



# St Helen's Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

August/September 2026

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

*I hope you all had a great summer holiday and it's been lovely to have such a sunny start to the term. The children are looking refreshed and raring to go.*

*Our Primary ones are settling really well and Mrs Coll is enjoying getting to know them. The boys and girls in Primary 7 are being a great support to them.*

### **REWIRING**

*As you are aware, we are in the midst of having the school rewired, with the work continuing throughout the 2026/27 session. The work commenced in August 2026, and the kitchen, hall and Primary 1 classroom have now been completed.*

*The remaining work will be carried out in phases across the session, as outlined below. Please note that these timescales are provisional and may be subject to change as the project progresses:*

- 10 August – 9 October: Primary 7, Primary 6/7 and Primary 6 classrooms
- 10 October – 24 October: Reception Area and Conference Room
- 25 October – 24 December: Primary 4/5 and Primary 5 classrooms
- January – 5 March: Primary 2, Primary 3 and Primary 3/4 classrooms

*The nursery will also be rewired, although this work is currently expected to take place during the Easter holidays.*

*When individual classrooms are being rewired, the affected classes will temporarily relocate to three unused classrooms in what was previously the infant area of the school. These rooms will act as our temporary classrooms throughout the project. The infant area will then be rewired from 8 March.*

*It is currently anticipated that the full rewiring project will be completed by 23 April 2027.*

*The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff remains our highest priority throughout the project. All contractors working on site will follow strict health and safety procedures, and work areas will be securely separated from pupils and staff.*

### **P.E. Arrangements**

*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. Only **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. Out with these—exceptions—children are expected to wear their shirt and tie and change for PE.*

## NEW STAFF

*We have had the pleasure of welcoming some new staff members to our St Helen's Family:*

- Miss Georgi Walker has returned—she got married during the holidays and is now Mrs McMenamin. Mrs McMenamin is teaching P4/5.*
- Miss Kerri Irving has joined us to work with Primary 2 alongside Mrs Higgins—who was with us last session.*
- Mrs Lisa McCrae has taken over the position of Catering Manager in the dinner school.*

We have loved welcoming our new staff members to St Helen's and are enjoying getting to know them as they settle into our school community.

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

*In St Helen's, the Management Team is comprised of myself as Head Teacher and 3 Principal Teachers who work on a part time basis. We will be visible in the playground where possible at the start and end of the day if you want to pass on any information. Members of the management team work closely with children and families and are always on hand to support and help.*

*This session our management team are working as follows:*

| SMT/Work Pattern                | Responsibility           | Email                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clare Ireland PT (Mon—Wed)      | Pastoral Support P1—P7   | nlirelandc@northlan.org.uk  |
| Siobhan Ferguson PT (Wed—Fri)   | Pastoral Support P1—P3/4 | nlfergusons@northlan.org.uk |
| Pamela Purdue PT (Mon, Wed—Fri) | Pastoral Support P4/5—P7 | nlpurduep@northlan.org.uk   |

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

*Our school uniform consists of grey shorts, trousers, skirts or pinafores; blue checked summer dresses; blue shirts; navy blue jumpers, cardigans or zoodies; and black shoes or black trainers.*

*We ask all families to support our school uniform policy and avoid variations to the agreed uniform, e.g. black or grey jumpers. Wearing our school uniform helps children to feel a sense of belonging and equality with their peers. It also contributes to our positive school ethos and encourages children to feel proud to be part of the St Helen's community.*

*In closing, the start of a new school year is always an exciting time, with so many opportunities, goals and experiences ahead of us. I look forward, as always, to working in partnership with you and supporting our children to have a happy, successful and fulfilling year at St Helen's.*

*If there is ever anything I can do to help or support you, please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

*Warmest regards,*

*Liz Kelly*

*Head Teacher*

## 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 will begin in December 2026—so parents are advised to make arrangements to have children Baptised sooner rather than later as Priests can be busy.



## FLU VACCINE

The annual flu immunisations will take place on Monday 14th September

Consent forms for children to receive the annual flu vaccine will be sent home on —so please keep an eye on your child's bag. Please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible.

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

## MEET THE TEACHER SEP 2026



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 23rd September at 6.30pm**. This is a chance for you to meet your child's class teacher and see around their classroom. The children will have left a piece of work out for you to see.

You will have a chance to hear more about our improvement plans for the year and see the fruits of our re-wiring work. There will also be some helpful hints and tips from the teachers.

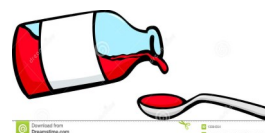
Please come along—this is not to be missed.

## 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 are renewed at the start of each session. Correspondence regarding this will be 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 **Monday 31st 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 help.



### PATRONAL FEAST DAY

We will celebrate the feast day of St Helen as the founder of the cross on Tuesday 18th August. The children will attend Mass in the morning at 10am. In the afternoon the children will have some fun activities in their classes to celebrate and will enjoy a sweet treat.

### 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.**

**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 can 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 is now even smaller due to the contractor's compound. It 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.

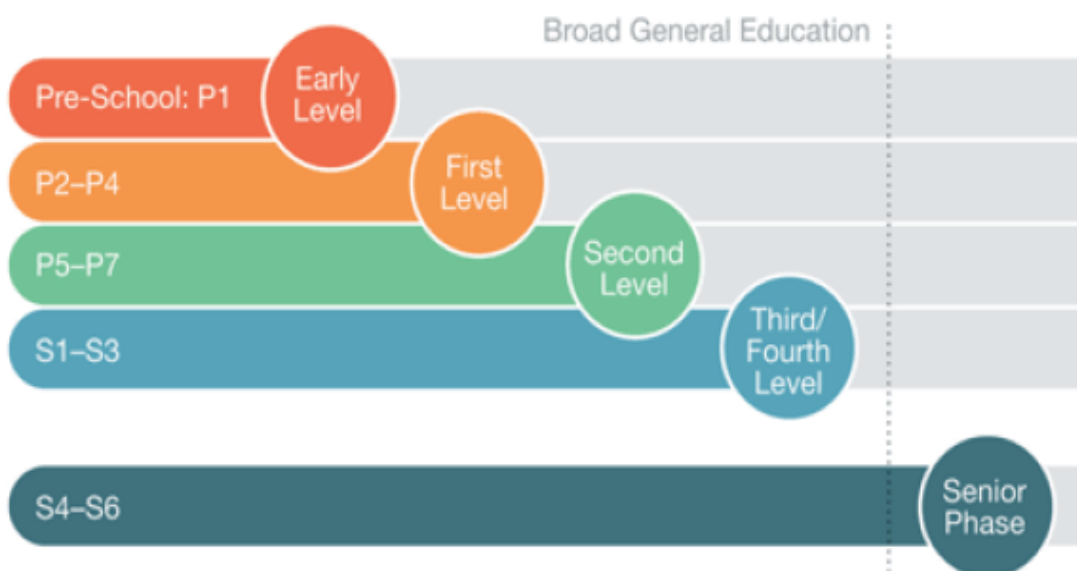
As a school community we do not want to upset or inconvenience local residents—so please be a thoughtful and considerate parker.

## 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 5th October—and will remain home until Friday 9th Oct and then again in January 2027. 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 5th October 2026
- Monday 30th November 2026
- Available at Parents' Night on the 1st April 2027
- Monday 7th June 2027

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 Wednesday 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**

Community Fridays is a whole-school initiative which was introduced last session. called This takes 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:

- 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. Community Fridays 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.

Please ensure children have waterproof jackets with them for outdoor learning as we know how unkind the Scottish weather can be!

We look forward to seeing the positive impact these Fridays 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.

This will involve individual pictures, class pictures and family pictures with siblings in the school.

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



| <b>Date:</b>                                                               | <b>Event:</b>                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>August</u></b>                                                       |                                                                               |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                        | INSET 1                                                                       |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                       | INSET 2                                                                       |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                     | Pupils Return                                                                 |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                       | St Helen's Feast Day Mass at 10am in Our Lady and St Helen's Church           |
| <b><u>September</u></b>                                                    |                                                                               |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                                      | First Friday Mass at 10am in Our Lady and St Helen's Church                   |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September    | School Photography (Chris McIntyre)                                           |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                                     | School Flu Immunisations                                                      |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September                                       | Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm                                              |
| Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2026                                  | Meet the Teacher Evening at 6.30pm                                            |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September – Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 | September Weekend                                                             |
| <b><u>October</u></b>                                                      |                                                                               |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2026                                        | First Friday Mass                                                             |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2026                                        | PLP 1 home to parents<br>Snapshot Jotters home to parents                     |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2026     | October Week                                                                  |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2026                                     | Parent Council Disco (Hallowe'en)<br>P1 –3    —6.30—7.30<br>P4—7    —7.45—9pm |
| <b><u>November</u></b>                                                     |                                                                               |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | First Friday Mass                                                             |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2026                                    | Parents' Night                                                                |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2026                                      | INSET 3                                                                       |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November        | Catholic Education Week                                                       |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2026                                      | Catholic Education Week Mass at 10am in Our Lady and St Helen's Church        |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2026                                    | Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm                                              |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2026                                      | PLP Tracker home to parents<br>Snapshot Jotters home to parents               |
| <b><u>December</u></b>                                                     |                                                                               |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2026                                     | School Children's Christmas Lunch                                             |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December                                          | Parent Council Disco (Christmas)                                              |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                       | First Friday Mass                                                             |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                       | Panto (Hansel and Gretel)                                                     |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                      | Christmas Show (PM)                                                           |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                    | Christmas Show (PM)                                                           |



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



|                                                                                            |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>December Cont'd</u></b>                                                              |                                              |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                    | Christmas Show (evening)                     |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                      | P1-2 Christmas Party                         |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                     | P3-5 Christmas Party                         |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                   | P6—7 Christmas Party                         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                      | Carol Concert 11.30am                        |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                                                      | School closes at 2.30pm                      |
| Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2026 –<br>Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027 (inclusive) | Christmas Holiday                            |
| <b><u>January</u></b>                                                                      |                                              |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                                       | Schools return                               |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                                        | New Year Mass                                |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2027                                                     | Flu immunisations – catch up session         |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                                       | PLP 2 home to parents                        |
| Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                                    | Parent Council Meeting                       |
| <b><u>February</u></b>                                                                     |                                              |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                                                       | First Friday Mass                            |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                             | Health Week                                  |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                                                   | Ash Wednesday Mass                           |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                                                    | Parent Council Disco (Valentine's)           |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                                          | February Holiday                             |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                                                   | INSET 4                                      |
| <b><u>March</u></b>                                                                        |                                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                               | Fairtrade Week                               |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                                        | World Book Day                               |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                                          | First Friday Mass                            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                              | STEM Week                                    |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                                         | Daffodil Tea                                 |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March<br>Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March (Inclusive)                 | Holidays (Easter weekend)                    |
| <b><u>April</u></b>                                                                        |                                              |
| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2027                                                        | Parents' Evening                             |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2027                                                          | First Friday Mass<br>School closes at 2.30pm |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> April (inclusive)                                       | Easter Holiday                               |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2027                                                       | Parent Council Meeting—6.30pm                |



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



| <u>May</u>                                               |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027                          | Holiday                                                      |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2027                        | INSET 5<br>Ascension Thursday                                |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2027                          | First Friday Mass                                            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2027 (Inclusive) | Holiday                                                      |
| <u>June</u>                                              |                                                              |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                         | First Friday Mass                                            |
| W/b—7 <sup>th</sup> June 2025                            | Final Reports to Parents<br>Snapshot Jotters home to parents |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                      | Sports Day at 1.30pm                                         |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                      | Parent Council Disco (Summer)                                |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                        | Leavers' Mass at 10am                                        |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                        | Leavers' Disco at 7pm                                        |
| Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2027                        | P7 Final Assembly                                            |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                        | End of term Mass at 10am                                     |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2027                        | 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](mailto:nlkellye@northlan.org.uk)**

**Phone: 01236 632068**