



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

May
2020

NEWSLETTER



*Dear Parents/Carers and friends
of St. John Paul II,*

This is the second Newsletter I have circulated since schools closed and Lockdown began. I sincerely hope that all of our families are managing to keep safe and well. I am sure that, as time has gone on, you have found the situation challenging in different ways.

Since the last Newsletter, I have also circulated a supportive leaflet which was aimed at letting you know that we are here for you and how to get in touch. It was also aimed at telling you that we understand the challenges and difficulties around home learning and, in particular, the digital element of this. However, we want to encourage as much participation in this as we can.

In this Newsletter, there are a number of items of information for you. However, as you know, the situation is changing on a weekly and sometimes daily basis. I know that you will all have questions and that sometimes the answers aren't available when you need them. Rest assured that, as soon as I am able, I will share all the information I can with you.

In the meantime, please take note of any relevant information within this Newsletter. You can also follow us on Twitter (@JPIPrimary) and Facebook. Our school App is downloadable for free on iPhone and Android and our school website homepage is being regularly updated too. I would hope that at least one of these platforms is useful to you to keep yourself informed and up-to-date. I would recommend that you have a look at our **April Newsletter** (in the App or in the News section of our Website) as there is some relevant information in there too!

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas
Head Teacher

*We
miss
you*



Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality

ARE YOU MAKING USE OF THE DIGITAL LEARNING ON MICROSOFT TEAMS?

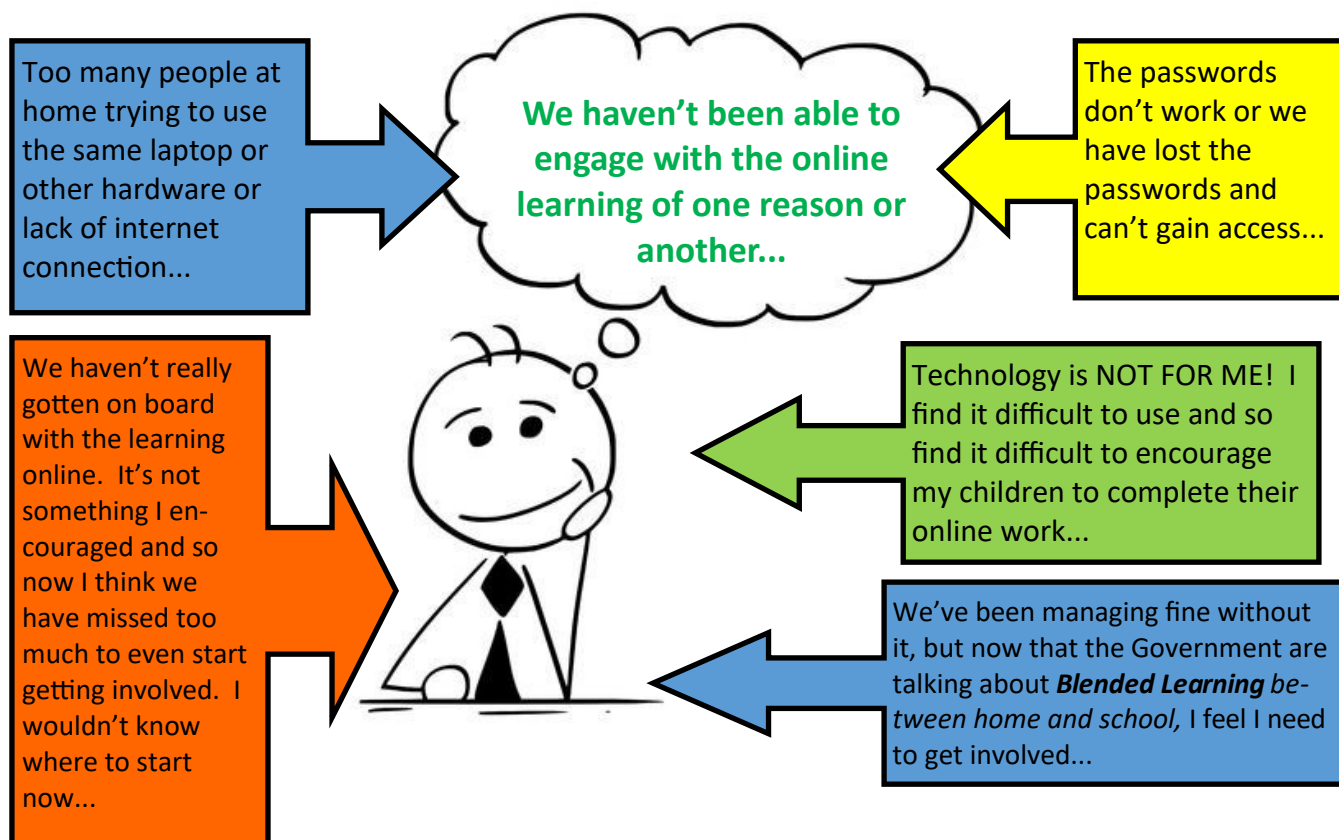
It is evident that, whatever the return to school looks like, there will be a mix between learning at school and learning at home for some time to come. The Deputy First Minister referred to this as a “blended approach to learning.” This means that Microsoft Teams will be with us for some time to come.

If you have been using Teams, you will see that we have continued to develop our offering on Teams throughout the past few weeks. Some of the developments include:

- ♦ Offering some Class Meets with Class Teachers from week beginning 25th May.
- ♦ Whole School Assembly - the next one will be on Friday 29th May at 2pm on Teams. **More information on this within our Newsletter.**
- ♦ Transition events for P7 with Cardinal Newman HS Staff.
- ♦ Moving to use the ASSIGNMENTS Tab, where Teachers can offer feedback and mark work.

All you need to get started with Teams is your child's GLOW Username and Password. If you do not have this, **please contact Mr Thomas on ht@johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk** or call the school and speak to a staff member. Even if it isn't a member of our own staff, they will make contact with someone on your behalf and we will send you all of the relevant details or phone you back and talk you through what to do.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START ENGAGING WITH OUR ONLINE LEARNING!



There are many reasons why some people haven't gotten involved in our online Digital Learning offering up until now. Whatever the reason, it is never too late and nothing is too much of a problem. We can help you probably more than you know! Whatever the issue, there is an answer and we have talented staff waiting to support you and your child. With the Government's recent announcement of a **BLENDED LEARNING** approach when schools re-open in August, it is now more important that we as a school continue to develop our Digital Provision. It is also equally important that as many families as possible make use to the excellent resources and learning opportunities we can offer your child. We will be contacting all of our families to check in with them in the coming week to offer help and support.



WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES

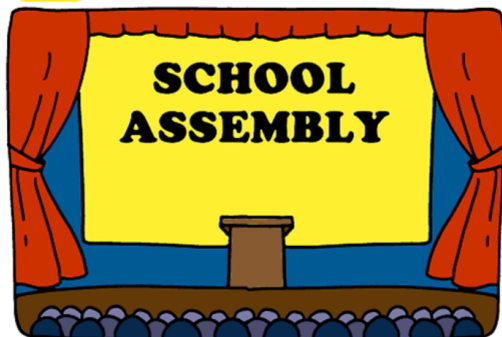
On Friday 15th May, at 2pm, we had our first ever Virtual Assembly using Microsoft Teams. Almost 100 children/families and staff joined the assembly that day. Mr Thomas led the assembly, along with inputs from Mrs Byers on **Emotion Works** and Mr McLaughlin on **Rights Respecting Schools** and the **Right of the Week**.

St. JP II Digital Learning Opportunities

Despite us not being able to gather in our school hall as normal, there was an amazing atmosphere at the assembly and everyone who managed to join us really enjoyed it! We realise that not everyone managed to join us for one reason or another. Don't worry... come and join us for the next one!



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Join Mr Thomas and the staff for Friday Assembly at 2pm on 29th May 2020.

Assembly takes place in **Microsoft Teams** in the **St JP II Assemblies** Channel.

Simply login to Teams using your GLOW details and follow the link.

NEED HELP?

You can contact us through TEAMS or on GLOW, through facebook or Twitter (@JP II Primary).

You can also email:

Miss Agnew: gw09agnewlouis01@glow.sch.uk

Mr Thomas: ht@johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk

PUPIL/TEACHER MEETS ON TEAMS

All classes will begin to have meetings with the Teacher from Week Beginning 25th May. These will be brought to your attention through the Class Team and your child will be able to join from there.

You may find that a member of the Senior Management Team is also part of the Meet. This is purely to offer any technical support as the Teacher will be busy with the children!

KEEPING TRACK OF PASSWORDS

We realise that there are lots of passwords to keep track of! This is particularly hard to do if you have more than one child. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything to remove the need for passwords... they exist to keep our data and children safe and they are necessary if we are using various different resource sites.

However, if you forget or lose a password, or if you lock yourself out of an account, do not worry or panic! We can always help you reset things if you get in touch. You can get in touch through any of the usual ways... App, email, phone, social media. All of these contact details have been advertised numerous times and in numerous places.

OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL BE IN TOUCH!

With most of our staff working from home since the beginning of lockdown, you can imagine it has been difficult for us to make personal phone calls to all of our families. We have returned calls and answered emails where possible and we have made every effort to keep in touch using a variety of communication platforms, but sometimes a chat is best! We have purchased Pay As You Go mobile phones so that we can make calls from home. This protects staff personal details and means that we do not have to block numbers when we call you. We are hoping to begin to make calls this week. If you miss our call, feel free to phone us back!



PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION

One of the things we are particularly proud of at St. John Paul II, is our successful Transition Programme for our Nursery children moving into P1. Obviously, there have been severe limitations put on this programme so far this year and we are unsure of what we will be able to achieve in the coming weeks before the end of the school year.

Please be assured that we haven't forgotten about our new P1s and that we are working behind the scenes to continue to prepare for our new children joining us in August 2020!

We are awaiting further clarification from the Scottish Government and from North Lanarkshire Council on what will be permitted and what will be possible and safe to do in terms of Transition, this side of the end of term.

We know that moving from Nursery to Primary 1 can be a time where Parents/Carers are stressed and worried for their children.

We would like nothing more than to provide some opportunities for our new P1s to visit the school and meet their Teachers! However, we MUST be sensible and wait until we know what is permitted.



Mrs Byers and Mrs Murtagh will be making phonecalls to all of the Parents/Carers of children who are due to join us in Primary 1 this coming August.

Please look out for a delivery from the school through your door with some information about transition and a wee message for the children.

PLEASE DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOOL APP FROM YOUR APPSTORE - Look for 'st john paul ii viewpark' and download for free to your phone/tablet. When choosing you categories, select P1 TRANSITION.

PRIMARY 7 TRANSITION to CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

We have hosted two very successful online meetings with staff from Cardinal Newman High School in recent weeks. We have had between 20 and 30 children join each time. The children can ask questions and the staff give some information to the children.

This time of transition is normally so different for our P7s and they are normally so well supported by our own staff and by the staff of CNHS. This is why it is important for all of our P7s to get involved in Microsoft Teams!

If you are struggling with access or have issues with devices, please let us know and we will see what can be done.

We are in the process of collating and collecting information and photos for the P7 yearbook. The uptake for this has been quite poor unfortunately. The Yearbook is normally a gift from the school to the children. However, we need the information from the children to populate the yearbook!

The children will also find a link to the Friendship Group Form on Teams which will help the school to formulate classes.



NEW HOME LEARNING PACKS

Our Class Teachers have been busy providing online Digital Learning opportunities for our children on a daily basis. They really have been pulling out all of the stops to try and provide stimulating and progressive learning. This has not been without it's challenges for staff, parents/carers and children alike!

We provided paper packs at the beginning of Lockdown and then towards the end of April some more packs were provided. These were prepared by the Senior Leadership Team and were not individualized for obvious reasons.

We are now offering new Home Learning Packs for all children. These have been prepared by Class Teachers and the packs will provide...

- ♦ Individual packs, one for each child, with their name on it.
- ♦ Suitable Numeracy tasks aimed at your child's ability level.
- ♦ Suitable Literacy tasks aimed at your child's ability level.
- ♦ Some cross-curricular tasks such as topic-based work and RE/Health and Well Being.

**STAFF WILL BE AT THE SCHOOL
TO PROVIDE THESE TO YOU ON:**

Thursday 28th May 2020

12noon - 2pm

&

4pm - 6pm



THANK YOU FR MORRIS!

On Monday 18th May, 2020, Fr Morris celebrated a beautiful online Mass to mark the 100th Birthday of our Patron, St. John Paul II. We were able to make it extra special by having staff record readings, bidding prayers and music. We even had a lovely virtual appearance from our school choir!

In these times, it is important to remember to pray for our community and all of our families. It is important to be grateful for the special times we have shared in the past and to look forward to more special times in the future... even if they will look a little different to what we are used to. To view the Mass, got to

www.churchservices.tv/viewpark



SOLIHULL APPROACH

The Scottish Government announced free Solihull Approach online access for all parents in Scotland. This is a programme to help parents understand their children better and how to help them cope! There are courses for pregnant mothers, for families with teenagers, you name it.

All our staff have been trained in this, and it's an excellent resource to help you to help your child through these difficult times. Follow the link, and use tartan as the access code. There is more info on the ParentClub website.

PLEASE GO TO THE SCHOOL APP OR THE SCHOOL WEBSITE TO ACCESS THIS INFORMATION.

www.johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk

EMOTION WORKS AT HOME

We also have information on our website which provides a link to Emotion Works at Home resources. As you will know, we use Emotion Works in school to provide a focus for developing Emotional Literacy and to support children in

dealing with a variety of feelings and emotions. Please take a look at the website homepage and scroll down to the relevant blog post.

 emotion works



Helps us to learn and talk about emotions

THANK YOU

At our first online Assembly, the 'Star of the Week Award' was presented to all of the Parents and Carers at home who are supporting our children in their learning! I want to say a huge thank you to all of you! You are unsung heroes!

THANK YOU TO THE STAFF for all of their efforts. They are having to adapt to new and innovative ways of working, just as you all are. They are having to train themselves in new skills and I cannot thank them enough for what they are doing. I am very proud of the staff!

THANK YOU TO THE CHILDREN who are doing what they can, when they can. It is not easy when most of the learning is digital. Having spoken to lots of Parents/Carers, I know that there are lots of children who are working away on paper versions of their learning, either with the packs we previously gave out, or on packs that Parents/Carers are providing. The new Individual Packs will be great for you.



Scotland Learns
Parents and Carers Newsletter

SCOTLAND LEARNS - A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND



Education Scotland - our national education body - is providing weekly updates for Parents and Carers through their newsletter. This gives support, advice and resources to people involved in home learning. It is certainly worth taking a look. You can subscribe to it through Social Media or follow the link...

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/a-weekly-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers/>

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE COMING WEEKS

- ♦ As soon as we have facts and information that we can share with you, we will be in touch.
- ♦ We will continue to be available to support and you can contact us in the usual ways.
- ♦ We will continue to offer daily online learning activities via the Class Teams accounts.
- ♦ We will be developing our use of Teams further and offering more Teacher/Pupil contact.
- ♦ The Senior Leadership team will be contacting all families (providing we have the correct contact details for you!)
- ♦ We will continue to have weekly assemblies for children (and any family members who wish to join us!)



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery

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Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas

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