



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Feb—April 2026

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

I hope you are all well and like me, looking forward to some milder weather, lighter nights and brighter mornings as we prepare to enter the month of March.

This term is always a busy one. We have enrolled our new Primary 1 children—ready for starting school in August 2026. Twenty children have enrolled and with 42 primary 7 children leaving in August 2026, our school roll will drop down to 202 children next session.

As you know we were excited to see our inspection report published on Education Scotland and many schools have been in touch to congratulate us and ask for support and guidance as they prepare for inspection. I hope you have had a chance to read through the report.

We celebrated the birth of two new babies— Anthony Joseph Hughes—a gorgeous son for Mrs Hughes and Ruby Elizabeth Lines—a beautiful daughter for Mrs Lines. Both mums and babies are doing well and we can't wait to meet them in person.

We have welcomed new staff members to the school— Mrs Higgins who is covering Mrs Lines's maternity leave, Mrs Gilfedder who is covering Mrs Hughes's maternity leave and Miss Walker who is covering Miss Harper's absence. They have received a warm welcome to the St Helen's Family.

Mr Coid is covering the post of Facility Support Assistant—and he will be with us until the end of June 2026. We are grateful to Mr Coid for all his hard work and effort—both outside and inside the school. He is keeping things in shipshape.

Please take a note of details for Come Learn Days. It is always great to see you in the school.

I hope you find the information in the newsletter helpful. If you require any further information or want to discuss any concerns please get in touch.

Liz Kelly

SCHOOL TRIPS

Staff are in the process of organising school trips for the children. These usually take place in the final term and the children really enjoy the experiences.

For school trips to take place we rely on the support of parent helpers—ideally with a PVG for the school. From the Form we sent out earlier this session we only have a small number of parent helpers who are able to help. In order for trips to go ahead we need more helpers who are willing to support any class with a trip. Please scan the QR code/Click on the link and complete the Microsoft Form if you are able to help. We really want school trips to go ahead for the children.

[Parent Helper Form](#)

Parent Helper Form



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 The Spar (whose services were kindly enlisted by one of our parents) for donations of biscuits, tea, coffee and Irn Bru.

A good time was had by all!



DAFFODIL TEA

Our annual Daffodil Tea will be held on Friday 6th March at 1.45pm 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 1.45pm—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.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 5th 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.



SCHOOL CAR PARK

The school car park should not be used by parents/carers between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm. This is to manage the amount of traffic in the car park when children and families are making their way to and from school.

I wish to extend my thanks to the many parents who support the school with this.

On days when the weather is not the best it is tempting to use the school car park to drop children off or to turn the car.

I would ask you not to slip into these habits as one time easily leads to another, and one car quickly leads to multiple cars .

By parking out with the school car park you are supporting the school and you are helping to keep all our children safe.

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 be on sale for an Easter egg raffle. This will be drawn on Thursday 2nd April 2026.

Tickets cost 50p

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

Primary 7 children will be organising a Bring and Buy/Cake and Candy on Wednesday 6th May.

This is a good excuse for a clear out. Please send in any unwanted toys and books (which are in good condition) from Monday 20th April.

Super Hero Day—Thursday 2nd April

A fun day has been organised for all children in our school on Thursday 2nd April. Children will come to school dressed as a Superhero. On this day the children will watch a Superhero movie with some popcorn. The cost will be £2—capped at £5 for families of 3 children or more.

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 15 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.

Mrs Coll planned and organised this hugely successful event and we are very appreciative of her hard work.

Our thanks to all the businesses, parents, colleges and secondary science departments who supported:

BMES Scotland

Axa Health

Scottish Gas

Routes to Work

Braidhurst High School

St. Maurice's High School

Time to Talk Money

New College Lanarkshire

Baker Wicks

Theatre School Scotland

Kongsberg Maritime

Collette Cafolla – Counterfeit Goods

Sarah Doherty - Commercial Sales and Business Development

Marie Claire Allen - Forensic Science

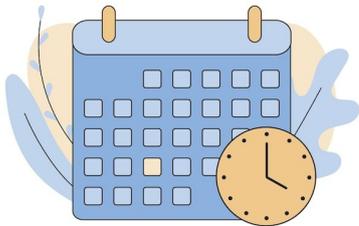
Stuart Aitchson - North Lanarkshire Council DYW

PARENTS' NIGHT APPOINTMENTS

As you know from our annual calendar, Parents' Night will be held on Thursday 19th March.

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 has been sent out.

The system will be open to book appointments from Monday 2nd March from 6pm until 9am on Friday 13th March. Please follow the directions in the email to book an appointment.



P1 AND P7 DENTAL INSPECTIONS

Dental inspections will take place on Tuesday 10th March for all children who have returned a consent form.

Consent forms were sent home last week so please make sure you have actioned this.



MOTHERS' DAY ASSEMBLY

A special assembly will take place for the mums of our Primary 1 children on Friday 13th March at 2pm.

Please come along as this is always a lovely event.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS—SAFETY REMINDER

We have noticed an increasing number of children and families accessing the school grounds via the car park entrance. This is a growing health and safety concern, as the car park is a busy area used by staff, visiting agencies and school buses throughout the day.

To help keep everyone safe, **we ask that all pupils and parents use the pedestrian entrances when arriving at or leaving school.** Using the car park entrance places both children and drivers at risk, particularly during the winter months when icy conditions can make the surface slippery and reduce drivers' ability to stop quickly.

We would appreciate your support in reinforcing this message with your children and encouraging safe habits when travelling to and from school. Together, we can help ensure that everyone remains safe on school grounds.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<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
Tuesday 10 th March	P1 and P7 Dental Checks
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Parents' Evening – Snapshot jotters available to parents
Tuesday 24 th March	1.45—P3 and P3/4 Come Learn Day
<u>April</u>	
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	Superhero Day School closes at 2.30pm
3 rd – 17 th April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
Wednesday 29 th April	1.45pm—P7 Come Learn Day
Thursday 30 th April	1.45pm—P1 and P2 Come Learn Day
<u>May</u>	
Friday 1 st May 2026	First Friday Mass
Monday 4 th May 2026	Holiday
Thursday 7 th May 2026	INSET 5
Tuesday 12 th May 2026	1.45pm—P4, P5, P5/6 and P6 Come Learn Day
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
Friday 12 th June 2026	Leavers' Disco at 7pm
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
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