



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2023

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

The month of November is around the corner and soon we will be into the realms of Advent and Christmas preparations—exciting times!

Speaking of exciting times the children are looking forward to celebrating Halloween! Details of the Halloween Parade for the children on Tuesday 31st October have been emailed. Please ensure children have primary school aged appropriate costumes. Children can bring in a nut free treat to enjoy on Tuesday afternoon.

The Parent Council Halloween Disco was a great success on Thursday 26th October. Lynsey McCallum is the Chairperson of the Parent Council and Marie-Clare Allen is the Vice-Chair. Together with other parents supporting—the Parent Council organise these much loved events for the children. They are always looking for parents to join and help to continue this great work. Please come along to the next meeting on the 1st Nov at 6.30pm in the school staffroom. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents in the school community.

As colder temperatures are upon us—please look out hats, scarves, gloves and cosy jackets. If any families require support with this—please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please familiarise yourselves with the adverse weather plans for safe passage into and out of the school.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

PARENTS' NIGHT APPOINTMENTS/BOOK FAIR

As you know Parents' Night is on Thursday 9th Nov from 3.30pm.

Details of how to navigate the electronic booking system will be sent out. The system will be open to book appointments from Monday 30th October 2023 from 6pm until Tuesday 7th November to book appointments.

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the Conference Room on the evening of Parents' Night—giving children and families the opportunity to look at some books—possibly make some purchases—or gather some ideas for Santa!



A WORD OF THANKS

We wish to extend a word of thanks to a grandfather for restoring our friendly Bee which sits proudly on the rocks at the front entrance. After a repair to the wings and a fresh new coat of paint the bee has been returned to its former glory!



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The school closes for Christmas on Friday 22nd December at 2.30pm. Traditionally the school gathers as a community to sing Christmas Carols in Our Lady and St Helen's Church in the afternoon. However due to this being Fr. John's day off and plans he has in the afternoon, he has requested that we gather in the morning. Therefore the Carol Concert will be held at the earlier time of 11.15am.

Please come along—this is always a lovely event—with the children gathered on the steps of the Altar singing Christmas Carols.

CAKE, CANDY AND TOY SALE

On Friday 3rd November there will be a Cake, Candy and Toy sale for pupils in the school hall. We are looking for donations of home baking or shop bought products (nut free) to sell on the day. We will also gratefully receive any pre-loved toys. All monies raised will be used to boost the school fund.



SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Understanding Your Own Trauma -

For those who have experienced trauma or who may be supporting a friend or relative to process trauma, **Understanding your own trauma** is a short online course designed to help parents to:

- understand the diverse nature and impact of trauma experiences
 - learn effective ways to process trauma
 - nurture resilience through healthy relationships
- understand more about emotional health and wellbeing

Accessed on www.inourplace.co.uk using code—TARTAN

Healthy Sleep Habits for Children—Thursday

16th November 9.30-11am

Delivered by Psychological Services, this workshop will explore the importance of sleep and how to develop healthy sleep habits. Join via link in separate email sent 23rd October 2023.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

After the success of last year we are delighted to inform you that we will once again be hosting a Christmas show with the infant children performing the Nativity and our middle/upper primaries serenading us with some Christmas songs.

I am sure you will agree this sounds like a lovely Christmas event and a great opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer.

The Christmas Show will be held on the 5th, 6th and 7th of December. Tuesday and Wednesday 5th/6th of December will be afternoon performances starting at 1.30pm and the 7th December will be an evening performance starting at 7pm.

There will be an allocation of tickets to each family and following this additional tickets will be on sale. Further details will follow.

On the day of the shows, please ensure you park considerately in a fashion that does not inconvenience local residents.



PANTOMIME

On Friday 1st December we have arranged for a theatre company to come into the school to perform a Christmas Pantomime for the children—Cinderella.

The cost of the Pantomime is £795. Therefore we are asking parents to pay a contribution of £3 per child.

This money can be paid via the iPay system or the school office. Please can all monies be handed in by Monday 20th November.



BABY NEWS

Mrs Ferguson is delighted to share news about the arrival of a new addition to her family. Mrs Ferguson gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on 26th October. Mum and Dad are over the moon and their daughter Rosie is a proud big sister.

We send them all our love at this special time.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The children's Christmas Lunch Day will be on Friday 8th December. Tables will be dressed with Christmas table cloths and napkins and there will be Christmas music playing.

A letter will be sent out regarding this with menu choices. The letter will include a date for returning menu choices—please ensure this is returned to the school as this will inform the food order placed by the catering staff. Letters that are returned beyond this deadline might not be able to get their first choice of dinner.

The Christmas Lunch is free of charge to all children in Primaries 1—5 and for any children out with those stages who are in receipt of free meals. For all other children the cost will be £3.10. Please ensure children have money on their cards to avoid the dinner ladies having to spend time writing out receipts for money owed—as this is always a really busy day for the dinner school.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS RECYCLING APPEAL

The school will hold Christmas Jumper day on Friday the 8th of December. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on this day for a donation to charity (£1).

Rather than families going to the added expense of purchasing new Christmas jumpers—which are only worn for a short period of time—we are working with the Parent Council to recycle Christmas Jumpers that still have some life left in them.

If there are any pre-loved Christmas jumpers that could be part of this initiative—please ensure they are freshly laundered and hand them into the school before Parents' Night on the 9th November.

The Parent Council will be hosting a reduce/reuse/recycle station on Parents' Night with Christmas jumpers, school uniform and Halloween costumes.



Please pop in!

PLP TRACKERS/SNAPSHOT JOTTERS

We hope you enjoyed looking through the children's Snapshot Jotters when they were sent home on 2nd October 2023.

The Snapshot Jotters will be in use in all classes during w/b 20th November and will then be sent home on Monday 4th December 2023 for you to discuss learning and progress with children.

In addition to this the Progress Trackers for the children's Personal Learning Plans will also be sent home on Monday 4th December.

We hope these measures help you to feel involved and informed about your child's learning and progress.

WARM SPACE HUB

Our Lady and St. Helen's Church Hall is a recognised secure warm space in the community. This means the hall will be open on weekdays to provide a warm space for people, phone charging facilities and tea/coffee/toast as a means of helping with the cost of living crisis. The hall is open every Wednesday from 11am—1pm.

ADVERSE WEATHER PLANS

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 snow-fall 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.

Children will be able to continue their learning at home via Teams.

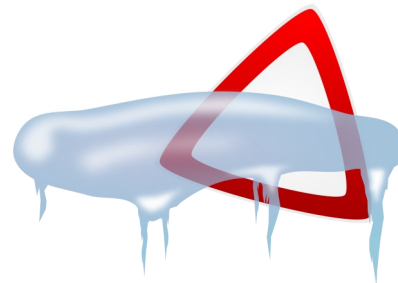


ENTERING/EXITING THE SCHOOL IN ICY— CONDITIONS

As we all know winter brings with it sub zero temperatures and icy conditions. This can make it hazardous on foot. The school playground can be particularly icy at these times.

In accordance with NLC guidelines, the Janitor will always ensure there is at least one gritted path for pupils and adults to enter/exit the school. This path leads from the Primary 7 gate—adjacent to the car park gate—and extends to the Main Entrance of the school.

If the conditions are icy—please use this path and enter through the Main Entrance of the school.



Over the course of the day—the janitor will assess the conditions and if needed there will be alternative arrangements in play for dismissal at 3pm. These will be posted on Twitter.

DISABLED SPACES

I have been contacted by a Support Worker for a disabled resident from Rose Street who is a wheelchair user and requires access to and from a wheelchair adapted vehicle. As such this resident has applied to the relevant Authorities and has earned the right to have a disabled parking space outside their house—which in these circumstances is for the exclusive use of this resident only.

Please can I ask all members of the school community to refrain from parking in this space. The resident the space is designated for and their Support Worker require access at various times throughout the day. Having to ask people to vacate the space is causing increased levels of stress and anxiety.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS & ORAL HEALTH CHECKS

Children who have returned consent forms will receive their annual flu immunisation on Monday 6th November.

Oral health checks for pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 7 are due to be carried out on Tuesday 6th February by NHS Lanarkshire. Consent/Opt Out forms will be issued in due course once these have been provided by NHS Lanarkshire.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
Wednesday 1 st November	Mass for All Saints Day at 11.15am
Friday 3 rd November	Cake, Candy and Toy sale for pupils
Thursday 9 th November	Parents' Night
Monday 13 th November	INSET Day 3
Monday 4 th December	PLP Tracker home to parents SNAPSHOT JOTTERS sent home
Tuesday 5 th December	Christmas Show (afternoon performance)
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Show (afternoon performance)
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Show (evening performance)
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day/Children's Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th December	P4-5 Christmas Party
Monday 18 th December	P6-7 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	P1-3 Christmas Party
Friday 22 nd December	Carol Concert at 11.15am in Our Lady and St. Helen's Church School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 25 th December – Friday 5 th	Christmas Holiday
Monday 29 th January	PLP 2 to parents
Week beginning 5 th February	Health Week
Monday 12 th February	February Holiday
Tuesday 13 th February	
Wednesday 14 th February	INSET Day 4 – Ash Wednesday
Week beginning 26 th February	Fairtrade Week
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Week beginning 11 th March	STEM Week
Monday 18 th March	PLP Tracker home to parents
Wednesday 27 th March	Parents Evening – SNAPSHOT JOTTERS available to parents
Thursday 28 th March—12th April 2023	School closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holiday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
Monday 15th April	Nursery re-opens
Thursday 2 nd May	INSET Day 5
Monday 6 th May	Holiday
Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Thursday at 11.15am
Friday 24 th May -Monday 27 th May	Holiday
Monday 3 rd June	Reports to parents, SNAPSHOT JOTTERS sent home
Tuesday 18 th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 19 th June	P4 - P6 Final Assembly (am)
Thursday 20 th June	P1 – P3 Final Assembly (pm)
Friday 21 st June	Leavers' Mass at 10am Leavers' Disco
Monday 24 th June	P7 Final Assembly
Wednesday 26 th June	End of term Mass at 10am School closes at 1pm

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are a number of ways you can keep up to date with school events and information:

Through the school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/sthelens/>

Through Twitter: @StHelensNLC

Email: nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236632068

