



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Helen's,
I hope this newsletter finds you all well and the school routine is now up and running.

Much of this newsletter will be a recap of some of the information in the letter that was emailed on Friday 18th August. I hope you found this helpful and your calendars are now plotted with important dates for the session ahead.

Throughout the school the children have settled well. Class Teachers are getting to know all their wee personalities and are creating pacts of shared expectations. Learning programmes and class timetables are up and running and children are getting to grips with the school routine once again.

We are seeing a slight increase in children presenting with covid symptoms—and a small number of children across the school have tested positive. Please be assured we are continuing to implement all the advice from Health Protection Scotland and featured on the NHS Inform website. Please can we ask you to read the guidance around COVID Symptoms outlined in this newsletter so that we can work together to try to contain the spread.

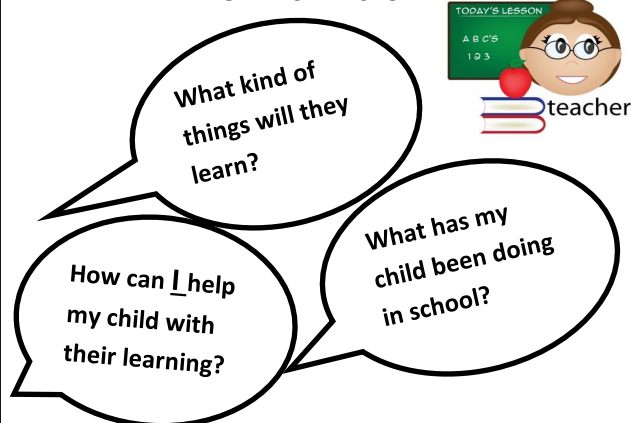
PLEASE NOTE—NHS Inform (26/7/23) states that children who return a positive covid test should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test or from the day their symptoms started (whichever was earliest), for adults over 18—the stay at home advice is 5 days after the day the test was taken or from the day symptoms started (whichever was earliest).

I am looking forward to working with all the children and families this session.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

MEET THE TEACHER SEP 2023



Our Meet The Teacher Evening will take place on **Wednesday 20th September at 6.30pm**. This is a chance for you to meet your child's class teacher, see around their classroom, **view a piece of work your child has chosen to leave out for you to see** and hear some important information about learning. There will be lots of helpful hints and tips from the teachers that could help you and your child. Please come along.

DROP OFF/PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Drop off

Primary 2—Primary 7—As outlined in the end of term letter and in keeping with the arrangements in place at the end of last session, the relaxed entry system will remain in place with children in P2—P7 being dropped off at the playground gate between 8.55 and 9.05am. The children will proceed straight into school through their Area/Classroom doors.

Primary 1— children should arrive in the playground between 8.55am and 9.05am—say farewell to their parents and make their way into class.

Pick up

Parents can enter the school playground from 2.55pm to collect children at 3pm. Please avoid arriving in the playground any earlier as some classes may be involved in outdoor learning activities.

For Health and Safety reasons please can we urge parents to avoid using the main car park gate—and make use of the pedestrian entrances.

SACRAMENTS

Mrs Ferguson will be sending out correspondence about the Sacraments this year:

Confirmation—Primary 7

Reconciliation—Primary 3

First Communion—Primary 4

The sacrament of Reconciliation in Primary 3 is the first Sacrament the school are involved in preparing the children for. Children must be Baptised in order to receive further Sacraments. Therefore if your child is not yet Baptised and you would like them to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation please speak to Fr. John at Our Lady and St. Helen's Parish or your own Parish Priest if you attend another Church.

The preparation lessons for the Reconciliation usually begin around January/February—so parents are advised to make arrangements to have children Baptised sooner rather than later as Priests can be busy.



HOMEWORK



Teams will continue to be used to post homework details. Teachers are in the process of allocating all children to their new class Team—so keep checking to see if this is set up and pop on a wee post to let us know you can see the class Team.

Teachers are assessing children and carrying out some revision work, therefore formal homework will commence on Monday 4th Sep.

Homework diaries will be used this session. Children can use this to note down important information and dates. Parents can also use this to share information with the class teacher. The homework diaries will also contain feedback relating to our Supporting Positive Behaviour Policy.

MEDICINES



There may be occasions when children require medication during the school day, and the school is happy to assist with this.

However, please note that a medicine form needs to be completed before any medication can be administered.

To manage the volume of medicines that could be handed in, antibiotics with dosage instructions of three times a day can easily be administered out with the school day.

The school is happy to assist with antibiotics that require 4 doses a day **provided** a medicine form has been completed.

A medicine form has been emailed along with this newsletter. Please file this in your records so that it can be used as and when required.

FLU VACCINE

Consent forms for children to receive the annual flu vaccine have been sent home with children last week—and many have already been returned.

Please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible.

If you have not received a consent form please phone the school.

NHS Nursing Teams are due to visit the school to administer the flu vaccine on Monday 6th November.

The flu vaccine will not be given to any child who does not return a completed consent form.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY

We will celebrate the feast day of St Helen on Thursday 14th September which is the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. As well as attending Mass, there will be some fun activities organised in classes.

PE KITS

Further to the letter issued on 18th August—on PE days children in P4—P7 should wear their school uniform and change for PE. To make it easier for the infant children—P1 –3 can wear their yellow polo tops to school and change into their navy blue shorts/jogging trousers.

SCHOOL MEALS/BREAKFAST CLUB

All children in Primaries 1 –5 are now entitled to a free school dinner. The dinner hall serves hot meals and sandwiches.

For pupils outwith P1–5 who are not eligible for free school meals, the cost of a school dinner is £3.10. The menu for school meals can be accessed through the following link:

[Primary school menu | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

The Breakfast Club is open every day from **8.10am**. Children can enjoy some fruit juice, cereal and toast. Children will not be accessing the playground—they will remain inside at the Breakfast Club until it is time for them to go to class.

The Breakfast Club is **free** for pupils in P1 – P5.

For all other children there will be a tiered pricing system for siblings:

- 1 child £1
- 2 children £1.50*
- 3 children £1.80*

Healthy Tuck—At playtime the Healthy Tuck service will be available in the dinner hall. Children can purchase:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| toast 25p | raisins 20p |
| plain biscuit 25p | Milk 20p |



All children will require money on their dinner card for Healthy Tuck.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please be aware we have a small number of children with nut allergies. This can lead to reactions which vary in severity and in some cases could involve an ambulance.

To help mitigate this risk please ensure children do not bring any snacks or lunch products to school that contain nuts. Nutella is something many children like—but due to the fact it contains nuts—it is not permitted in school.

CAR PARKING

The school car park is not very big and cannot accommodate the cars of parents, school and nursery staff, school buses, taxis for children funded by the Authority and cars belonging to visiting agencies who support children. For safety reasons, due to the volume of traffic, we ask that parents do not use the school car park between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm to allow safe access for school transport, school staff and agencies who are providing a service for the children.

There is plenty of parking in the streets surrounding the school. **However I would urge parents to show consideration to residents and park responsibly. We have received complaints in the past from residents about parking— one resident was blocked in her car parking space and as a result was late for her work.**

As a school community we do not want to upset or inconvenience local residents—so please be a thoughtful and considerate parker.

Coronavirus Advice for Parents from NLC

Coronavirus, and other respiratory infections such as flu, can spread easily and cause serious illness in some people. Coronavirus (and its variants) is still circulating and although most people no longer need to take a test, the best advice to prevent infection is to keep your child at home if they are unwell. There have been some cases within school or nursery settings and it's important to reduce the risk of infection among the school community, particularly amongst children who are vulnerable. To prevent the spread of coronavirus, try to keep your child at home and avoid contact with other people if your child has symptoms of a respiratory infection such as coronavirus and they have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to school/nursery. They should stay at home until they no longer have a high temperature or until they feel better. Speak to your GP if your child's symptoms worsen.

Symptoms of coronavirus include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that's unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

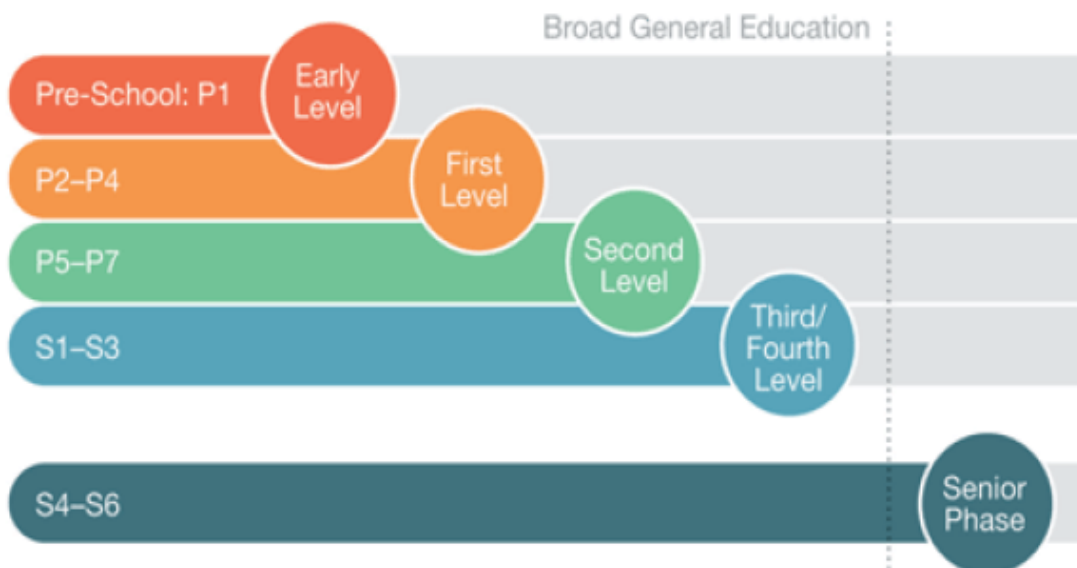
Treatments may be available if you're at highest risk of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus. You need to be given treatment quickly after your symptoms start for it to be effective. To find out if your child is within the high risk category, visit NHS Inform. More information on Coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS— (PLPs)

In St Helen's all school children will have a Personal Learning Plan. This will be sent home to you twice over the session—firstly on the 2nd October—and will remain home until Friday 6th Oct and then again in January 2024. There will be no homework issued that week to allow time to read it through with your child. We believe that all children and young people should have frequent and regular opportunities to discuss their learning with an adult who knows them well and can act as a mentor, helping them to set appropriate goals for the next stages in learning. Children should be at the centre of this planning, as active participants in their learning and development.

The PLP outlines the Curriculum for Excellence level your child is working on in Literacy and Numeracy and specific targets that have been set for your child through discussion with the Class Teacher. Curriculum for Excellence is structured in levels to cover learning for children from 3 – 18. Throughout the time in Primary school children may progress through Early Level, First Level and Second Level. The path most children and young people are expected to follow through the levels reflects the stages of maturation of children and young people and the changing ways in which they engage with learning as they develop.

The diagram below shows the five curriculum levels:



Some children and young people will start learning at these levels earlier and others later, depending upon individual needs and aptitudes. The Class Teacher will have discussions with your child about their learning in order to complete the Personal Learning Plan. As the year progresses the personal learning plan will outline the following information:

- An indication of the Curriculum for Excellence levels your child is working on in the 3 aspects of Literacy – Reading, Writing, and Listening and Talking
- An indication of the Curriculum for Excellence level your child is working on in Mathematics
- Specific targets that have been set for your child from Oct – Jan and February – June
- Feedback from the Class Teacher in November and March on your child's progress with the targets set

In addition to the information on Literacy and Numeracy, the Personal Learning Plan also documents targets for Health and Wellbeing which along with Literacy and Numeracy, is a core area of the curriculum.

Enclosed in the Personal Learning Plan is an explanation of each of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators for parents to read and then talk about with their child. Parents are then asked to specify a Health and Wellbeing Target which will be focused on at home. Children will evaluate the progress with the targets set in November and March.

It is hoped the Personal Learning Plan will act as a tool for learning conversations with children to ensure each child feels like an active participant in their learning. The plan is designed to be a working document that can strengthen the home and school partnership. There are full instruction in the PLP for parents to follow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<i>Date:</i>	<i>Event:</i>
Wednesday 30 August	Photographer Visiting – Chris McIntyre
Thursday 31 st August	Photographer Visiting
Friday 1 st September	Photographer Visiting
Wednesday 14 th September	Patronal Feast Day Mass at 10am
Wednesday 20 th September	Meet the Teacher Evening at 6.30pm
Thursday 21 st September	Dress Down Day to raise money for school funds
Friday 22 nd September – Monday 25 th September (inclusive)	September weekend
Monday 2 nd October	PLP 1 to parents SNAPSHOT JOTTERS sent home
Friday 13 th October	St Helen's Has Talent afternoon for pupils to raise money for school funds
Monday 16 th October – Friday 20 th October (inclusive)	October Week
Wednesday 1 st November	Mass for All Saints Day at 11.15am
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	School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 25 th December – Friday 5 th January (inclusive)	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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<i>Date:</i>	<i>Event:</i>
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	School closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holiday
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
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 X : @StHelensNLC

Email: nkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236632068