



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

February—March 2025

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

The end of winter is in sight and hopefully we will be blessed with some Spring weather soon.

There has been lots happening in the school since returning in January with the enrolments for Primary 1 in August 2025, the Primary 7 trip to Lockerbie Manor which was a resounding success, meetings with pupils (House Captains, Vice Captains and Members of the Pupil Council) and members of the Parent Council to plan out the multi use games area (MUGA) we are due to have installed for August and more recently discussions around the school's 50th Anniversary which we will celebrate and mark on the lead up to the end of this session. Details of the events we have planned are included in this letter.

In addition to these events we also have World Book Day, a dress down day, leavers' fundraising events, the Daffodil Tea and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for our Primary 3 children—all taking place in the month of March—it is a busy time ahead.

I hope you find the information in the newsletter helpful and please remember if you require any further information or want to discuss any concerns please contact me using the details provided on the back page of the newsletter.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

PARENTS' NIGHT APPOINTMENTS

As you know from our annual calendar, Parents' Night will be held on Thursday 3rd April.

The online booking system will be used to arrange parents' night appointments and details of when this is open and a reminder of how to navigate the system will be sent out. The system will be open to book appointments from Monday 17th March from 6pm until 9am on Monday 31st March 2025. Please keep an eye on your emails for communication around this.

A WORD OF THANKS

We were delighted to host our annual Burns' Tea for the Parish. This was attended by some members of Our Lady and St. Helen's Parish.

The school would like to thank some local businesses who donated items to support this event: Condorat Bakers, The Spar and Tunnocks for donations including scones, biscuits, cakes, tablet, tea, coffee and Irn Bru.





Golden Jubilee Celebrations

St Helen's Primary School opened its doors to staff and pupils in session 1973/74—and since then it has been a central part of Condorrat. The school have chosen to celebrate this milestone during this session 2024/25 and we have planned a range of events—the events colour coded in **Blue** are open to parents to attend:

Memory Lane—on Parents' Night pop into our GP Room and take a walk down memory lane. We have searched high and low and gathered together all the photographs we could find. These will be on display for some reminiscing. If you have any photos that you would be happy to share please get in touch with Mrs Ireland or Mrs Boyle.

Tribute Mass celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Nolan— 1.30pm on the 16th May 2025

The school community—staff, parents and children are invited to gather in Our Lady and St Helen's along with some invited guests. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in the school with another opportunity to view our Memory Lane display.

Commemorative Assembly/Alumni Event—9th May 2025 at 1.30pm - this will be held for in the hall and will be an opportunity to hear from some current and former pupils or staff members of St Helen's with some songs sung by the children.

50 Acts of Kindness— this will be introduced after the Easter Holidays with the children being asked to undertake 50 acts of kindness aligned with the school aims and values

Commemorative Yearbook Edition—All children will feature in a special 50th edition of a yearbook. These will be presented to the children in May 2025 and can be a keepsake for the children and alumni.

Family Ceilidh/Bingo night to celebrate the 50th Anniversary—Friday 6th June. Parents are invited to come along with their children to join with staff to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in the hall with some ceilidh and group dancing, bingo, refreshments and snacks. This will be a ticketed event held at the following times—6.30pm—7.30pm and 8pm—9pm. Tickets will be £5 per family sold on a first come first served basis from Monday 28th April

St Helen's has Talent— St Helen's is bursting with talent and the children love the opportunity to show these off—so what could be better than a talent show for the children to attend. This will be organised for Thursday 22nd May 2025.

Community Event—The children will share their talents with members of our community by visiting the Church Hall to entertain the Parishioners after 10am Mass. This will take place on Friday 30th May with some acts from the talent show and a dance display from our Dance Mania Show dancers.

School Trip with Commemorative Merchandise—A whole school trip to Blairdrummond Safari Park has been organised for Friday 13th June. All children and staff will be wearing commemorative baseball caps—designed by the children. The School Fund will absorb the cost of this trip.



DAFFODIL TEA

Our annual Daffodil Tea will be held on Friday 21st March at 2pm with all monies raised going towards our Lenten Charities.



The children will have the opportunity to purchase bunches of daffodils in the morning for £1 a bunch.

In the afternoon at 2pm—parents and carers are welcome to join us—to purchase a bunch of daffodils, have a tea or coffee and enjoy hearing the children perform some springtime songs.

BURNS' COMPETITION

On Saturday 1st March — some children from the school will participate in the annual Burns' Competition. The children will be reciting poetry or singing.

We wish the children the very best of luck and look forward to hearing about their success.



UNIFORM POLICY

St. Helen's Primary prides itself on our uniform policy—and visitors to the school frequently comment on how smart our children look in their blue shirts and ties, navy jumpers and grey skirts/pinafores or trousers with black shoes or black trainers.

Recently, I have seen a small number of children present to school wearing branded, coloured hoodies that are not aligned with our uniform policy. Please can these be kept for weekend wear or non-uniform days.

Any child wearing a jumper or hoodie which is not in keeping with our school uniform colours will be asked to remove it.

Similarly, please can you ensure that children are wearing black trainers or shoes to school—and keep coloured footwear for the weekend.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 6th March. There will be activities across the school to promote a love for reading.

Children are invited to dress up as a character from a book, or wear a piece of head gear or bring a prop that links with a character from a book or alternatively bring in their favourite book to tell the class about it.

Some members of our school community are visiting the school to read a story to each class and the children will be given a free book.



SMART WATCHES

It has come to our attention that a number of children are wearing SMART watches to school with the capacity for taking pictures and making calls. Please be advised that taking unauthorised pictures of children or staff is a direct breach of GDPR practices. Any child engaging in this activity will be asked to remove their watch—and parents will be contacted to collect it from the school.

As per our mobile phones policy—children should not be using these watches to make calls during the school day. Again—if this is the case, children will be asked to remove their watch and parents will be contacted to collect it from the school.

I can see the many educational benefits of these devices, however children need to be of an age to understand the responsible code of conduct required when wearing such a device to school. We appreciate your support with this.

LEAVERS' EVENTS

It's that time of year when—as sad as it is—we start thinking and planning leavers' events for our Primary 7 children.

Every year we aim to provide lots of special experiences and memorabilia for the children.

To support this process the Primary 7 children organise fundraising events for the school community to raise money to purchase decorations for the Leavers' Disco and other bits and pieces that help to give the children a good send off.

In discussion with the children—the following events have been diarised:

Easter Raffle

Raffle tickets will go on sale from 4th March. There will be 3 Easter Events.

- Guess the Bunny's birthday.
- Easter egg raffle.

Each ticket will cost 50p

Bring and Buy and Cake and Candy Sale— Friday 28th March

Please feel free to tidy out the toy cupboards and bedrooms and donate any pre-loved toys that are in **good condition** to our Bring and Buy Sale. These can be handed in to the school from Monday 10th March.

We would also be delighted to accept any donations of NUT FREE cakes.

Sensational Seven's Fun Extravaganza Day (Outdoor obstacle) on Friday 9th May

All children can participate in this fun activity for a £1 donation to the Leavers' Fund.

ASSEMBLY FOCUS

Every week our school assemblies provide our pupils the opportunity to gather together for prayer, spiritual reflection, reinforce our school values, recognise the accomplishments of our pupils and celebrate their wider achievements.

In addition to this, we incorporate current/key issues to ensure our children become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Here is an overview of the themes we will focus on at our assemblies from January—June:

January	Right to a Name and Nationality – Scottish Culture
	Growth Mindset – TED Talk Mindset of a Champion
	Fantastic Elastic Brain
February	Right to Privacy
	Fairtrade
March	Right to Learn – World Book Day
	Lent
	STEM industry
April	Right to a Family
	50 Acts of Kindness
	Developing the Young Workforce
May	Right to Play – Article 31, Friday Fun 31 time each week
	St Helen's Got Talent Show
June	Right to Celebrate
	Fun Outdoors

CAREERS FAIR—STEM AFTERNOON

We were excited to host a Careers Fair/STEM afternoon for pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7. This was a successful event which was attended by 17 different representatives from STEM based careers. This event gave pupils an insight into the STEM opportunities that exist in the world of work, it reinforced the relevance of STEM based learning and formed part of our commitment to develop the young workforce. Miss O'Toole planned and organised this hugely successful event and we are very appreciative of her hard work.

Here are some photographs from the day:



Our thanks to all the businesses, parents, colleges and secondary science departments who supported this event: Mhari Claire Allen – Forensic Scientist, Syliva Arthur – Laboratory Manager Immunology (Queen Elizabeth University Hospital), St. Maurices Science Department – Biology (Focusing on STEM Experiments), Victoria McManus – Wild Hearts Group, Claire Love – Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance, Claire McRae – New College Lanarkshire (Student Ambassadors for Computing), Buchanan High School – Robotics Team & High School students, Graeme Sherlock – Optometrist, Ray Sneddon – SMFL (Saltire Apprentices), Alastair – Making Waves (Frequency), Christopher Coll – Physiotherapy/Sports Therapy, Stuart Aitchison – Developing the Young Workforce, Gerard O'Toole – Dentist, Lynsey O'Brien – Routes to Work, Chane Coyle – Allstar Joinery, Colin Dorman – STEM Pedagogy Team, BMES - Electrical Installation Service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<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>	
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday Mass 11.15am
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
10 th – 15 th March 2025	STEM Week
Monday 17 th March 2025	PLP Tracker
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Fashion Show
Friday 21 st March 2025	Daffodil Tea
Friday 28 th March 2025	Mother's Day Assembly for P1 Parents - 2pm
<u>April</u>	
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Parents' Evening Memory Lane Exhibit open
Friday 4 th April 2025	First Friday Mass School closes at 2.30pm
7 th – 21 st April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
<u>May</u>	
Friday 2 nd May 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 5 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	INSET 5
Friday 9th May 2025	Commemorative Assembly/Alumni Event—1.30pm
Friday 16th May 2025	1.30pm—Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nolan
23 rd – 26 th May 2025	Holiday
Thursday 29 th May 2025	Ascension Thursday Mass

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<u>June</u>	
Friday 6 th June 2025	First Friday Mass Family Ceilidh Night 6.30pm—7.30pm / 8pm—9pm
W/b—Monday 9 th June 2025	Final Reports to Parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
Thursday 12 th June 2025	Sports Day at 1.30pm
Friday 13th June	Trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park
Monday 16 th June 2025	P1-3 Final Assembly
Tuesday 17 th June 2025	P4-6 Final Assembly
Friday 20 th June 2025	Leavers' Mass at 10am
Friday 20 th June 2025	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 Twitter: @StHelensNLC

Email: nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236632068

