



St Brendan's Primary & Nursery

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



Child Protection Co-ordinator: Mrs Maura Oates

Newsletter – August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

A very warm welcome back to the new school session. Since Wednesday 17th August all of our children including 26 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:

Primary 1	Mrs Shaw
Primary 2/1	Miss Cochrane
Primary 2	Miss McAdam & Mrs MacDermid
Primary 3	Mrs Bridge & Mrs O'Donnell
Primary 4/3	Miss McShane
Primary 4	Miss Paterson
Primary 5	Miss Mitchell
Primary 6/5	Mrs Ferns
Primary 6	Mrs Smedley
Primary 7A	Mrs Williamson & Mrs Colton
Primary 7B	Miss Smith

Non class collegiate time will be covered by Miss Burns and Miss Hill. This year we are again very fortunate to have Ms O'Neill our Health and Wellbeing Champion. She is out of class to work with small groups of children and to lead Health and Wellbeing initiatives.

We are delighted that Miss Burns has been appointed as our Acting Principal Teacher (PEF) at this Time.

We welcome Miss Smith our probationer teacher this year.

Our children have returned looking smart in their school uniforms and are happy and excited to return. The staff are also delighted to welcome back our children and settle into a new school routine.

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 P6/5. 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.





Uniform

We take great pride in our school uniform and we are grateful to you our parents for giving our school a high profile in the community by making sure the children wear their uniform.

Uniform Items:

- Green shirt
- Brown skirt/trousers (grey trousers will also be accepted)
- Brown cardigan/jumper
- Brown/Black shoes (no trainers please)
- On cold days the outer brown zip up school jacket with logo
- On warm days green/yellow gingham dress
- School tie
- Blazer

We currently have a good stock of pre-loved uniform including shoes available to anyone who can make good use of this.

Please help us and your child to identify clothing by labelling ALL items with name or initials.

P.E. days.

Education Scotland require children to receive P.E. sessions twice a week.. One session will be indoors and the second session of the week will be outdoors. Our P.E. uniform must be worn on your child's P.E. day.

This consists of the following:

- Black shorts or joggies or leggings
- Yellow t-shirt
- School jumper or cardigan.
- Suitable sports footwear

For Health and Safety reasons children are not allowed to wear acrylic nails to school, if these are worn your child will be unable to participate in P.E.

P.E Timetable:

P1	Tuesday, Thursday
P2/1	Tuesday, Thursday
P2	Tuesday, Friday
P3	Monday, Friday
P4/3	Monday, Thursday
P4	Wednesday, Friday
P5	Wednesday, Friday
P6/5	Tuesday, Friday
P6	Monday, Friday
P7A	Thursday
P7B	Monday, Thursday

All Primary 7 children will participate in NL Challenge every Thursday afternoon, this contributes towards their two hours of P.E Primary 7A will also have their P.E. lesson on Thursday mornings.

What to Bring

Children should be discouraged from bringing items from home to school – this includes **mobile phones**, pencil cases, toys, etc. We have issued children with all required stationery.

Children should bring their water bottle to school filled each day as we are discouraging these being refilled due to disrupting their lessons, however, if children require their water bottle filled, this of course will be allowed.

We operate a staggered start every morning from 8.45am to 8.55m for all children. Primary 3 to Primary 7 can enter through the main gate or ramp entrance and make their way to their class.

All Primary 1 and Primary 2 children should enter through the main gate and make their way to their class. School staff are in the yard to guide children.

Children will be dismissed through the following zones.

Nursery - White zone (gate with ramp close to staff car park. Nursery will be allowed one adult per child at nursery entrance)

P1 & P2 - Main foyer/ entrance

P3 to P5 - Small gate at infant yard

P6 to P7 - Ramp in infant yard

P3 to P7 will not be escorted by class teacher at 3pm however a member of the Senior Management Team will be outside supervising all children at this time. All pupils know that if no one is there to pick them up on time, they must return to the school office to let us know and we will contact you.

Parents will NOT be permitted in the school yard. School staff will be on hand to supervise and direct the children. ONLY nursery parents will be in the yard to drop off and collect their child from nursery. Parents are permitted inside main gate at top of stairs to collect children.

Cashless System

If you do not have access to iPayImpact please email enquiries-at-st-brendans@northlan.org.uk and instructions and password will be issued.

Communication

If you have any queries which you would like to discuss with a member of the School Team please contact the HT/Office via telephone on 01698 274914 or email enquiries-at-st-brendans@northlan.org.uk and an appointment will be arranged.

We will communicate important information through various channels such as School App, Twitter, Newsletters and email.

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 9.05am the pupil entrances will be closed for security therefore children should use the main entrance and report to the office.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open from 8.15am and breakfast is provided at a cost of £1.00 for one child.

If your child is entitled to a Clothing Grant for 2022/23 then they are also entitled to free breakfast.

Breakfast Club is free to all Primary 1 to Primary 5 children. Please ensure your child has money on their card. 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.

Parking

Can we please remind you that the car park is for staff use only and should not be used to drop off or pick up children. Also, for safety reasons please DO NOT park or drop off children on the yellow zig zags in front of the school. These should be kept clear at all times.

School App

Anyone who wishes to access the app is invited to download '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. Details can be obtained from school office.

Our parents enjoy our app and find this a convenient way to receive information, the app costs us £500 per year we therefore ask for a £2 donation per family to allow us to continue funding the app. This can be handed into the school office.

North Lanarkshire Council School Holidays

To keep up to date with NLC holidays for all North Lanarkshire Schools including St Brendan's Primary and Nursery please see North Lanarkshire Council website or scan QR code below.



Rights Respecting School Award

As you are aware we are a bronze award school, awaiting our Silver assessment. The children are learning about the articles from the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child and they are able to discuss what they mean in their own words. We also have a fantastic real life mascot of Rover the Rights Respecting Dog which will go to assembly each week and go to a class that are trying very hard to show and talk about the rights of the child. We will keep you updated on our progress for the Silver Award.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council A.G.M. will take place on Thursday 8th September in St Brendan's Parish Hall at 6.00pm. All parents are welcome to join us for our A.G.M.

Record Checks

We are required to update our pupil records at the beginning of every session. We ask you to check form and make any changes and return to school. These forms will be with you soon.

If you have opened an account through Parent Portal you will not receive a paper copy, this will be available online.

Parent Portal

The St Brendan's app has always been a large part of the way that we communicate with families. North Lanarkshire establishments, however, will be expected to transition their means of communicating with families to Parents Portal over the course of the next year.

There is no charge for parent portal and for session 2023/24 we aim to discontinue the app and move fully to our Parent Portal.

Parents Portal gives direct access to iPay Impact, the online payment for school lunches, your child's attendance, and the ability for the main contact parent to update contact details. It allows schools to send home letters and permission forms, which you can return with permission digitally. In future, reports may also be issued through Parents Portal.

This portal will become one of the main communications between schools and parents across North Lanarkshire Council and we encourage you to sign up to this service.

<https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

More instructions on getting started with Parents Portal can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/ParentsPortalNLC>

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 as soon as possible

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

Mrs M Oates
Head Teacher