



NEWSLETTER

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

I wanted to write to you all briefly, as we end our school year and this term together. There are just a few things to mention in terms of what is happening in the last day or two.

I also want to mention some other items of interest which will help you prepare for the coming school year (but let's not wish the holidays away too quickly though!)

We have all had a lot to contend with this year and it certainly seems like we may be moving towards more 'normal' times. This week we say goodbye to a number of important people in our school community. They are special to us and many of them are special to you too!

The end of a school year is always a time to look back and reflect on our successes, our challenges and our progress. Despite all of the turbulence of the last year, our children have shown resilience, our staff have worked extra hard to go the extra mile in so many ways and our families have been supportive and encouraging. We have a lot to be grateful for!

I want to thank you all for your kind wishes and your support as well as the lovely cards and gifts which have been handed into the school. These gifts are **never** expected, but they are always so gratefully received.

I hope that you all remain safe and well throughout the Summer and that you all manage to find some time to relax and enjoy some lovely summer weather and down time.

I will be in touch with all of you prior to the schools returning, once I know what routines/rules/restrictions/guidelines we need to have in place. This will be informed by the Scottish Government and, of course, the North Lanarkshire guidelines.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF

So many Parents/Carers have commented throughout the year on their appreciation of our staff team and all that they have done, particularly relating to the pandemic. It is always great to receive feedback from our Parents/Carers.

I would like to publicly add my own thanks to yours and to say how immensely proud I am of every member of our staff. They have been professional, committed and resilient under difficult circumstances. They have been innovative and enthusiastic when leading the children in Digital Learning. They have been dedicated and nurturing when we have returned after a period of lockdown and they have done all of this with love and with the needs of our children at the fore. As Head Teacher, I feel very privileged to lead such a team and I thank them for everything they have done to support not only the children and their families, but me as their Head Teacher.

They have earned their holidays and will, I have no doubt, return ready, refreshed and prepared for the challenges of a new school year!

REPORTS & NEW CLASSES/TEACHERS

I want to apologise for the delay in getting the end of year reports to you all. The reports were ready when I had planned for them to be ready. However, I was awaiting confirmation of our staffing from Headquarters and I wanted to send out all of the information together, including which teacher is assigned to which class. This caused a delay in issuing the information to you all.

Now that we have had our staffing confirmation, the reports were sent out today. For those who were absent, you can collect them tomorrow (Thursday 24th) before 1pm or they will be posted to you. Again, my apologies for the delay. Thank you for your understanding.

PRIMARY 7 LEAVERS

Our Primary 7 children leave us on Thursday. This is always a sad day for everyone in one sense. We have watched these children grow and develop, make progress and mature. We have seen them achieve and challenge themselves. They have had two of the most difficult years as a result of COVID. However, this hasn't dampened their spirits nor has it stopped them from making the most of their Primary 7 year! They leave us with our best wishes and prayers for their future success, health and happiness. They take a little piece of us with them and they will forever be part of the fabric of our school; woven into it's history. We thank them for their contributions to our school community and we thank all of their Parents/Carers who have worked with us over the years. Good luck Primary 7!



P7 INFORMATION FOR LAST DAY

We very much hope that the children will join us on the last day of term. It will be their last as a pupil of St. John Paul II!

To help them celebrate...

- Non uniform day—unfortunately, children cannot use the changing rooms and therefore will not be able to change towards the end of the day.
- We will try to make COVID-safe arrangements for children to have staff sign their t-shirts if shirts if they wish to do this.
- Children will leave school as one group at around 1:10pm, once the main gate is clear.
- ***Please stick to guidelines and do not gather in large groups within the grounds!***



FACE COVERINGS



AVOID CROWDS



CLEAN HANDS



TWO METRES



SELF-ISOLATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN!

On Tuesday of this week, our Nursery children had a wonderful celebration. This was beautifully planned by our wonderful staff team in the Nursery. They thought of every little detail. I want to congratulate all of those children who graduated from Nursery and I want to wish them every success and happiness at Primary School! I hope that they had great fun during the celebrations.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term is a **NON UNIFORM DAY**. There is **no charge for this!**

Snacks to go will be on offer at lunchtime and children will be asked to pre-order these on Wednesday. Lunch will be served at 11:45am.

Please take note of the start and finish times. The start times are the same but the finish times different due to the early closure.

START:	FINISH:
8:50AM	12:45PM
9:05AM	1PM

Primary 7 will leave the school at around 1:10pm.

MRS MORRIS

As you will have read in our last Newsletter, Mrs Morris is leaving us at the end of term. I have left this item in this edition of the Newsletter just incase you missed it!



We are obviously extremely sad to see Mrs Morris leave our staff team, but we are equally delighted that she gets to retire and move on to new things and a happy retirement.

Mrs Morris has worked in Viewpark for 28 years - firstly in St. Columba's and then latterly moving here when the new school was opened in 2006. She has dedicated herself tirelessly in that time, always going above and beyond for our children, our staff and the wider community. In the 28 years she has worked in the community, her job has seen many changes, but Mrs Morris has always accepted them willingly and has always risen to new challenges.

It would be impossible to comment on 28 years of service in a short Newsletter article! Mrs Morris is so much more to us than a Clerical Assistant. She is our friend and colleague; someone to turn to; someone to support us and **always** someone who puts the children first. She is kind, caring and committed. We are forever indebted to Mrs Morris for her years of service and dedication. Sadly, we may not be able to mark Mrs Morris' retirement in the usual ways but we will do our very best to make sure we do what we can to let her know how much she is appreciated.

We are lucky to have such a great team of people in our Office - who are the first to greet anyone who comes to visit our school. They are always commended for the warm welcome and professional manner they adopt when dealing with our visitors.

There will be lots more to say about Mrs Morris, no doubt and I always enjoy an opportunity to wind her up! However, for now, I simply wanted to share her news with all of you Parents and Carers and to publicly congratulate her and thank her for everything. We will miss Mrs Morris immensely.

HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK

The children had a wonderful Health and Wellbeing week! The weather was very kind to us (for the most part) and we were able to fulfill everything on the timetable for each of our classes. I want to thank the staff for their efforts to make this so enjoyable and worthwhile. Particular thanks to Mrs MacFadyen, who put a great deal of effort and planning into this as always. A couple of highlights would have to be the Staff V Pupil Volley Ball Match, the 'Are You Smarter Than a P7?' competition and, of course our traditional races.

It goes without saying that we would have loved to have all of our Parents/Carers with us for some of these events. However, you have all been so understanding and we appreciate that greatly.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION (FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION)

I am delighted that we have managed to make the necessary arrangements for First Holy Communion. This will take place for next year's P5 and P6 in September. Letters have already been circulated to those involved. Our P3 children all made their Confession, either with Fr Morris in school or with Fr Bogan in the church. There are still a few children who have to make their Confession, but this will be done in the week leading up to First Communion in September.

CONFIRMATION

We normally have Confirmations every two years. Confirmation is normally administered by the Bishop in both parishes on consecutive nights to both Primary 6 and Primary 7. However, the Bishop has decided to make a change. Confirmation will be for **P7 only** and will happen every year in every parish. More information will be issued once the Diocese has issued the Bishop's schedule for these celebrations, of which there are about 100 throughout the year!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR P4

From August, every child in P4 will be entitled to a free school meal. This will mean all children from Nursery, P1, P2, P3 and P4 will be able to order a free school meal every day.

It is the aim to expand this to P5 in January 2022, P6 and P7 also, but more information will be issued regarding dates for this. For now, P5, P6 and P7 will have to either apply if Parents/Carers think their child is entitled or they will be required to pay.

If you are unsure of whether you should apply, please click [HERE](#).

CLUB 365 Summer Activity Programme

North Lanarkshire is offering a Summer Activity Programme which will run every day (including weekends) from 11:30am to 1:30pm. This starts on Friday 25th June. There is no need to book. Children can just turn up. Information was sent direct to Parents/Carers via Text Message from North Lanarkshire.

The nearest venue for our school will be **Birkenshaw Sports Centre**.

This is a great opportunity for our children to participate in something fun and active. Lunch is provided and they can catch up with friends or meet new people!

WHEN YOU START TO THINK ABOUT UNIFORMS FOR NEXT YEAR...

There are a number of uniform providers who stock our uniform garments. Please remember that children are expected to wear a school shirt and school tie every day. Once we can change for PE again, children should wear uniform on PE days and change into their kit. I will keep you informed about this. Please remember black skirt/pinafore/trousers and black shoes/trainers should be worn. It is entirely up to Parents/Carers if they want to purchase embroidered sweatshirts/cardigans/V-necks from our providers. Please try not to deviate from our uniform. Thank you so much for your support with this. Please remember a clothing grant is available. More information by clicking [HERE](#).

THANK YOU PARENT COUNCIL

I want to offer a particular word of thanks to our Parent Council, who have worked on throughout these difficult times. They always have the best interests of the children at heart and are always striving to make things better for them. They are supportive and interested in the school and it's journey of improvement. In a particular way, they have supported us financially at Christmas and also with the P7 Graduation celebrations. They also provided support for families who required it when P7 attended their week at Strathclyde Park. Obviously, the Parent Council could not function without the wider support of ALL Parents/Carers and so I thank all of you too. Please keep this up in the coming year!

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES

Our staff team are fully aware of what a privilege it is to work in and be part of such a wonderful school and supportive



community. We do not take this for granted. On behalf of all of the staff, THANK YOU ALL for your support and for your concern during the last year. This is over and above our thanks for helping us make this year the best that it possibly could be. Thanks for your kind words and for the cards and gifts towards the end of term. We wish you and yours a safe, happy, SUNNY summer holiday and we look forward to a new school year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please take a look at our school diary and take note of any events that involve you or child. Some dates may be subject to change!

DATE:	EVENT:	DETAIL:
Thursday 24th June	Last day of term Non Uniform Day (no charge)	School Closes Early today . Please see below: If your child starts at 9:50am - they should be collected at 12:45pm If your child starts at 9:05am - they should be collected at 1pm <i>Please stick to these finishing times.</i>
Thursday 12th August	INSET DAY	<i>Pupils should not attend</i>
Friday 13th August	INSET DAY	<i>Pupils should not attend</i>
Monday 16th August	New Term Begins	<i>More information to follow regarding start times.</i>



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery

1 Laburnum Road, Viewpark, Uddingston, G71 5DG

t: 01698 522723 | e: office@johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk

w: www.johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk | twitter: @JPIIPrimary

Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality