



NEWSLETTER

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

Firstly, can I just say how much we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to school next week! We cannot wait to see our returning children and we are looking forward to welcoming all of our new Nursery and P1 children as well as the new families joining our school community.

Whilst it may feel like this is a return to 'normality', things will still be quite different for some time and we will need to continue to work together to ensure things run smoothly and safely, within the ever-changing guidelines issued by the Government. Things change, as you know, because of the kind of situation we find ourselves in. However, if we work together, nothing should be too much of a problem and no issue will be insurmountable.

As always, we are here to support you and, more importantly, the children.

Following the announcement from the Scottish Government that all children will return to school in the coming week, and following today's information from North Lanarkshire Council, please see some further information which should help you and your children prepare for the start of the new school year.

In this Newsletter, you will find...

- Revised information for Week Beginning 10th August. This reflects the information issued by North Lanarkshire Council on 4th August 2020.
- Revised information about arrival and departure at school. Because we are moving from 50% of children attending to 100%, we have had to return the school to the previous physical set-up and so entrance and exit points and playground 'zones' will be different.
- Revised list of Class Teachers. Some changes in staffing have occurred during the holidays. This means a few classes have been assigned different Class Teachers. More information within the Newsletter.
- Some of the information from our June Newsletter, issued before the Summer Holiday, has been included just to remind you of what was said.
- Reminders of how to keep in touch and up-to-date. Communication will be the key to a successful start to the new term. Ensuring that you have our school App and access to the school Website will assist you in keeping yourself informed.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of assistance.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher

STAFFING CHANGES

Please note that we have had additional Teachers placed in the school, which has meant a change to some of the original Class Teachers. We are delighted to welcome Miss Williamson and Miss Brady back for the next school year. This means that some children will have a different Teacher for the beginning of term. This staffing was given to us after the end of term and I had to wait until the Government and Council informed us of their plans before making decisions around staffing.

WHAT DAYS DOES MY CHILD ATTEND DURING WEEK BEGINNING 10TH AUGUST?

P1 should attend on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am—2pm each day (see details below).

P2 – P7 should attend on the days highlighted in **GREEN ONLY**.

Class:	Class Teacher:	Ent/Exit Gate:	Week Beginning 10 th August Arrangements				
			Mon 10th	Tues 11th	Wed 12th	Thurs 13th	Frid 14th
NURSERY	Miss Crawford, Mrs Bell, Mrs McCormick, Miss Mason	Nursery Gate	HOLIDAY	INSET DAY (STAFF ONLY)	Refer to letter issued in June.		
P1A	Mrs Bell	Main Gate			10am – 2pm	10am – 2pm	10am – 2pm
P1B	Mrs Moodycliffe	Main Gate			10:15am – 2:15	10:15am – 2:15	10:15am – 2:15
P1C	Mrs McDonnell	Main Gate			10:30am – 2:30pm	10:30am – 2:30pm	10:30am – 2:30pm
P2A	Mrs Dickson	Main Gate					
P2B	Mrs McKay	Main Gate					
P3A	Mrs McDade	Main Gate					
P3B	Miss Williamson <i>Formerly Mrs McCluskey/Mrs Reeves</i>	Main Gate					
P4A	Miss N Byrne	Main Gate					
P4B	Miss Millar/Mrs Reeves	Main Gate					
P5A	Miss McCardie	Pitch Gate					
P5B	Miss Brady <i>Formerly Miss Thompson</i>	Pitch Gate					
P6A	Mr Cooney	Pitch Gate					
P6B	Miss Agnew	Pitch Gate					
P6C	Miss E Byrne	Pitch Gate					
P7A	Miss Thompson <i>Formerly Mr McLaughlin</i>	Main Gate					
P7B	Mrs McLaughlin	Main Gate					

THE SCHOOL DAY – START AND FINISH TIMES

Nursery children – please refer to your personal letter, as issued in June. This has not changed!

P1 children – please note the start and finish times in the table above. (For first week only)

P2 – P7 start and finish times are based on the original information issued in June 2020

Lourdes House Knock House Medjugore House	School Starts: 8:50am School Finishes: 2:50pm
Fatima House Guadaloupe House	School Starts: 9am School finishes: 3pm

REMINDER: Every child received a letter in June (including our new P1s) and this indicated which house the children are in. They are in the same house as their siblings to make pick up and drop off easier. If you are unsure of what house your child is in, please contact us.

The decision around this phased return was published by North Lanarkshire on 4th August and ALL SCHOOLS in North Lanarkshire Council will be following the same phased approach.

SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR P1 CHILDREN

Obviously, we want to make the first few days of term as easy as possible. Our first day of term would normally look a lot different with lots of family members joining us. However, I would ask that **ALL FAMILIES** stick to the guidelines given below so that we can ensure the health and safety of all adults and children at this time.

ON WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST:

- P1A GATHER IN PLAYGROUND AT 10AM
COLLECT FROM PLAYGROUND AT 2PM
- P1B GATHER IN THE PLAYGROUND AT 10:15AM
COLLECT FROM PLAYGROUND AT 2:15PM
- P1C GATHER IN THE PLAYGROUND AT 10:30AM
COLLECT FROM PLAYGROUND AT 2:30PM



Once you have dropped off or collected your child, it is essential that you exit the playground as another group of Parents/Carers will be arriving to collect their child.

At all times, please keep a 2m distance from the other adults around you. Space yourself out around the playground and the Class Teacher and other staff will ensure the children come to you safely.

ON THURSDAY 13TH AND FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST:

Please follow the same start and finish times for your child, however, staff will welcome the children at the gate in the morning and bring the children back to the gate in the afternoon. On these days and from then on, no Parents or Carers will be permitted to enter the playground.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our P1 families for the way in which you have all co-operated during what has been a challenging time of transition. We appreciate your support and patience!

WEEK BEGINNING 17TH AUGUST ONWARDS

- During the second week of term, ALL CHILDREN will attend school for the full week, Monday - Friday.
- Primary 1 children will follow the same pattern as the other children (in their house).
- All children will continue to have a staggered start and finish to ensure social distancing. Children should enter and exit through their allocated gate. The gate, car park and surrounding areas can be congested and it would be impossible for us to ensure physical distancing for adults dropping off and collecting children.

THE SCHOOL DAY – START AND FINISH TIMES REMAIN THE SAME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Nursery children – please refer to your personal letter, as issued in June.

P1 children – please note the start and finish times in the table above. (For first week only)

P2 – P7 start and finish times are based on the original information issued in June 2020

Lourdes House Knock House Medjugore House	School Starts: 8:50am School Finishes: 2:50pm
Fatima House Guadaloupe	School Starts: 9am School finishes: 3pm

NO BREAKFAST CLUB OR TUCK SHOP

The Breakfast Club will not operate initially until further information available from



North Lanarkshire. I apologise as I realise that this will be another headache for some Parents/Carers. As soon as we can get our Breakfast Club up and running, we will!

The Tuck Shop which normally operates at Interval will not be open and so children should bring their own snack to school.

REMEMBER - PLEASE KEEP THE SCHOOL CAMPUS CROWD FREE!

- ◆ Try to arrive as near the start time as possible (check your child's HOUSE to find out what start/finish time they have).
- ◆ Try not to hang around the campus once you have collected your child.
- ◆ ONE ADULT TO DROP OFF/COLLECT only please.
- ◆ Observe the ONE WAY SYSTEM in place with the pedestrian gates (see other information on this).

IF YOU NEED TO DROP OFF/COLLECT YOUR CHILD OUTWITH THE START AND FINISH TIMES...

- ◆ If at all possible contact us and let us know.
- ◆ Do not enter the building, but phone ahead.
- ◆ If someone else is in the reception area, please wait until they leave. Only ONE PERSON in the reception area at any one time.
- ◆ **Try to arrive on time for school! This is more important now than ever.**

PLEASE DON'T WORRY...

This information is a lot to take in! It is a lot for everyone to consider.

We will do our very best to ensure the children are happy and settled. We will work hard with them to create an atmosphere where the children feel like they are back where they belong! The same is true for our Parents and Carers. Keep in touch.



SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR OUR NURSERY

ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN THE LETTERS WE SENT OUT IN JUNE STILL REMAINS THE SAME.

We are initially operating by offering ALL CHILDREN 600 hours. North Lanarkshire Council are working towards restarting the 1140 hours provision as soon as possible. However, we have been instructed to offer 600 hours provision at the beginning of the school term. Children will still be provided with a lunch during their session.

This is the same information we provided in your admission letter in June. The initial days for week one are induction days and the times for these have already been sent out. Please refer to your letter. As soon as we know any more regarding the increase to 1140 hours, we will be in touch with you. The latest news and updates are available at www.elcnorthlanarkshire.scot and you can also look for updates on Twitter @nlpeople Our Nursery staff are always available to support and answer questions.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Mason to our Nursery Team. Miss Kennah has been appointed on a permanent basis to another establishment. We are so sad to see Miss Kennah go and we wish her every happiness in her new post. We thank her for all of her hard work!

ACCESSING THE SCHOOL CAMPUS

- ◆ The pedestrian gates which you use to enter and exit the campus will operate slightly differently. The one **nearest the roundabout will be ENTRY ONLY** and the one **nearest the crossing patrol will be EXIT ONLY**.
- ◆ Your child(ren) will be allocated a gate through which to enter the playground. They must only use this gate.
- ◆ Each child will be allocated a zone in their playground (colour –coded) with their classmates. This will be next to the entrance door they will use to gain access to the building.

INSIDE THE SCHOOL BUILDING

- ◆ Signage and floor markings will guide children to various zones and we will operate a 'keep left' system in the corridors to ensure increased health and safety.
- ◆ Parents/Carers will not be permitted within the internal gates or into the building unfortunately. This is not how we normally operate! We have a very welcoming ethos and an open door policy. However, you can always keep in touch with us and we are happy to chat to you on the phone until such times as we can welcome you in person again!

*Please remember that the pedestrian access gates will be different **ONE ENTRY ONLY** and **ONE EXIT ONLY** to create a one way system! Staff will be stationed at the gates to support this.*

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL CAR PARK

Access to the school car park will still be permitted at this time. However, if there is a concern over social distancing or congestion, I may have to revise this. We have been asked by the Government to ask Parents/Carers to consider Smart Travel, i.e., walk, cycle or scoot to school or drive part of the way, then park and stride to school. The Car Park is an ongoing area of concern and your support would be appreciated!

SOME ASPECTS OF OUR SERVICE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE

- Our Breakfast Club will not operate until further notice.
- We will not be offering After School Clubs until we have permission.
- Assemblies will be held using Microsoft Teams in school with children remaining in their classes.
- We await advice on Instrumental Tuition.

As soon as any of these services can be re-started, we will do so. Thank you for your understanding.

HYGIENE FOR STAFF AND CHILDREN

- A cleaner will operate in the school throughout the day to ensure surfaces are continually cleaned.
- We will continue to wash and/or sanitize our hands throughout the day whilst encouraging children to wash their hands after using the toilet. Automatic hand sanitizers have been installed throughout the building as well as hand washing stations.
- Children will be involved in Health and Wellbeing lessons around this aspect of strategy to stop the spread of germs.

WEARING A FACE MASK

- Staff may choose to wear a face mask if they are in a situation where it is difficult to maintain social distancing.
- Children can choose to wear a mask, if they wish.
- ALL VISITORS to the school will be asked to wear a face mask but visits will be appointment only if at all.

WILL THE CHILDREN BE WEARING UNIFORM?

The short answer to this question is... **"YES!"**



One of the things we are all looking forward to is a return to routine and normality. The most normal thing about coming to school, is wearing uniform. It sends a clear message to everyone that when we come to school, things are different than they are when we are at home.

- ◆ We can begin to re-create the sense of identity and pride in our school.
- ◆ We can show our new Primary 1 children what it means to be part of our school.
- ◆ We can ensure our children are in the right frame of mind when coming to school.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR?

Our school uniform is quite simple:

- ◆ Light blue shirt, school tie, black trousers/skirt/pinafore.
- ◆ Children should wear BLACK SHOES and not brightly coloured trainers.
- ◆ Girls can wear BLUE CHECKED summer dresses if they wish.
- ◆ There is no requirement to wear branded items such as sweatshirts or polo shirts.
- ◆ If you are concerned about your child wearing a school tie, or are unable to buy one for the start of term, then please do not worry about this!

PLEASE DO NOT BRING PERSONAL BELONGINGS TO SCHOOL

Everything your child will need for school will be provided. We have individual packs for every child with a selection of resources. These include jotters, colouring pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, whiteboard and marker, scissors, glue stick. This will help with infection control!

Children should not bring toys, pencil cases or other personal belongings to school.

SHOULD MY CHILD BRING A SCHOOL BAG WITH THEM?

Yes—children can bring a bag to school. However, please try to keep them as small as possible! These will be hanging on the back of their chair in the class, along with their jackets as we cannot ensure social distancing in the cloakrooms. Packed Lunch Boxes should also be as small as possible.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD IS DRESSED APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER. ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL WILL NOT BE PERMITTED BEFORE THE BELL RINGS UNFORTUNATELY.

LUNCH

There will be a limited menu on offer each day with **ONE hot choice** or a Snack to Go. We will look to minimize the amount of movement around the school and minimize the number of children in the dining hall at any one time.

PLEASE NOTE - No cash can be brought into school and therefore all payments for school lunches will need to be made using the online payment facility. All children in P1-3 are entitled to a Free School Meal. Children in P4-P7 are entitled if their Parents/Carers have applied for Free School Meals.



THE CURRICULUM & HOMEWORK

Our curriculum will look a little different for the time being due to some of the restrictions in place. We will not be sending home homework initially as items cannot be taken home and then brought back to school due to current restrictions.

WELCOME TO MISS MASON

Miss Mason will be joining our staff team as part of the Nursery staff. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her and wishing her a happy time in our school community!

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

If your child has a musical instrument belonging to the school and either no longer wants to participate in lessons, or they are moving on to High School, could you please return their instruments to the school? Thank you for your co-operation with this.

ONLINE PAYMENTS & PARENTS' PORTAL

Children will not be permitted to use the 'top up' machines to put money into their lunch accounts. All money will have to be added using the online payment system. We will re-issue instructions on how to use this and also the Parents' Portal.

Parents' Portal will be our main way of contacting you and you will be able to access a number of services through this one stop shop! The Portal means that you only use ONE login and password to access a variety of services for your child, even if you have more than one child.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS

I REMIND ALL P3 PARENTS THAT, IF THEY WISH THEIR CHILD TO CONTINUE RECEIVING FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN P4, THEY MUST COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM. Go to www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

Clothing grants can also be applied for at that website too. If your circumstances have changed recently, we encourage you to apply for both of these opportunities. Even if your child does not use the Free School Meal every day, it is useful to have the application approved.

Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing
cover mouth and nose with
flexed elbow or tissue

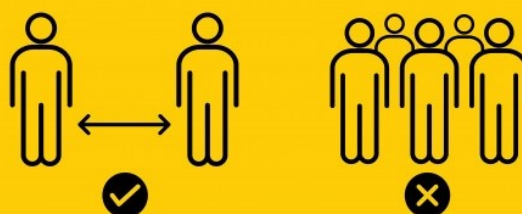


Throw tissue into closed bin
immediately after use

Clean hands with alcohol-based
hand rub or soap and water
after coughing or sneezing and
when caring for the sick



SOCIAL DISTANCING



All adults are still advised to maintain
2m social distancing! Please observe
this when around our school campus,
particularly at pick-up/drop-off times!

THANK YOU

I realise that there is a lot of information for everyone to take on board. I hope that things are clearer as a result of our Newsletter. However, if you are not sure, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

A great deal of work went in to preparing our school during the last few weeks of term in June as we worked towards welcoming back 50% capacity of our children. Another huge amount of work has since gone in to undoing the previous preparations following the change in approach! I wish to thank our wonderful staff team who continue to amaze me as Head Teacher - they have been working little miracles in preparation for our first day of term. Things will be very different for them too! However, nothing is too much of a problem and no issue cannot be overcome if we continue to work together.

GOING FORWARD - KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Please continue to keep an eye on the following platforms:

- ◆ The school app - please ensure you check the categories you selected to receive alerts from. Your child will now be in a different stage (e.g. P2 into P3) and so you will need to change this in order to receive the relevant alerts. Download the app from your app store for iPhone/iPad, android phone and tablet.
- ◆ Our school website—the homepage has lots of updated information on it. www.johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk

When our App is updated, we will send you a notification. We will direct you to the App/Website from the following platforms:

- ◆ Twitter account (our school and the NLC accounts) @JPIIPrimary
- ◆ Our Facebook page (school and parent council) ***As always, social media is not the place to issue a complaint or grievance. Please contact us person so that we can chat to you about an issues.***



Whilst our 'Open Door Policy' cannot be offered as we normally do, it still exists via email/telephone and through these platforms.



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality