



NEWSLETTER

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

We entering December and we can certainly feel the season of winter making it's mark!

We are beginning to see small glimmers of normality returning to school life, however, we are by no means complacent! We are still following North Lanarkshire and Scottish Government guidelines, all of which are aimed at reducing the risk of spreading COVID within schools and nurseries. We await notification of any changes as a result of the recent concerns over the new variant.

Within this Newsletter, you will learn more about what is going on in our school. You will also see where restrictions and COVID rules are still limiting certain events and gatherings. Unfortunately, we simply have to adhere to these restrictions for the time being. However, as a school, we will be making efforts to include our families where we can, even if this is virtually (online).

Please do take some time to read over the contents of our Newsletter and ensure that you make a note of relevant dates and times as well as any other information which involves your child or you as a Parent/Carer.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support.
With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas
Head Teacher



THANK YOU FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council would like to thank those who supported their Halloween Raffle. Thanks to those who donated towards and prepared the Halloween Hampers, which the children loved!

The raffle raised approximately £400 which will be banked and put towards the wider fundraising efforts of the Parent Council.

As you all know, the Parent Council put all of their funds towards various events and initiatives which the children benefit from. We thank them for their continued support and efforts.

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

This year, our Halloween celebrations went very well! The children had a wonderful day and enjoyed the various activities planned by their Teachers. It was great to gather in the hall to celebrate with songs and poetry.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Our email addresses have changed (this happened during the Summer holidays). Please note the new enquiries email which can be used for general queries...

enquiries-at-st-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2021 *Celebrating and Worshipping*



Each year, Catholic Education week can be celebrated between the feast of St. Margaret (16th Nov.) and the feast of St. Andrew (30th Nov.) During this period, we are always given a theme to focus on and this year the theme is **'Celebrating and Worshipping'**. As a faith community, this theme is something which permeates the entire school year. We celebrate and worship every day through our regular prayer and liturgy. We have a calendar of events throughout the year to bring us together in celebration and worship. On the Feast of St. Andrew, we had a Day of Adoration. This was led by our Pope Francis Faith Award Children with every class spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the hall, which became our chapel for the day!

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL!

We welcome Mrs Bowman to our staff team. Mrs Bowman will be with us each Thursday and Friday as an Additional Support Needs Assistant. We hope that she feels very much part of our school community. She is already getting to know the children and staff.



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

I have heard from a number of sources that young people, from a variety of schools in the area, are causing a disturbance in the community and targeting homes by kicking doors and throwing eggs at windows and doors. I have also been informed of children throwing stones at cars and other vehicles. Whilst the incidents happen outside school hours, it is concerning to think that any pupil from St. John Paul II could be doing this.



You may remember that we had a few incidents of vandalism within school grounds last year. I co-operated with Mrs Ferrie at Tannochside Primary and this seemed to stop.

I have been in touch with the Safer Communities Team at Police Scotland and have invited them into school. This work will initially be aimed at our senior pupils. Obviously, the vast majority of our children are not involved in these issues, however it is a good thing for everyone to participate in. This means we have a clear message and a clear focus on anti-social behaviour in the hope that the message of community spirit and respect for others might encourage our young people to make good decisions.

I ask all parents/carers to consider whether their child might know something about this, or might even have participated in it. Please do what you can in support of the local community. Please report anything that occurs to the Police.

SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS

A growing number of children in P5, P6 and P7 do not have sufficient funds in their iPayment accounts to cover school lunches. In fact, too many owe a large amount of money in unpaid lunches. For some, this is well over £100. This amounts up to hundreds of pounds and the school does not have any funds available to write this off. We will contact Parents/Carers via Text to let them know if there is an outstanding balance. A school lunch costs £3.10 per day. If you are struggling to pay the amount back, please contact Mr Thomas so that we can support you. If your child was entitled to a Free School Meal in P4, please reapply for P5. You have to apply at the start of **every school year**. If you need any further advice, please do contact Mr Thomas.

Children are given a small slip and we make as little fuss as possible so as not to embarrass the children if they do not have sufficient funds. Again, please do contact Mr Thomas if this is a particular problem for you so that we know and can support.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2021 - 22



Reconciliation

Many thanks to those Parents/Carers who were able to come along to the Information Meetings on 22nd November. Some meetings were better attended than others. However, it was good to see so many making the effort to attend and start the preparation journey together. Thanks to Father Bogan and Father Morris for hosting the meetings in their respective churches.

As Parents/Carers of children who are taking the next step on their journey of faith formation, it is important that you play your part in the responsibility to support your child, which is shared by both the parish and the school.

PRIMARY 3 - RECONCILIATION:

Arrangements will be circulated to all families after Christmas. These arrangements will be different for both parishes, as discussed at the information meetings.

PRIMARY 4 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday 14th May at 12noon in St. Gabriel's
Sunday 15th May at 2pm in St. Gabriel's
Saturday 21st May at 12noon in St. Columba's



Communion

PRIMARY 7 - CONFIRMATION:

Bishop Toal will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 8th February at 7pm in St. Columba's and Wednesday 9th February in St. Gabriel's at 7pm.

FOR THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH:

Father Bogan requests that, if you were unable to make the relevant Information Meeting, you contact him directly to enrol your child. You can do so by speaking to him after one of the weekend Masses, or after the 10am weekday Mass. Alternatively you can call him.



Confirmation

One of the best possible ways to prepare for any of the Sacraments is for children to attend their parish Mass regularly. If you haven't managed along recently, perhaps now would be a great time to do so. You can always be assured of a warm welcome!

PURCHASE OF WORKBOOKS:

Children will be issued with Workbooks and there will be a small charge of £3 per workbook. You will be able to pay for this using your online account or you can send the money into school.

If you have any questions regarding any of the process or any of the actual celebrations, please do get in touch.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FOODBANK FRIDAY!

We have been overwhelmed by your support of the last three collections for our local Food Bank. As always, your generosity is appreciated by us, but it is more importantly appreciated by those who will make use of the Food Bank. It would be so good if we did not need a Food Bank, but it is a testimony to our community spirit that we can work together to support this wonderful cause!

We have been working closely with the ViewCare Project at Viewpark Parish Church on a number of their initiatives for the last few years. This has become a vital part of our support of the local community. We thank them for all that they do!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER APPEAL

We will be inviting the children to wear their Christmas Jumpers as part of their school uniform on a few occasions in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Jumpers can be an expense, especially if you have more than one child. Often, they are only worn a few times before a child grows out of them.

We are appealing for donations of Christmas Jumpers. Perhaps your child has one they no longer need? Perhaps you could donate to our appeal? Recycling jumpers cuts down on waste and helps others save money!



We are looking for Jumpers of varying sizes. You can send them into school from now and we will wash them and arrange for them to be distributed. Often, children forget

their own jumper, and so if we have a small stock, we can always ensure nobody is left out.

SMART SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year, we have signed up to be affiliated with the Smart School Council movement. This is an initiative which is designed to increase Pupil Voice in the school. It is designed to ensure that all children are encouraged to share their views and that children have a say in the ongoing improvement of the school.

Each week, the children will have a class meeting, which is led by a member of the Communication Team. Once decisions are made based on the opinions of the children, the Action Team will take forward suggestions and improvements the children have identified.

Each week, **The Big Debate** covers a different topic and children will be encouraged to debate these topics and issues. This may be in class, or it may be as part of their homework. So, be ready to take part!



IT'S GETTING COLDER OUT THERE!

This week the temperatures have taken a dip, especially in the morning. Even with the winter sun, parts of the

playground and pitch can be colder than others because of the shade, or because the area is exposed and has no shelter.

Please ensure your child has a warm jacket and perhaps a hat, scarf and gloves to wear. As you know, we are trying to ensure that the children are outdoors where possible. PE lessons are all outdoors (weather permitting). Sometimes the children get caught in the rain if a heavy downpour comes on and other times they are outside if it is only slightly wet. A waterproof would also be helpful.

If anyone is struggling to provide these garments, we can help by providing some. Please call Mr Thomas or email enquiries-at-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk - All requests will be confidential.

Please see the news item about the Thorniewood Community Council Winter Coat Event.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

We are planning to have the School Photographer in school during the month of February (9th, 10th & 11th). As it has been some time since the children have had their school photograph taken, we will have a variety of class, family and individual photographs taken.

This is something which families can choose whether or not they wish to purchase. We look forward to welcoming Chris McIntyre Photography back to our school.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas Lunch will be served on **Thursday 16th December 2021**. A letter has been sent out to all Parents/Carers regarding this, as we need to order these in advance to allow the catering staff to order supplies. Please be prompt to send this back.

On 16th December, no other options will be available for the children to order, other than Christmas Lunch. If your child does not wish to have a Christmas Lunch, you should provide a Packed Lunch for them.

Please ensure that your child has enough money in their online account to pay for their lunch.

Children will be permitted to wear a Christmas Jumper as part of their school uniform on this day, or add something 'Christmassy' to their uniform should they wish.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

We are planning to have Christmas Parties for the children this year. These will be parties involving one stage (Nursery, P1, P2, etc.) each day.

On your child's day, the arrangements will be as follows:

- Children should attend in the morning (in school uniform) as normal.
- Children can go home at lunchtime to change for their party and have lunch.
- Those going home will be dismissed at 12:15pm through the main gate (no earlier). **All children should be collected by an adult.**
- **Children should return to school by 1:20pm. If they return earlier, they may need to play in the playground as there will be no supervision indoors unless it is raining.**
- Those not going home, will remain in school as normal and have their lunch. Staff will help children change for their party.

Please see the calendar at the back of this Newsletter for dates.

THORNEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Christmas Tree Decorations

The Thorniewood Community Council have asked us to support their community Christmas Tree again this year. The children will be making Christmas Decorations to hang on the tree, which they are in the process of doing. The tree will be in Market Place during the Christmas Season. Why not pop down to see it?

Winter Coat Event

The Community Council are holding a Winter Coat event, where local people are invited to collect a winter coat for children/adults they know may need one. Recycling pre-loved garments is becoming increasingly popular! They will be in the Miners' Welfare on the following dates:

Thursday 2nd December

Tuesday 7th December

Thursday 9th December

On each day, they will be open between 11am and 4pm. All you have to do is go along! Coats are FREE!

NORTH LANARKSHIRE FINANCIAL INCLUSION TEAM

The Financial Inclusion Team exists to help families to **maximize** their income. They work with families to ensure that they are receiving everything they are entitled to and can very often bring new resources and finance to families. Sometimes, families are unaware of grants and benefits. Sometimes families are just about managing to make ends meet and a small boost to funds (where possible) can make all the difference. You do not need to be unemployed or even in dire straits to make use of this resource. Mr Thomas can refer families, or families can self refer. Please contact Mr Thomas if you would like further information or call the Financial Inclusion Team directly yourself:

01698 403170

HEADLICE

I have been contacted recently regarding headlice in a couple of classes. I wanted to give you a reminder of what happens and what the NHS guidance is on treating headlice. ***Gone are the days where a routine letter informing Parents/Carers of a headlice outbreak is circulated.*** There are quite clear reasons for this, not least that we could be sending out regular letters and this may encourage routine treatment as a preventative measure. This does not stop your child getting headlice!

The NHS has produced a very good leaflet for Parents/Carers and I have added the link below. Please follow this in order to access the information.

[NHS Scotland -Headlice - Facts, Detection, Treatment](#)

BREAKFAST CLUB

Mrs Bradley has recently stepped down from her position as Breakfast Club Supervisor. Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Bradley for her many years of service to the Breakfast Club. She has been the person to welcome so many of our children who come early to school as part of the Breakfast Club and she has always strived to ensure that the children have an enjoyable and welcoming atmosphere to have breakfast in. She has done this with the care and wellbeing of our children at heart and it has been greatly appreciated by our staff team as well as, I am sure, many of our families who make such good use of the Breakfast Club. Mrs Bradley is still with us! She is still working in her main role as Classroom Assistant.

Until such times as we can find a replacement for Mrs Bradley (as if we could ever!) I will be supervising the Breakfast Club. This may mean that you see me a little less at the gate in the mornings, but I will do my best to be out there once the Breakfast Club has been dismissed.

If you are interested in making use of the Breakfast Club but are not sure what it entails...

The breakfast consists of cereal, milk and toast. This is free to pupils who are in Primary 1 to 4 and for pupils in Primary 5 to 7 who receive free school meals. For all other pupils the cost is £1 per day with a sliding scale for families of two at £1.50 per day and families of three at £1.80 per day.

Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am and service stops at 8:50am. Children can arrive at any time from 8:15am.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

15th - 19th November 2021

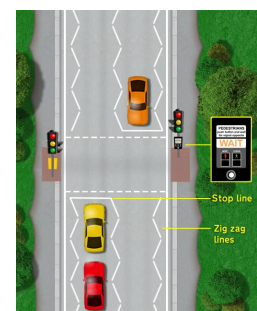
The children have been involved in lessons and activities for Anti-Bullying Week. This year, the theme is ***"One kind word."*** It explores the fact that, if we use one kind word, it can often lead to another, and another, and another! Each day, we encourage the children to be kind and respectful of themselves, others and property. Sometimes, as we know, children can find this difficult. It is important for us all... Parents/Carers and Teachers, to send out the right message, a united message about bullying and respect for other people. It is important that we teach our children that our words and our actions can be hurtful.



There are always more ways than one to fix a problem or mend a friendship!

PELICAN CROSSING - OLD EDINBURGH ROAD

Following the tragic death of a parishioner of St. Columba's who was knocked down by a car as she made her way to Mass, the parish and many of the community campaigned to have a Pelican Crossing installed. This has now been completed and should make it safer for everyone, especially our children, to cross the road. It is situated directly outside the church. Whilst there is still a lollipop crossing patrol at the beginning and end of the day, please do take some time to explain to the children how to use this. We will also mention this in school.



AN UPDATE FROM OUR NURSERY CLASS

The children and staff in our Nursery have been very busy! The children have been enjoying learning about Space, sharing what they have learned with staff and with each other.

The children and staff have developed a workbench and have been working with different tools and materials to design and create their own models. This is part of the schools priority to improve opportunities within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

The children are working with staff to develop a calm area within the Nursery and we are looking forward to seeing how this takes shape.

St. John Paul II



Nursery News

PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS

Parents' Consultations will be taking place on Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th November and Thursday 2nd December.

If you have not already made an appointment, please speak to a member of staff at the gate or contact the school office.

NURSERY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 3rd December: North Pole Breakfast
Thursday 9th December: Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 21st December: Christmas Party



ENROLMENT FOR PRIMARY ONE

As with last year, Parents/Carers wishing to enroll their child (having completed their Pre-school Year at Nursery) will be required to do so online.

Information will be emailed to Parents/Carers by North Lanarkshire Council and we will also email the relevant information to our current Parents/Carers.

Please note: As St. John Paul II is a Roman Catholic Primary School, Parents/Carers children who are Baptised Catholic should provide a Baptismal Certificate.

ENROLMENT FOR NURSERY

As with last year, Parents/Carers wishing to enroll their child for Nursery, will be required to do so online.

Information will be emailed to Parents/Carers by North Lanarkshire Council and we will also email the relevant information to our current Parents/Carers.

Please note: There are strict guidelines for the allocation of places in all NLC Nurseries and you should read over this information on the NLC website. Supporting documents should be supplied with the application.

IN BOTH CASES, YOU NEED TO SAVE YOUR FORM AND SEND IT BY EMAIL AS AN ATTACHMENT.

In quite a few cases, we are receiving blank forms.

The email address to send your form and supporting documents is...

enquiries-at-st-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk

Some reminders as we continue our efforts to keep our school COVID-19 safe

Things are changing/easing in many settings (restaurants/pubs/theatres, etc.) but for schools, many of the restrictions are still in place. We need your help to keep children, staff and everyone as safe as possible.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

THE ONE WAY SYSTEM IS NO LONGER IN OPERATION

We ask you to ensure you give others space around the school gates by keeping them clear. Encourage the children to exit via the safest gate with less roads to cross.

OUR ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL ARRANGEMENTS:

School will now start for ALL CHILDREN at 9am. The gates will be open and children can enter the playground (no supervision before 8:45am). The mornings are generally more quiet as people arrive at different times. Children are invited inside at 8:50am. **From Monday 6th December at the end of the school day:**

Children will continue to be dismissed at 2:50pm however, the second group of children will be dismissed at 3pm (instead of 3:05pm). We will continue to dismiss children from their current gate for the time being (Main/Pitch/Dining Hall). Please try to stay away until your allocated time, maintain a safe distance from others and vacate the car park ASAP. ***The car park may be busier at the end of the day, so please consider parking elsewhere.***

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER HOUSEHOLDS WHEN DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

One Adult only (per family) should be within the school grounds.



PARK AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL

Our Car Parks and Laburnum Road are dangerously busy, especially at the end of the day.

Please keep the Bus Bay clear, so that the children can safely board and this bus is not blocked in!

DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT



Bring and wear a face covering unless you have a good reason not to

WEAR A FACE COVERING AT DROP OFF/COLLECTION TIMES PLEASE WEAR THESE ON PAVEMENTS AROUND AND WITHIN THE SCHOOL/GATES
Any member of the public entering our building MUST wear a face covering.

If we continue to work together, we can ensure that our school does not contribute to the spread of COVID-19



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DATE:	EVENT:	ADDITIONAL INFO:
Thursday 2nd December	Flu Immunisation Team in school	Sweep up session for those who missed the last session
Thursday 9th December	P7 Christmas Party	Children can be collected at 12:15pm.
Friday 10th December	National Christmas Jumper Day	Children can wear a Christmas Jumper as part of their uniform or add something Christmassy. This is NOT a non uniform day.
Monday 13th December	P2 & P3 Virtual Panto P6 Christmas Party	9:30am in the Assembly Hall Children can be collected at 12:15pm.
Tuesday 14th December	P6 & P7 Virtual Panto P5 Christmas Party	10am in the Assembly Hall Children can be collected at 12:15pm.
Wednesday 15th December	P4 & P5 Virtual Panto P4 Christmas Party	10am in the Assembly Hall Children can be collected at 12:15pm.
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Lunch	No other choices available in the menu today. Packed lunches can be brought to school. Children can wear a Christmas Jumper as part of their uniform or add something Christmassy. This is NOT a non uniform day.
Friday 17th December	Nursery & P1 Virtual Panto P3 Christmas Party	9:30am in the Assembly Hall Children can be collected at 12:15pm.
Monday 20th December	P2 Christmas Party	Children can be collected at 12:15pm
Tuesday 21st December	P1 Christmas Party	Children can be collected at 12:15pm
Wednesday 22nd December	Last Day of Term	School closes at 2:30pm. Please note the early finish time. Children can wear a Christmas Jumper as part of their uniform or add something Christmassy. This is NOT a non
Monday 10th January	School Returns	Breakfast Club from 8:15am Schools starts at 9am for all children. Children can enter



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas



Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality