

# St Helen's Nursery Class



**August/September 2025**



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Helen's Nursery,  
Another school/nursery session has begun and it is off to a sunny start! I hope you all had a lovely summer, and enjoyed some quality family time.

This newsletter contains lots of important information for the year ahead so make sure you add the dates listed at the back of the newsletter to your diaries.

The children have been busy settling into the nursery - becoming familiar with the routines, building relationships with their Key workers and exploring the resources. We have been familiarising ourselves with the nursery environment and developing our awareness of sharing. The children have also been eager to explore sand and water play. Outdoors is proving very popular and the children have shown particular interest in making and creating using playdough.

We are excited to welcome Mrs Habbick who is returning from maternity leave on the 1st September. She is looking forward to working with her group of children.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss. You can use the contact details listed on this newsletter or catch me at the gate most mornings.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

Head Teacher

[nlkellye@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nlkellye@northlan.org.uk)

## NURSERY DETAILS

**Session time** 8.45am—2.45pm

**Head Teacher** Mrs Liz Kelly

**Principal Teacher** Mrs Siobhan Ferguson  
Mrs Anne Marie Kelly  
Mrs Pamela Purdue

### Early Learning and Childcare Keyworkers:

- Mrs Nicola Langford (Lead) - LONG TERM ABSENCE
- Mrs Paula Forsyth—Acting Lead (Mon—Fri)
- Ms Lorraine Daily—Acting Lead (Mon—Fri)
- Mrs Pamela Habbick—(Mon—Thurs)
- Mrs Audrey Semple—(Mon—Fri)

### Early Learning and Childcare Support Workers:

- Mrs Wai Lan Wan
- Miss Yanetta-Pryde
- Mrs Grant
- Mrs Pender

## COME AND LEARN ABOUT NURSERY



Parents and carers are warmly invited along to the nursery on **Thursday 18th September at 6.30pm.**

This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the nursery day to day routines, chat with your child's Keyworker and have some time to wander around the nursery.

Please enter through the main school door. We look forward to seeing you.

### SETTLING IN



*The transition to nursery can be an emotional time for some children and their families. In St Helen's it is our priority to ensure that all children feel safe, nurtured and secure in our setting. Every child is different and this can take longer for some children.*

*We will always endeavour to keep you updated on how your child is doing in nursery however we do appreciate that our time is limited at drop off and pick up. We have arranged for Key Workers to give you an update on how your child is settling into nursery life on **week beginning 15th September**.*

*Please note that this is not a parents' evening—it is a an opportunity to speak to your child's Key worker about how your child is doing and ask any questions (away from their little listening ears). Key Workers can either give you a call or have a quick chat in the nursery at the start or end of the day. They will arrange this with you in advance.*

### NURSERY GROUPINGS AND KEYWORKERS

As you know our nursery is operating with three groups of children this session under the care of Keyworkers/Support workers as follows:

KEYWORKER	GROUP
MRS SEMPLE	BLUE GROUP
MRS DAILY/ MRS FORSYTH	ORANGE GROUP
MRS HABBICK/MS PRIDE/ MRS GRANT	GREEN GROUP

### NURSERY PHOTOGRAPHS

*Chris McIntyre Photography will be coming in to take photographs of the children in the school and nursery. Nursery children will have their photographs taken on **Friday 12th September** - so plenty of time to practice those smiles!*

### IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2025-2026



*Each year the school and nursery engages in self-evaluation and takes into account National priorities in order to define our own focus points for improvement. Our nursery class priorities for this session are:*

- **Quality Improvement Framework for Early Learning and Childcare**

The Care Inspectorate and HMIE have launched a new Quality Improvement Framework for Early Learning and Childcare. This goes live from Sep 2025. We will be making sure that we take time to reflect on what we're already doing well and look at ways we can make things even better for our children. This new framework helps us keep our focus on providing high-quality care, play, and learning experiences. As always, we'll be working closely with our families to make sure every child continues to feel happy, safe, and supported in their learning journey.

- **Understanding Progress and Next Steps**

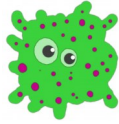
We are continuing to build on how we plan and assess children's learning by using clear progression pathways. This helps us better understand each child's progress and plan activities that are right for their stage of development.

- **Listening to Children's Voices**

We are broadening our approaches to give children more chances to share their ideas, interests, and preferences through things like floorbooks, learning walls, and simple reflection activities. This helps children feel more involved in their learning, boosts their confidence, and encourages curiosity and independence.

*We are keen to tell you more about these on 18th September so please come along—it is always lovely to see you.*

## INFECTION CONTROL



*These days we are all well versed on spotting signs of infection. Unfortunately our youngest children are still prone to picking up the usual childhood bugs and the nursery is required to follow strict guidance from Care Inspectorate on the control and reporting of any outbreaks (2 or more cases).*

*Some bugs and illnesses require an exclusion period from nursery—a full list can be found on the Health Protection Scotland or Care Inspectorate websites. However I wanted to draw your attention specifically to the following:*

- Unexplained rashes—children should not attend nursery until assessed by a doctor or pharmacist.*
- Vomiting/diarrhoea. If your child experiences either of these, they should not attend nursery until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea.*
- Fever/high temperature— if your child has a fever or high temperature (37.8 or higher) they must not attend nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved*

*Very often, even though your child may appear to be feeling better, it is during a 48-hour window when they are most infectious.*

*If your child is ill, they must not attend childcare and if your child becomes unwell whilst in our care, we will phone you to request that you collect them. Please tell us if your child has been ill whilst they are away from nursery and if you're not sure, please phone us before you bring your child.*

*We appreciate your support with this in helping to protect our children and limit the spread of infection.*

## PLPs



*You will soon receive your child's Personal Learning Plan (PLP) home. This is your child's written plan which sets out how we can best meet their needs.*

*In St Helen's we recognise the importance of involving the children and of course – you - their Parents and Carers, in this process. This document provides an opportunity for you to share more detailed information with Key workers, from things that make your child happy to what you would like them to work on throughout their time in Nursery.*

*Our PLPs have a strong focus on Health and Wellbeing and are individual to every child. You will be able to set personalised targets for your child to work on in nursery, centred around the national wellbeing indicators, and receive regular feedback on your child's progress with these.*

## LOVING LUNCHES



*At nursery children receive a small morning snack, a hot lunch and an afternoon snack.*

*Lunch time is a fantastic way to promote healthy eating with the children, encourage them to try new foods and develop social skills. The children have been making great attempts to try new things and eat their lunch and we will continue to encourage and support with this.*

*The menu operates on a 3 weekly cycle and can be found at the link below:*

*<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-06/Nursery%20Menu%20June%202025.docx>*

*If your child does not eat any of their lunch we will inform you.*

## WHAT TO BRING TO NURSERY



Children should come to nursery in comfortable play clothes—this can be our nursery uniform or their own clothes. Please do not dress your child in special clothing as we love messy play at nursery! We kindly ask that you provide the nursery with a spare set of clothes (including underwear) should your child require a change. This will prevent us from having to contact you to bring clothes to nursery during the session.

We also ask that children leave a pair of plimsoles in nursery to wear inside the playrooms to keep our play space nice and clean. Velcro shoes help to promote independence in our children.

Although we have a supply of wetsuits and wellies, we are happy to store children's personal outerwear in order that they can still go out in the rainy weather and have fun. Our lovely Scottish weather is temperamental at the moment, please ensure your child comes to nursery with a jacket in order that they can still play outdoors when it is raining.

If your child is not yet toilet trained, please provide the nursery with wipes, nappies, nappy bags and spare clothes including underwear.

Every child has a drawstring bag on their peg where they can store their belongings. This keeps our cloakroom areas neat, tidy and clutter free. However please ensure you label all your child's belongings including shoes, jumpers, cardigans etc as children often have similar clothing and this avoids confusion.

## COMMUNICATIONS



Where possible and practical, we will email you with any relevant information regarding the operations of the nursery. There may be some instances when information is sent out on paper where written consent is required.

Our Nursery Learning Journals are another way of keeping in touch and up to date with nursery life.

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



The safety of the children at St Helen's is our utmost priority. We are continuously risk assessing and reviewing our practices to ensure we can provide high quality provision whilst ensuring children are safe. There are a number of ways you can help with this:

- Please ensure you close and secure the gates to the school and the nursery grounds when entering and exiting. This is especially important if you are collecting your child mid-session as the school children may be accessing the playground at this time. Parents and carers should not enter the P1 playground.
- Please access the nursery via the Rose Street gates or the Lomond Drive gates. Do not enter via the car park gates with children as there are vehicles coming and going throughout the day and this poses a risk.
- **It may be tempting to park in the school car park, especially if it is bad weather. However we kindly ask that you refrain from this. The car park can get very busy with staff, visitors and school transport, especially at drop off and pick up time. To secure the health and safety of all, we want to keep traffic to a minimum.**

We appreciate your support with this.

## NURSERY FUND

We are very fortunate at St Helen's Nursery for the amazing support our parents and families give. Through your contributions, we are able to enhance our service and experiences for the children. The monies collected go directly to benefit the children by allowing us to provide Christmas and birthday gifts for each child; Easter eggs for each child; ingredients to cook/bake and make resources such as playdough; decorations and party treats for celebrations such as Halloween, and our annual Fun Days. Little brown envelopes are available on the parent notice board in the cloakroom should you wish to and are in a position to donate.

We thank you for your continued support with this.

## PARENT NOTICE BOARD



*Our parent/carer notice board is located in the cloakroom beside the main entrance. You can find important information about the nursery, Early Learning and Childcare in general, support leaflets, and much more.*

*We try to update this as regularly as possible with information that may be of use to you. Please check this regularly and help yourself to any articles and leaflets*

*You can also pick up a brown envelope if you wish to contribute to the nursery fund. Even a small contribution each week would be helpful*

## PROUD CLOUD



*Our children are growing and learning new things every day and meeting milestones in and out of nursery. We want to celebrate all of their achievements and showcase these for all to see.*

*If your child has a **'WOW'** moment at home, no matter how big or small, we would love it if you could send us a picture and a brief comment and we will display this on our 'Proud Cloud' - located in the cloakroom at the main entrance.*

*Proud Cloud details should be sent to:*

*Mrs Forsyth — [nlforsythp@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nlforsythp@northlan.org.uk)*

*Or*

*Ms Daily — [nldaily1@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nldaily1@northlan.org.uk)*

## KEEP IN TOUCH

### Newsletters

*Newsletters will continue to be delivered electronically and will be sent out in the following months:*

- *August/September*
- *October*
- *December*
- *January/February*
- *May*



*Follow us for important updates and information, and to see pictures of the children's learning on:*

### Information on Early Learning and Childcare

[www.parentclub.scot](http://www.parentclub.scot)

<https://elcnorthlanarkshire.scot/parents.html>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day	Date	Event
Monday	1st September	Mrs Habbick returns
Friday	12th September	Nursery Photographs
Week beginning	17th September	Settling In Update from Key workers
Thursday	18th September	Come and Learn about Nursery 6.30pm School hall    Parents/Carers only
Friday	26th September	HOLIDAY
Monday	29th September	
Tuesday	30th September	Nursery re-opens
Thursday	9th October	Sponsored Event
Week of	13th –17h October (inclusive)	HOLIDAY
Monday	20th October	Nursery re-opens
Friday	31st October	Nursery Halloween Party
Week beginning	10th November	Come and Play Afternoons 1.30—2.30pm
Monday	10th November	Orange Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Tuesday	11th November	Green Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Wednesday	12th November	Blue Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Monday	17th November	INSET—Nursery Closed
Thursday	4th December	Nursery Christmas Lunch
Friday	12th December	Nursery Christmas Show
Tuesday	16th December	Nursery Christmas Fun Day
Thursday	18th December	Nursery closes at 2.45pm for Christmas Holidays until Monday 5th January 2026
Monday	5th January	Nursery re-opens
Friday	13th February	Nursery Pyjama Day
Monday	16th February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday	17th February	
Wednesday	18th February	Nursery closed—INSET



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day	Date	Event
Thursday	5th March	World Book Day
Wednesday	18th March	Nursery Fashion Show
Week beginning	23rd March	Nursery Come and Play Afternoons 1.30—2.30pm
Monday	23rd March	Orange Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Tuesday	24th March	Green Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Wednesday	25th March	Blue Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Thursday	2nd April	Nursery closes at 2.45pm for Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	3rd—17th April (Inclusive)	HOLIDAY
Monday	20th April	Nursery re-opens
Monday	4th May	HOLIDAY
Thursday	7th May	INSET Nursery Closed
Friday	22nd May	HOLIDAY
Monday	25th May	HOLIDAY
Week beginning	25th May	Nursery Reports shared with parents
Friday	29th May	Nursery Crazy Hair Day
Week Beginning	1st June	Nursery Progress Meetings
Monday	1st June	Orange Group Progress Meetings
Tuesday	2nd June	Blue Group Progress Meetings
Wednesday	3rd June	Green Group Progress Meetings
Tuesday	9th June	Nursery Graduation—1.45pm
Tuesday	23rd June	Nursery Fun Day