



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2025

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

It's been great to have such a sunny start to the term and I hope you have all had a lovely summer.

The children are looking refreshed and raring to go and it is good to see them all looking so smart in their school uniform. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Our Primary ones are settling really well and Mrs Marshall is enjoying getting to know them. The boys and girls in Primary 7 have been a fantastic support to the Primary ones and they are taking on all the additional responsibilities that come with being at the top of the school with great enthusiasm.

Throughout the school there is a sense of calm and the children have all adjusted back into the school routines and expectations.

As the PE timetable gets up and running keep an eye on the Class Teams page for details of the PE days. On these days the children should bring their PE kit to change into—navy joggers, leggings or shorts and a yellow polo top. Primaries 1 and 2 can wear their yellow polo top to school on PE days with their jogging bottoms/leggings or shorts in their bag to change into.

If a class has PE first thing in the morning—at 9am—they are permitted to come to school in their PE kits but must bring their uniforms in their bag to change into.

This session we have two new staff members who have joined our team—Mrs Prior and Miss Pacitti. We extend a warm welcome to them both.

The remits of the Senior Management Team in the school is as follows:

SMT	Remit
Liz Kelly—Head Teacher	Overall responsibility for the school and nursery.
Anne Marie Kelly—Acting Principal Teacher	Pastoral support for Primary 1 to Primary 3/4
Siobhan Ferguson—Principal Teacher—Wed—Fri	Pastoral support for Primary 1 to Primary 3/4
Pamela Purdue—Principal Teacher—Mon, Wed—Fri	Pastoral support for Primary 4 to Primary 7

Members of the Management Team are available to support both children and families. Where possible we will be in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day if you'd like to pass on any messages, or you can also get in touch by email or phone.

I am excited to see what this session will bring and we can't wait to have our new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - up and running in the next few weeks.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

SACRAMENTS

Mrs Ferguson will send out correspondence about the Sacraments this year—specifically:

- Reconciliation—Primary 3
- First Holy Communion—Primary 4
- Confirmation—Primary 7

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 this Sacrament. 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.



FLU VACCINE

Consent forms for children to receive the annual flu vaccine were sent home on 20th August—so please check your child's bag. Please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible.

NHS Nursing Teams will be in the school on Monday 27th of October to administer the flu vaccine.

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

MEET THE TEACHER SEP 2025



What are the school working on this year?

What kind of things will my child be learning?

How can I help my child with their learning?

Our Meet The Teacher Evening will take place on **Wednesday 24th September at 6.30pm**. This is a chance for you to meet your child's class teacher and see around their classroom. The P1—4 children will have left a piece of work out for you to see and our Primary 5—7 children will be showing off their digital skills with a task for you to complete!

You will have a chance to hear more about our improvement plans for the year and our whole school community Fridays initiative. There will also be some helpful hints and tips from the teachers.

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.

Medicine forms will be renewed at the start of each session. Correspondence regarding this has been emailed to all parents along with a medicine form. If you wish your child's administration of medication to continue from last session—this form needs to be completed and **returned by Friday 29th August**.

After this date any medication that is held in the school that is not supported by a current form will be sent home.



TEAMS

Teams will continue to be used to post home-work details. All children in the school have been allocated to a class Team—so please ensure you are able to access this at home.

Details of PE days and any information relevant to your child's class will be posted on Teams.

Please note—teachers are assessing children and carrying out some revision work, therefore formal homework will not commence until after Sept weekend.

There is also a whole school Team entitled School News and Updates. Prior to the start of the week the school will post a 'WOTW' - What's On This Week—which is a timetable detailing any school events that are taking place over the course of the week. Parents have indicated this is helpful so make sure you can access this and contact the school if you require any



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

We shared the good news with the children this week that we have earned our bronze RRS award showing our commitment to upholding the UNCRC. We are now working towards having silver award status—so watch this space. Our thanks goes to Mrs Purdue and the RRS Committee for their hard work.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY

We will celebrate the feast day of St Helen as the founder of the cross on Friday 12th Sept. The actual feast day of the Exaltation of the Cross is on Sunday 14th September. There will be a special Mass celebrated in the school for the children followed by some fun activities in the afternoon.

Fr Paulinus has advised that moving forward the Parish will be celebrating the Feast of St Helen on the 20th August. So from next session the school will also mark this date as our Patronal Feast Day.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please be aware we have children with severe 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

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

ST HELEN'S IS A NUT FREE 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/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.

Please can you ensure that any other family members such as Grandparents who do drop offs or pick ups are aware of this information

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.

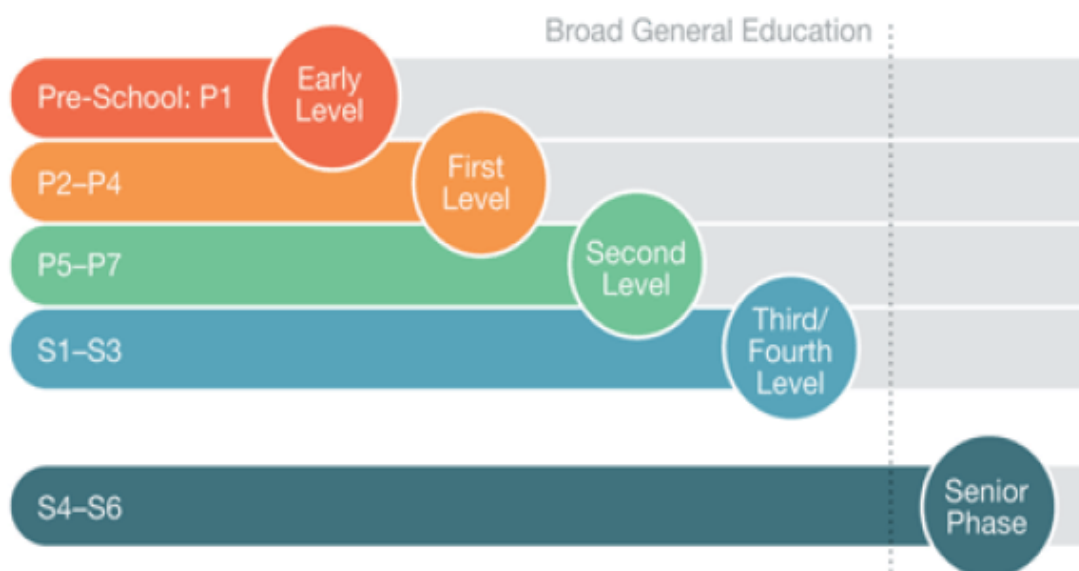
As a school community we do not want to upset or inconvenience local residents—so please be a thoughtful and considerate parker.

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 6th October—and will remain home until Friday 10th Oct and then again in January 2026. 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

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.

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

Snapshot Jotters are a further way to help to strengthen the partnership between home and school by sharing learning and encouraging ongoing communication.

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 6th October 2025
- Monday 1st December 2025
- Available at Parents' Night on 19th March 2026
- Monday 8th 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.

Linsay 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 16th 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.

COMMUNITY FRIDAYS

We are excited to launch a new whole-school initiative called Community Fridays, taking place on the first Friday of each month. These special days are designed to bring our school community together and enrich learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Each Community Friday will include a range of meaningful activities such as:

- Attending Mass
- Participating in pupil committees
- Engaging in outdoor learning
- Gathering for assembly
- Taking part in Thinking Circles to share and value pupil voice

Community Fridays reflect our school's Curriculum Rationale and are firmly rooted in the Four Capacities of Curriculum for Excellence — helping children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens, and Effective Contributors. They also embrace the Four Contexts for Learning, creating opportunities for rich experiences across curriculum areas, personal achievement, interdisciplinary learning, and the wider life of the school.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact these Fridays will have on our learners and the school community.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris McIntyre Photography will be in the school to take pictures on

9th, 10th and 11th of September

Please keep an eye on your email as further information will be sent out.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<u>August</u>	
Tuesday 12 th August 2025	INSET 1
Wednesday 13 th August 2025	INSET 2
Thursday 14 th August 2025	Pupils Return
Friday 15 th August 2025	Feast of the Assumption Mass (Hall)
<u>September</u>	
Friday 5 th September 2025	First Friday Mass
Wed 10 th – Fri 12 th Sept	School/Nursery Photographs
Friday 12 th September	Patronal Feast Day
Friday 26 th – Monday 29 th Sept 2025	September Weekend
<u>October</u>	
Friday 3 rd October 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 6 th October 2025	PLP 1 home to parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
13 th – 17 th October 2025	October Week
Monday 27 th October	Flu Immunisation
<u>November</u>	
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Parents' Night
Friday 7 th November 2025	First Friday Mass
Sunday 16 th November 2025	Catholic Education Sunday Mass
Monday 17 th November 2025	INSET 3—school closed to pupils
17 th November – 21 st November 2025	Catholic Education Week
<u>December</u>	
Thursday 4 th December 2025	School Children's Christmas Lunch
Friday 5 th December 2025	First Friday Mass
Tuesday 9 th December 2025	Christmas Show (PM)
Wednesday 10 th December 2025	Christmas Show (PM)
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15 th December 2025	P5-7 Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 th December 2025	P1 -4 Christmas Party
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Carol Concert 11.30am School closes at 2.30pm
19 th December 2025 – 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holiday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<u>January</u>	
Friday 9 th January 2026	New Year Mass
Monday 26 th January 2026	PLP 2 home to parents
<u>February</u>	
Friday 6 th February 2026	First Friday Mass
9 th – 13 th February 2026	Health Week
16 th – 17 th February 2026	February Holiday
Wednesday 18 th February 2026	INSET 4 Ash Wednesday
<u>March</u>	
2 nd – 6 th March 2026	Fairtrade Week
Thursday 5 th March 2026	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March 2026	First Friday Mass
9 th – 13 th March 2026	STEM Week
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Parents' Evening – Snapshot jotters available to parents
<u>April</u>	
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	School closes at 2.30pm
3 rd – 17 th April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
<u>May</u>	
Friday 1 st May 2026	First Friday Mass
Monday 4 th May 2026	Holiday
Thursday 7 th May 2026	INSET 5
Thursday 14 th May 2026	Ascension Thursday
22 nd – 25 th May 2026	Holiday
<u>June</u>	
Friday 5 th June 2026	First Friday Mass
W/b—Monday 8 th June 2026	Final Reports to Parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
Monday 15 th June 2026	P1-3 Final Assembly—1.45pm
Tuesday 16 th June 2026	P4-6 Final Assembly—1.45pm
Friday 19 th June 2026	Leavers' Mass at 10am in the Church Leavers' Disco at 7pm
Monday 22 nd June 2026	P7 Final Assembly—1.30pm
Friday 26 th June 2026	End of term Mass at 10am School closes at 1pm

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Join our School News and Updates Team on Microsoft Teams

Email—nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236 632068