



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2024

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

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and you are all adjusting to the school routine.

This newsletter contains lots of important information and dates for your diaries.

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 are being formulated and class timetables are up and running; the children are adjusting well to school life.

The children are looking very smart in their school uniforms and I thank you for supporting the school's uniform policy. As the PE timetable gets up and running I look forward to seeing the children in their school PE kits as outlined in the uniform policy and school handbook—navy blue joggers, leggings or shorts and a yellow polo top. Having all the children dressed in a PE uniform reinforces the strong positive ethos of the school, standards and expectations of behaviour and conduct and a sense of equality and belonging.

This session we have a number of new staff who have joined our team. We extend a warm welcome to them all and they are already valued members of the St Helen's family.

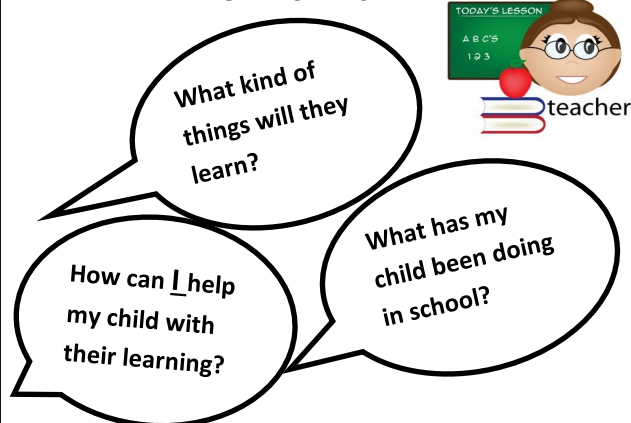
The Senior Management Team in the school consists of myself, Mrs Purdue—who has responsibility for Primary 4/5 up to Primary 7 and Mrs Ireland and Mrs Ferguson who have shared responsibility for Primaries 1 to 4.

We are looking forward to working with all the children and families this session. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of any support.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

MEET THE TEACHER SEP 2024



Our Meet The Teacher Evening will take place on **Wednesday 25th 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 the school. There will be lots of helpful hints and tips from the teachers. Please come along.

PARISH NEWS

Fr John will be leaving the Parish of Our Lady and St. Helen's on the 20th September 2024. Archbishop Nolan has decided to move a number of Priests within the diocese. Fr John will be moving to the Parish of St. Alphonsus in Glasgow City Centre.

Fr Paulinus will be taking over as Parish Priest in Our Lady and St. Helen's. He will be joined by Deacon Paul—who I believe has already joined the Parish.

I will share any information I receive regarding any farewell plans for Fr John once I hear from the Parish Committee. I expect there will be a Mass closer to his leaving date.

SACRAMENTS

Mrs Ireland will send out correspondence about the Sacraments this year once she has had the dates approved by Fr Paulinus when he takes up residency on the 20th September:

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. Paulinus 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.



Details of the Confirmation for Primary 7 has already been emailed to parents as this date is set by the Archdiocese.

FLU VACCINE

Consent forms for children to receive the annual flu vaccine have already been sent home.

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 will be in the school on Monday 4th November to administer the flu vaccine. You will be updated about this.

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

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 not commence until after Sept weekend.

Homework diaries will continue to 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. I have sent an information leaflet out about this along with this newsletter.

MEDICINES

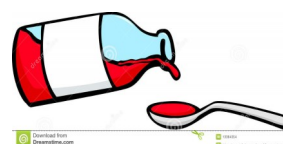
There may be occasions when children require medication during the school day, and the school is happy to assist with this.

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.



SCHOOL MEALS/BREAKFAST CLUB

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

For pupils out with P1—5 who are not eligible for free school meals, the cost of a school dinner is £3.25. 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** and **the main entrance to the school will open from this time for children to enter**. Children can enjoy some fruit juice, cereal and toast. Children 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

At present some parents are escorting children into the school hall. I understand children might need this initially but would ask that this starts to tail off as children become more familiar with routines. Seeing parents and strange adults in areas of the school can be unsettling for some children.

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.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY

We will celebrate the feast day of St Helen as the founder of the cross on Friday 13th September. The feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is on the following day. There will be some fun activities organised in classes in the afternoon.

PE KITS

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.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please be aware we have children with nut allergies. This can lead to reactions which vary in severity and in some cases would result in anaphylaxis and require an ambulance.

To help mitigate this risk please ensure children do not bring any snacks or lunch products to school that contain nuts.

Products that are prohibited are:

Kinder Bueno

Chicken Satay Skewers

Nutty cereal bars

Chocolate spread such as Nutella

Nesquik sandwich bars with the chocolate fondant

Daim Bars

If a child comes to school with any products that contain nuts you will be contacted and the items will be removed and placed in the outside bins as airborne particles and trigger an allergic reaction.

Please check the ingredients of all snacks before sending them into school.

YOUR SUPPORT WITH THIS IS ESSENTIAL

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/carers **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.

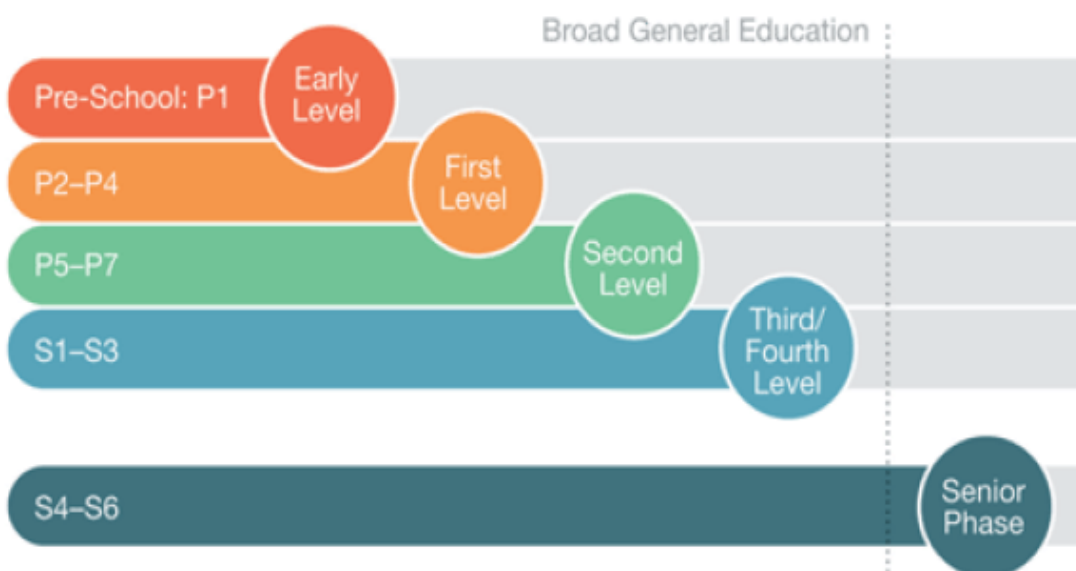
As a school community we do not want to upset or inconvenience local residents—so please be a thoughtful and considerate parker.

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 7th October—and will remain home until Friday 11th Oct and then again in January 2025. 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 December 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.

SNAPSHOT JOTTERS

Two years ago we added 'Snapshot Jotters' to the list of ways we can encourage the home and school to work together.

Snapshot Jotters are used periodically by the children for one week at a time. The purpose is to capture a snapshot of learning across the curriculum.

The Snapshot jotters will then be sent home to parents/carers so that you can see your child's achievements, talk about some of the learning that has taken place and over the year see how this progresses.

Snapshot Jotters will be sent home on the following dates—and should be returned to school within the week:

- Monday 7th October 2024
- Monday 2nd December 2024
- Available at Parents' Night on 3rd April 2025
- Monday 9th June 2025

There will be no formal homework set for children when Snapshot Jotters are sent home to allow time for discussion.

PARENT COUNCIL

We have a fantastic Parent Council who work so hard to fundraise for the school, organise events for the children and support events arranged by the school.

Lindsay McCallum is the Chair of the PC—and there is a Facebook page which has a wealth of information.

The first meeting of the Parent Council is on Tuesday 17th Sep at 6.30pm in the school staffroom. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and get to know the school staff better.

OUT OF HOURS LEARNING

We are in the process of finalising our calendar of out of hours learning activities.

These activities are possible because staff volunteer their time and skills beyond the school day or over lunch time—and do not receive any additional payments.

The opportunities we are hoping to offer include:

- Lunchtime prayer group
- Netball Club
- Badminton
- STEM Club
- Microbits/Coding
- Mindfulness/Transition for P7
- Nature/Gardening
- Dance
- Enterprise

We are hoping to add to this list once we meet with Active Schools and see what they have to offer.

If any parent has a skill or talent:

- guitar
- Crafts
- Cooking
- Crochet/knitting
- Sports coaching

And could spare some time to work with our children we would be thrilled. Please contact Anne Marie Kelly:

nkellya2@northlan.org.uk

To discuss this further.

PHOTOGRAPHER

A further reminder that Chris McIntyre Photography will be in the school to take pictures on

26th, 27th and 28th August.

Please check your email for further information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<u>August</u>	
Monday 12 th August 2024	INSET 1
Tuesday 13 th August 2024	INSET 2
Wednesday 14 th August 2024	Pupils Return
Thursday 15 th August 2024	Feast of the Assumption Mass at 10am
<u>September</u>	
Friday 6 th September 2024	First Friday Mass
Friday 13 th September	Patronal Feast Day
Wednesday 25 th September 2024	Meet the Teacher Evening at 6.30pm
27 th – 30 th Sept	September Weekend
<u>October</u>	
Friday 4 th October 2024	First Friday Mass
Monday 7 th October 2024	PLP 1 home to parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
14 th – 18 th October 2024	October Week
<u>November</u>	
Friday 1 st November 2024	Mass for All Saints Day
Thursday 14 th November 2024	Parents' Night
Monday 18 th November 2024	INSET 3
18 th November – 22 nd November 2024	Catholic Education Week
Thursday 28 th November 2024	P7 Confirmations
<u>December</u>	
Monday 2 nd December 2024	PLP Tracker home to parents
Thursday 5 th December	School Children's Christmas Lunch
Friday 6 th December 2024	First Friday Mass
Tuesday 10 th December 2024	Christmas Show (PM)
Wednesday 11 th December 2024	Christmas Show (PM)
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Christmas Show (evening)
	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 th December 2024	P6-7 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	P1-3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	P4-5 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December 2024	Carol Concert 11.15am
	School closes at 2.30pm
23 rd December – 3 rd January (inclusive)	Christmas Holiday
<u>January</u>	
Friday 10 th January 2025	New Year Mass @ 10am
Friday 24 th January 2025	Burns' Day Café
Monday 27 th January 2025	PLP 2 home to parents

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<u>February</u>	
Thursday 6 th February 2025	GLP Info Evening for P6 and P7 Parents
Friday 7 th February 2025	First Friday Mass
10 th – 14 th February 2025	Health Week
17 th – 18 th February 2025	February Holiday
Wednesday 19 th February 2025	INSET 4
<u>March</u>	
3 rd – 7 th March 2025	Fairtrade Week
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday Mass 11.15am
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March 2025	First Friday Mass
10 th – 15 th March 2025	STEM Week
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	New P1 Information Evening at 6.30pm
Monday 17 th March 2025	PLP Tracker
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Fashion Show
Friday 21 st March 2025	Daffodil Tea
Tuesday 25 th March	11.15am New P1 lunch
Friday 28 th March 2025	Mother's Day Assembly time tbc.
<u>April</u>	
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Parents' Evening – Snapshot jotters available to
Friday 4 th April 2025	First Friday Mass
7 th – 21 st April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 1)
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 2)
<u>May</u>	
Friday 2 nd May 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 5 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	INSET 5
Tuesday 13 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 3)
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 4)
23 rd – 26 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 27 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 5)
Thursday 29 th May 2025	Ascension Thursday Mass
<u>June</u>	
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Friday 6 th June 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 9 th June 2025	Final Reports to Parents
Tuesday 10 th June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Wednesday 11 th June 2025	Sports Day
Monday 16 th June 2025	P1-3 Final Assembly

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 17 th June 2025	P4-6 Final Assembly
Friday 20 th June 2025	Meet the Teacher at 2pm
	Leavers' Mass at 10am
	Leavers' Disco
Monday 23 rd June 2025	P7 Final Assembly
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	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: nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236632068