



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Helen's,

December has arrived! The Christmas festivities were kicked off in style with our Christmas Fayre. I feel I say this every year, but once again we were completely overwhelmed by the masses of people who came along to support us. We are so grateful. The children had a ball and loved the experience of setting up and running a company - and of course selling their creations on the day! Many thanks to our Parent Council, our parent helpers who supported the children on their stalls - as well as serving refreshments - and of course to all members of our community for donations of raffle prizes and home baking. Our thanks also goes to Mrs Hasselstrom and Mrs Maclean for their hard work and organisation.

Along with the arrival of December is party and panto season! Our Primary 4 -7 children thoroughly enjoyed the performance of Rapunzel and our Primary 1-3 are eagerly awaiting their turn. Please take a wee note of important dates from the 'Dates for Your Diary' section at the back of this newsletter so that party outfits and Christmas jumpers are at the ready!

Our special Mass to celebrate Catholic Education was very well attended. Many thanks to all the families who came along and to the children who took on roles of responsibility.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and encouragement and I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas.

Liz Kelly



THE NATIVITY

Our infant department are bringing smiles and good cheer across the school with their angelic singing and creative acting skills as they prepare to entertain you with their performance of 'It's a Baby!'.

For the evening performance, our Primary 1-3 children should arrive at the school for 6.30pm to allow plenty of time to get costumes on.

Please support **both** performances of the show. A lot of effort and hard work goes in to preparing the children for this event which is a highlight of our school year. Every child has a role and is needed to make the show a success.

PLEASE SHOW CONSIDERATION TOWARDS OUR NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS AND PARK YOUR CAR RESPONSIBLY.

We would like to avoid having to interrupt the show to read out car registration numbers. As you can imagine, this is very off putting for the children, not to mention the embarrassment it causes.





CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Mrs Hasselstrom and Mrs Maclean would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to everyone—parents, carers and friends of St Helen's who helped to make the Christmas Fayre a huge success. We raised £2603.21!



CAROL SERVICE

Please come and join us at our Christmas Carol Service to end our school term. This will be held on Friday 21st Dec at 1.15pm in Our Lady and St Helen's Church. Each year group will entertain you and spread the Christmas spirit by singing a Christmas Carol on the steps of the Altar. This is a great opportunity for us all to gather as a community and it is a lovely way to start the Christmas holidays!



ENROLMENTS

Enrolling our new Primary 1 children for Aug 2019 is an exciting time in the school. Mrs Kelly, Miss McElhinney and Miss Gillooly will be on hand to enrol children and we would like to invite all families with children who are 5 years old between 1/3/19 and 28/2/20 to pop into the school to enrol for the new session at the following times:

MON 14TH JANUARY FROM 1-3PM

TUES 15TH JANUARY FROM 9-11AM

WED 16TH JANUARY FROM 1-3PM

THURS 17TH JANUARY FROM 9-11AM

If these times are unsuitable, please contact the school where we will be happy to make other arrangements.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, a council tax statement with your address and your child's Baptismal Certificate if they have one. After completing the paperwork—don't rush away, as our Primary 7 children will take you on a tour of the school!

ADVERSE WEATHER PLANS—A REMINDER

Hopefully we will get through another winter without being overly affected by snowy weather.

However if Mother Nature sends heavy blizzards our way and this results in a school closure the following action will be taken:

- We will inform you by text in the first instance to let you know this has been decided in the interests of health and safety
- Staff will remain in school with the children until they have all been safely picked up

In the event that there has been a heavy snowfall during the night, you should consult the North Lanarkshire Council website on:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

prior to embarking on the journey to school. Similarly if there has been a school closure the website will inform you if the school is open again.

Class Teachers will post details of tasks and websites on the school web page to enable children to continue their learning at home.

ACCESSING THE SCHOOL: During icy weather, when the ground is slippery, the school is required to keep one path of access gritted. This will be the pathway through the Primary 7 Playground which will be gritted from the gate, to the Main Entrance.

Where possible, there will be a pathway gritted from the Primary 3 playground to the Nursery and from the Primary 1 gate to the P1 Area Doors.

If the playground remains icy at the end of the day, children will be dismissed as follows:

Primary 4b) to Primary 7—exit through the P7 Area Doors

The Primary 1 to Primary 4a) will exit as normal through their area doors where pathways will be gritted. If this is not the case you will be informed of alternative arrangements.

Please inform Grandparents and other family members who may bring your children to school of these arrangements as the playground at both sides of the school building is always particularly icy.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

St Helen's Primary will host Christmas Jumper Day on **Tuesday 18th December** as all funds raised will be donated to MISSIO.

In addition to this day, children are also invited to wear their school uniforms with Christmas jumpers on the following dates:

- Thursday 13th December - Children's Christmas Lunch
- Friday 21st December - Last day of term and Carol Service

Please do not feel obliged to go out and buy a Christmas jumper - a festive hat, hair band or badge will be just as nice!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Please check the 'Dates for your Diary' section and take note of the Christmas Party dates. Children wishing to go home to get ready for the parties can be collected from their **area doors at 12.15** as normal, and should return to school at 1pm. Children staying in school for lunch should bring a change of clothes for their party.

The children have the opportunity to dance, play games and have a treat at their party and children enjoy bringing in something to share with their class.

Due to allergies, please ensure these are nut free.



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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

As you know from the recent letter the children's Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 13th Dec.

THE COST OF THE LUNCH - £2.

PLEASE HELP US OUT BY ENSURING THERE IS MONEY ON YOUR CHILD'S CARD (This applies to P4 - 7 children who are not in receipt of free meals. All children in P1 - 3 are entitled to free dinners therefore do not require money for the Christmas lunch).

Your support with this is appreciated as it saves staff having to write out dinner slips on the day. As you can imagine, the Christmas Lunch is very popular and the hall will be full of excited children and Christmas cheer!



On behalf of all staff and pupils in St Helen's...



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Day	Date	Event
Thursday	6th December	Parent Council Disco
Friday	7th December	Mass—10am
Tuesday	11th December	Nativity afternoon performance—1:30pm
Wednesday	12th December	Nativity evening performance—7pm
Thursday	13th December	Children's Christmas lunch
Friday	14th December	P1-P3 Panto—Rapunzel
Tuesday	18th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday	19th December	P1—P3 party
Thursday	20th December	P4—7 party
Friday	21st December	Carol Service—1:15pm in Our Lady and St Helen's Church School closes at 2:30pm for holiday
Monday	7th January	School re-opens
Friday	11th January	Mass for the New Year—10am
Wednesday	16th January	Buddy training for P6 pupils
Thursday	17th January	God's Loving Plan Parent Info Evening P6 and P7 parents—6:30pm
Monday	28th January	PLP's sent home
Friday	1st February	First Friday mass
Thursday	7th February	Parent Council Disco
Friday	8th February	Parent Council Dress Down Day
Monday	11th February	Holiday
Tuesday	12th February	Holiday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Day	Date	Event
Wednesday	13th February	Inservice Day
Mon-Fri	18th-22nd February	Health Week
Mon-Fri	25th Feb—1st March	Catholic Education Week Fairtrade Week
Thursday	28th February	Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm. ALL WELCOME.
Friday	1st March	First Friday Mass—10am
Wednesday	6th March	Ash Wednesday Mass - 11:15am
Thursday	7th March	World Book Day
Saturday	9th March	10am Confirmation Enrolment Mass-P7s - Our Lady and St Helen's Church
Mon-Fri	11th—15th March	STEM week
Tuesday	12th March	1.30pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thursday	14th March	New P1 Parents' 2019/2020 Info meeting 6:30pm
Monday	18th March	PLP Tracker home—School and Nursery
Tuesday	19th March	P1 Fashion Show—10am
Thursday	21st March	Daffodil Tea
Tuesday	26th March	New P1 Lunch Day
Thursday	28th March	Mothers' Day Assembly for P1 parents
Friday	29th March	School closes for holiday at 2:30pm
Mon-Fri	1st—12th April	Easter holiday
Monday	15th April	School re-opens
Fri—Mon	19th –22nd April	Easter weekend holiday
Tuesday	23rd April	New P1 Taster Session 1
Tuesday	30th April	New P1 Taster Session 2
Friday	3rd May	First Friday Mass at 10am
Monday	6th May	Holiday
Tuesday	7th May	Inservice day
Friday	10th May	Confirmation 7pm - Our Lady and St Helen's Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Day	Date	Event
Tuesday	14th May	New P1 Taster Session 3
Saturday	18th May	11am - First Communion
Sunday	19th May	12pm - First Communion
Monday	20th May	School Reports to Parents
Tuesday	21st May	New P1 Taster Session 4
Wednesday	22nd May	Parents' Evening
Friday	24th May	Holiday
Monday	27th May	Holiday
Tuesday	28th May	New P1 Taster Session 5
Thursday	30th May	11.15 Mass for the Feast of the Ascension Parent Council Meeting—6:30pm. ALL WELCOME.
Friday	31st May	Sponsored Walk
Monday	3rd June	Nursery reports to Parents
Thursday	6th June	New P1 Meet the Teacher—1:45pm Parent Council Disco
Friday	7th June	First Friday Mass Nursery Fun Day
Wednesday	12th June	School show—1:30pm Nursery Parents' Evening
Thursday	13th June	New P1 Meet the Teacher—1:45pm School show—7pm
Friday	14th June	Sports Day
Tuesday	18th June	P1-P3 Final Assembly—1:30pm
Wednesday	19th June	P4-P6 Final Assembly—1:30pm
Thursday	20th June	P7 Final Assembly
Friday	21st June	P7 Mass at 10am P7 Disco
Friday	28th June	Last Day Mass—10am Nursery Graduation School Closed at 1pm
DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		