



NEWSLETTER

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

I know that, by now, you would usually have received an August Newsletter! However, I felt that we had sent out a lot of information prior to the start of term and also a number of reminders since then. Sometimes there can be information overload!

I'm delighted to be writing to you with our September Newsletter which includes some important information and other updates about what is happening in our school community.

The new school year is off to a great start with our new Primary 1 children beginning to settle and get used to life at school. Our Primary 7 children have been doing a great job supporting the P1 children in the Dining Hall. There is a lot to remember for our P1s! However, our P7s are there to help and support. It has been lovely to see these groups of children bond and become friends.

Whilst we hoped that things may be more 'normal' when school returned in August, the reality has been slightly different. Normal is now hand washing, mask wearing and social distancing. However, normal in the true sense is only attainable if we all do our bit to protect each other. As you know, we still have some expectations and rules if you are with us for the drop off or collection of children. Please try your very best to adhere to these rules. They will be helpful to everyone. If YOU follow them, then it means everyone is a little safer.

I had hoped to have our usual calendar of Parental Engagement Events in place and on the calendar, but with restrictions on who can come into the building, this has not been possible. Please be assured that, as soon as we can invite you in, we will!

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



SCHOOL STAFFING FOR 2021-22

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Head Teacher: Mr Thomas

Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Martin

Principal Teachers: Mrs Byers, Mrs MacFadyen, Mrs Murtagh and Mr McCann

TEACHING STAFF

Nursery: Miss Crawford, Mrs McCormick, Mrs Bell, Mrs Mason, Miss Daly

P1A: Miss Byrne

P1B: Mrs Moodycliffe

P1C/2A: Mrs McDonnell

P2B: Mrs Mulgrew/Mrs Kemi

P2C: Mrs McKay

P3A: Mrs McDade

P3B: Miss McCardie

P4A: Mrs McLaughlin

P4B: Mrs Reeves

P5A: Miss Millar

P5B: Mrs Dickson

P6A: Mr Cooney

P6B: Mr McLaughlin

P7A: Miss Agnew

P7B: Mrs MacFadyen/Mr McCann

P7C: Miss Williamson

PUPIL SUPPORT STAFF:

Additional Support Needs Assistants:

Mrs Shevlin

Miss McDonald

Mr Newman

Mrs Ferguson

Miss Davidson

Classroom Assistant & Breakfast Club:

Mrs Bradley

Nurture Teacher: Mrs Bell

Support for Learning: Mrs Byers, Mrs Murtagh, Mrs Bell, Mr McCann and Mrs MacFadyen

Non Class Contact Time: Mrs Byers, Mrs McCluskey & Miss Deignan

Office Staff: Mr Johnston & Mrs Cummings

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF:

We are delighted to welcome a number of new faces to our school community. Mrs Daly will be joining the Nursery Class team. We also welcome Miss Deignan who is covering Miss Thompson's Maternity Leave. Mrs Ferguson joined our ASNA team in the last couple of weeks and Miss Davidson joined us this week. We are delighted to welcome them all and we hope that they settle into our school and quickly feel like part of the team!

HELLO!



MEET THE TEAM

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO MRS DOUGLAS:

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Douglas, who was one of our ASNAs for the last three years. We wish Mrs Douglas well and thank her for everything she did to assist our children and staff. She will be missed by staff and pupils alike.

MRS RABONE (ASNA) returned after a period of study. However, Mrs Rabone is moving on to a new role as a Family Support Worker within another local authority. Once again, we thank Mrs Rabone for all that she has done for our children and we wish her well in her new adventure!

COVID-19 IS STILL VERY MUCH WITH US...

AND WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO KEEP EVERYONE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE!

Since we have returned to school in August, you will all have seen that both nationally and within North Lanarkshire, positive cases have been on the rise. In fact, they are way higher than they were during the last lock down.

I want to thank you all for everything that you are doing to help us keep the school as safe as possible. Please continue to inform us when there is a positive case in your household. Please continue to do the following things in line with NLC Guidelines...

1. ***Wear a face covering in and around school grounds.***
2. ***Stick to the staggered times for drop off and pick up.***
3. ***Only ONE adult per family to drop off/collect.***
4. ***Keep a safe distance from others and don't gather around the school***

The guidelines around who have to isolate and when were changed at the beginning of the school year. This has meant a significant change of approach compared to last term.

If someone in your household have symptoms or tests positive - everyone in the household should take the following action:

1. Isolate and book a PCR Test. Remain in isolation until there is a **negative result**.
2. If any of the results come back positive, those people should enter into isolation.
3. If you or your child is identified as a close contact - the same is true. Isolate and get a PCR test.
4. Children can only come back to school after a negative test result OR at the end of an isolation period.

The major change is that the school no longer identifies close contacts of any positive cases. Those are identified by Test and Protect who will then make contact with the school if you identify anyone in particular. Children in schools are no longer considered as close contacts.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY TEST RESULTS AND ALSO YOUR CHILD'S ISOLATION DATES. This allows us to provide support and work where required.

**Please wear a face covering
when on our school grounds**



Social Distancing Measures In Place

PE KITS/UNIFORM

As you know, we are encouraged to have PE outdoors wherever possible and where weather permits. This is something the children have enjoyed and we will continue. Can I ask that you ensure your child's PE kit is not only appropriate for the weather, but that it is appropriate for school. Children should not be coming to school in garments which expose their tummy. Some of the shorts and tops which some of our senior girls are wearing are not appropriate.

Ideally, children should wear black shorts/tracksuit bottoms and a school polo shirt. This is simple, cost effective and it does not turn PE day into a fashion parade!

Please also remember that children should not be wearing earrings on PE days. If your child is wearing earrings on ANY day, they should be stud earrings only and not those which dangle. False nails and make-up are also not permitted in school on any day.

CELEBRATING FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday 11th September at 12:30pm and Sunday 12th September at 2pm, children from P5 made their First Communion in St. Gabriel's Parish. Well done and congratulations to all of the boys and girls and many thanks to their families for their participation and their patience throughout all of the delays.

On Saturday 18th September at 12noon and 1:30pm, children from P5 and P6 will make their First Communion in St. Columba's Parish.

Those from St. Columba's Parish please remember that there is a limit of 8 people (plus the child) permitted to attend as the parish is still observing Social Distancing.

Please also remember that ALL who are attending should wear a face covering (apart from the children).

For children in this year's P4 - more information will be sent to you in due course with dates, etc. We await confirmation of this from our two parish priests.

SNACK FOR INTERVAL

Part of our school remit is to promote Health and Wellbeing for our children, staff and the wider community. Since we have returned, I have noticed that lots of our children are bringing snacks and drinks to school which are not very healthy.

They are also (and P1 can be particularly guilty of this) bringing too much for their snack. One thing to eat and a small drink is enough to keep the children going until lunch time - especially if the children eat a decent breakfast.

Please remember:

- Our school is a NUT FREE ZONE! See the information below to know what this means.
- Cans/glass bottles should not be brought into school.
- Fizzy and sugary drinks should be avoided—especially energy drinks. These over stimulate the children and can have a negative impact on behaviour.
- Chewing gum is not permitted on school grounds.

ST. JOHN PAUL II
Primary School & Nursery Class

NUT FREE SCHOOL ZONE
WE'RE NUT FREE!

Images of snacks: Kinder Bueno, Nutella, Peanut Butter, and Snickers.

School Improvement

2021 -
2022

Despite all of the challenges around COVID throughout the last school year and into this current new academic session, we continue on our journey of improvement. As you may know, each year, our school is required to self-evaluate our progress, achievements and areas for further development. Some of our priorities are CLUSTER priorities, which were agreed between ourselves, Holy Family PS, St. Gerard's PS, Sacred Heart PS and Cardinal Newman High School.

This year, we have identified our Improvement Priorities and they are the following:

Priority Title:	What does this mean?
Cluster Priority 1: Establish a robust Integrated Approach to Improve Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Children and Families across our Cluster.	Working with all of the schools in our cluster, we will use the approaches within 'Getting It Right for Every Child' to take forward all aspects of Health and Wellbeing.
Cluster Priority 2: Improvement in attainment in Literacy & Numeracy	Through collaborative working with all cluster schools, we will agree strategies and skills development, along with assessment approaches to ensure consistency in Learning, Teaching and Assessment.
School Priority 1: Develop a whole school approach to STEM	STEM stands for Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths . We will develop our curriculum around this area and improve resources. Staff will also be offered training and support to help develop further approaches to Learning & Teaching and making curricular links across these themes.
School Priority 2: To ensure equity for all learners and to close the attainment gap in response to COVID-19	We will conduct a curricular review and look at our digital offering both in school and at home. We will also ensure close monitoring of pupil progress and what interventions are offered to support identified needs.
Nursery Priority: Develop a whole school approach to STEM	The Nursery is the first class in our school and, as such, is fully involved in our school improvement. STEM will be developed at all levels.

Regular updates are provided at Parent Council Meetings and also within our Newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to offer support to any of the above, please do get in touch!



LOST PROPERTY

Now that we have begun to use the Cloakrooms again, we are noticing a lot more lost property. On top of this, the children regularly their jackets/jumpers/cardigans in the playground or dining hall. **Many of these have no names on them and it makes it very difficult to return them to the right person.** Please make sure that absolutely everything your child wears to school is labelled, along with packed lunch boxes and water bottles.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is now free for all children in P4 (as well as P1 - P3). For children in P5 - P7, there is a charge of £1 for one child, £1.50 for two children and £1.80 for three children from the same family. Children in P5-7 should have money on their card/ in their account in order to pay for their breakfast and lunch.

Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am each day and serves until 8:50am. All children are welcome to attend and you do not need to inform us in advance.

THE CATERING MANAGER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Over the last few weeks, quite a few children have had insufficient funds to pay for their meals. This has left us with over £450 of unpaid meals. Obviously, we do not have lots of available money to clear this. If you are aware that this involves you, please ensure you add money to your child's account. Please remember, that if your child is coming for lunch every day, it costs **£3.10 per day.** ***If you need support with this, please contact Mr Thomas who will be happy to help.***

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS

I REMIND ALL P5-7 PARENTS THAT, IF THEY WISH THEIR CHILD TO CONTINUE RECEIVING FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN P5-7, 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 change 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

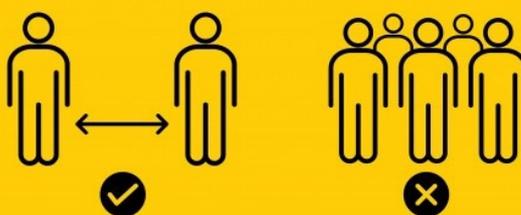


Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use

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 at pick-up/drop-off times as per current guidelines from North Lanarkshire Council.

PARENTS' PORTAL

Schools throughout Scotland are using Parent Portal to communicate with Parents and offer them a simpler way to keep up to date as well as carry out key tasks relating to their children. In North Lanarkshire, this is to become the main way of communicating with Parents/Carers. Some of our Parents will already have an account. Some of our Parents have never used it. **We are being asked to encourage ALL Parents/Carers to ensure they are signed up.** This way, you can have ONE login for ALL purposes, including...

- Annual Data Check - you can change update your details at any point in the school year
- online payments
- booking a parents' night appointment
- keeping your information and contacts up to date
- reporting an absence
- signing permission slips and viewing your child's report.

For further information and to sign up, please click [HERE](#). Alternatively, please contact the school office and we will try to help you get started.

Let's see if we can increase the sign up rate for Parents' Portal so that as many of our families are using it as possible!

FOODBANK FRIDAY

Foodbank Friday normally takes place on the last Friday of the month. However, this month, we will be on our September Weekend. We therefore invite you to send in some goods on **Thursday 23rd September 2021**. We are happy to collect:



- Super noodles
- Tinned custard
- Soup
- Long life milk
- Savoury rice
- Pasta sauce & pasta
- Tinned potatoes & veg
- Biscuits
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned fish or meat
- Soap powder
- Cleaning products
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Hygiene products
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste



NON UNIFORM DAY

Thursday 23rd September will be a non uniform day as we approach the September Weekend.

Children can wear their choice of clothing, but no Football colours should be worn (in line with North Lanarkshire Policy).

We ask that each child pays £1 to participate and this money will be put to school funds to subsidise activities and treats for the children throughout the school year.

There is no pressure to pay! If you cannot afford this, or if you have multiple children at the school, feel free to pay a small donation. We have systems in place so that no child feels pressured in any way.





St. John Paul II

Parent Council

GET INVOLVED!

Our Parent Council are looking forward to their first meeting and they are keen to invite new members to attend!

All Parents/Carers are part of what is known as **The Parent Forum** - which essentially means that you have a child or children at our school.

Any member of the Parent Forum can attend Parent Council Meetings. The commitment is minimal and it won't take up too much of your time. However, it is a great way to be involved in our school community.

The first Virtual Meeting will take place on:

Tuesday 4th October 2021 at 7pm

A link to join the meeting will be sent to all Parents/Carers via email. Please make sure that we have an up to date email address for you on our records. If you are unsure, please contact the school.

For the time being, meetings will take place on **Webex** which is the Council's preferred meeting platform.

ATTENDANCE, LATE ARRIVAL & EARLY COLLECTION

The school day is already operating out-with normal circumstances with staggered start and finish times, plus staggered intervals and lunchtimes. I am noticing that quite a few children are either arriving late or being picked up before their official time. We have a number of children who are collected way before the end of the school day. This is acceptable on the odd occasion, but not on a regular basis. This is very disruptive to a child's learning and we often have numerous children called to the office over the tannoy system, which is disruptive for all classes! I would ask that children are only collected early from school if there is a genuine reason, for example, a medical appointment. Where possible, appointments should be made out-with the school day.

Children should be arriving at school for either 8:50am or 9:05am. Please try to ensure that your child is on time every day.

With isolation becoming a regular occurrence, on top of all of the disruption to education in the last year or so, attendance at school is even more important if we are to ensure that children are back on track with their learning.

If you are worried about attendance or if there is a problem that I can help with so that your child maximises their time in school, then please do not hesitate to call me.



School success starts
with attendance

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME—WEDNESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2021

If you have not already done so, please send in the form which was due in some time ago so that your child can receive their Flu Vaccination on 10th November. If you have misplaced this, please let Mrs Cummings or Mr Johnston know and we can help sort things in time for the Nurses arriving.

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality

THE SCHOOL YEAR

2021/2022



September 2021

September weekend holidays: Friday 24 September 2021 and Monday 27 September 2021

October 2021

October break: Monday 11 to Friday 15 October 2021 (inclusive)

November 2021

In-service day: Monday 15 November 2021

December 2021 - January 2022

Christmas and New Year holidays: Thursday 23 December 2021 to Friday 7 January (Inclusive)

Schools close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021

February 2022

Mid-term break: Monday 14 February 2022 and Tuesday 15 February 2022

In-service day: Wednesday 16 February 2022

April 2022

Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022 (inclusive)

Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 1 April 2022

Good Friday 15 April 2022 and Easter Monday 18 April 2022

May 2022

May day holiday: Monday 2 May 2022

In-service day: Thursday 5 May 2022 (to coincide with Scottish Local Government Elections)

May weekend holiday: Friday 27 May 2022 and Monday 30 May

June 2022

Schools Close: Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 1.00pm

August 2022

Teachers return: Thursday 11 August 2022

Pupils return: Monday 15 August 2022

BEAT THE STREET is a fun, free initiative that will see North Lanarkshire transformed into a giant game!

See how far you can walk, cycle, run, scoot and wheel in just 6 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs.

The game will start on 15 September and end on 27 October 2021.

All children were issued with a fob or a card with their own ID number. You can register your child online and start collecting points each time you pass a box at various lampposts around the area. Individuals and schools are being offered prizes for the most miles covered!



dates
to
Remember

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

DATE:	EVENT:	ADDITIONAL INFO:
Thursday 23rd September	Non-uniform Day	£1 or a donation to participate
Friday 24th September	HOLIDAY	
Monday 27th September	HOLIDAY	
Friday 8th October	Fun Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details to follow • Last day of Term 1 • Interim Reports to Parents/Carer
11th—15th October	HOLIDAY WEEK	
Monday 18th October	Pupils Return	Term2 begins Breakfast Club open from 8:15am
Friday 22nd October	Feast of St. John Paul II	
Tuesday 26th October	Parent Council	Meeting will take place online. Link will be circulated to all parents/cares.
Friday 29th October	Halloween Activity Day	More details to follow.
Monday 1st November	Feast of All Saints	
Wednesday 10th November	Flu Vaccination Day	Please ensure the permission slip is returned ASAP. No permission... no Vaccine!
Monday 15th November	INSET DAY	Pupils should not attend.

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality