderella at Motherwell Theatre Friday 9th December 2022

If you have not already paid for the Panto please ensure all outstanding balances are paid no later than Monday 31st October. If you have any issues with payment please contact Mrs Oates.

School App

The school app links to Twitter and our St Brendan's PS website, we will also be able to text you through the app. We are currently working on updating the app over the holidays adding the school calendar of events. You will be able to sign up for notifications. The app is password protected. To receive the password we ask for a donation of £2 per family. Thank you to everyone who has paid their £2 (per family). Can we encourage those who have not paid to hand it in as soon as possible?

School Photographs

Chris McIntyre Photography will be in school from Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th November.

If you would like siblings photographed please click on link to register.

<https://forms.office.com/r/pJ2tcpcNeY>

The deadline date for registration will be midnight on the **30th October 2022**. Please note the photographers are unable to take requests on the day or after the deadline date.

You must complete the form if you wish to have siblings photographed together.

Halloween Disco

The Parent Fundraising Group will hold a Halloween Disco on Thursday 27th October.

P1 to P3	6.00 to 7.15pm
P4 to P7	7.30 to 8.45pm



Entry £2.50 pay on the door, price includes snack pack.

Halloween Activity Afternoon

We will hold a Halloween Activity Afternoon in our classrooms on Monday 31st October from 1.20-3pm. Children will be involved in a wide range of activities whilst enjoying being dressed up for the occasion (if they wish). Children will receive a small Halloween treat.

Children can go home to get changed at 12.30pm. If any child needs to change in school staff will be available to help them.

Children will be dismissed in the usual way at 3.00pm.



Birthday Cake

Due to several children in school having severe allergies we are no longer able to allow birthday cakes to be brought in to school. To avoid disappointment please do not hand a birthday cake into school as it will be returned to you.

Parent Council Meetings

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November at 6.00pm. As a member of our Parent Forum you are welcome to attend the meeting.

A copy of the minutes of meetings will be available for all parents/carers to read in the school foyer.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am daily and costs £1 per day. Primary 1 to Primary 5 children and also children entitled to free school meals do not pay for this service. The children will go straight to their class at 8.50am. Our Breakfast Club is supervised for children using this service, we do not have supervision for children being dropped off at school before 8.50am.

Dinner Money

A number of children have outstanding money due for school dinners/breakfast club. This is not only additional work for school staff but can cause upset and embarrassment to your child. Please check your child's account and ensure there is sufficient funds on a daily basis. Should you require password for online payments please contact school office. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals please go to NLC website for further information.

Parental Involvement

Our school welcomes any support parents can offer during the school day, be it in time or expertise. We also require help with school outings. If you feel you can help, please contact the school. We have a very active Parent Council and Fundraising Group who meet on a regular basis. If you would like to join or feel you could help at some events please go along to one of the meetings, where you will be made most welcome.

Parent Fundraising Group

We are very grateful to the Parent Fundraising group for all their hard work and efforts throughout the year. Without their continued support we would not be able to afford our children so many wonderful opportunities.

Primary 7 Confirmation

Our Primary 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 21st November at 7.00pm. The children are busy preparing for the Sacrament with the school and the Parish of St Brendan's and are very much looking forward to celebrating this Sacrament with their families. Final arrangements will be issued nearer the time.

Pupil Council

Congratulations to our newly elected Pupil Council:

Riley P 1

Noah P 2/1

Tillie P 2

Lauchlan P 3

Emily and Jochebed P 4/3

James and Emma P 4

Conall and Alfie P 5

Zuzanna and Sophie P 6/5

Lousia and Zoe P 6

Julia and Jacob P 7A

Michael and Success P 7B

We wish them every success in their new role.



School Clothing Reminder

Please label all items of clothing as items get mislaid on a daily basis and it is difficult to identify the owner if no name is marked.

Lost property is in the school foyer and will also be available at Parents' Evening. After this all unclaimed items will be taken to a charity shop.

Water Bottles Reminder

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school on a daily basis. Only water should be in bottles, unless otherwise discussed with class teacher or myself. If your child's water bottle needs replacing this must be a clear bottle with 'sports top'.

Follow us on Twitter at [StBrendansPS](#) and [Blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans).



After School Activity Clubs

Our after school clubs are now under way for September/October. Thank you to all the staff who are giving up their own time and planning a wide variety of activities for your children.

Outdoor Learning

As always, the children will be involved in outdoor learning activities on the **first Friday of every month**, therefore we would ask that children bring appropriate footwear e.g. wellies or old trainers with them on this day. Although we have some outdoor clothing if your child has a waterproof jacket please bring this too. Children will be working outside and clothes may get dirty/muddy. Outdoors is an extremely valuable learning environment and we hope you understand and support us. Children work best when they are comfortable and not worried about keeping clothes clean. Please ensure all clothing is labelled with your child's name.

Drop In Service

St Brendan's Primary has always had an open door policy, everyone is welcome to contact the school for an appointment to speak to Mrs Oates if you have any issues or concerns. Further to this, Mrs Oates will now have a drop in appointment service on the first Thursday of each month from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. All welcome.

Flu Immunisation

NHS Staff will be in school are scheduled to be in school on Friday 18th November 2022 for any children who missed the immunisations yesterday. For all enquiries regarding the flu immunisation please contact:

Lisa McKillop on 07814935921 or lisa.mckillop@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

School Security

The safety and security of your children is our priority at all times, the following school procedures are in place to ensure the safety of your children.

- Latecoming – please encourage your child to come to the school office if they are late even if only by a few minutes, your child could be marked off on the register and an absence text sent out, this can be distressing to the parent.
- School Bus/School Taxi – we now have 35 children entitled to school transport, we ask you to contact the school office by 2pm if you have a change to your arrangements as this is a great help to our staff who everyday ensure your child is where they should be at 3.00pm.
- Clydesdale After School Club – please contact CASC and school by 2pm if you have a change to your arrangements, sometimes there can be confusion and young children are not always sure of where they are going.

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.

TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter at StBrendansPS

Our classes' blog weekly don't forget to log onto [Blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans)

Can I remind you that St Brendan's Primary and Nursery is a NUT FREE ZONE.

Parking – Reminder

The school car park is for staff use only.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Oates
Head Teacher