



NEWSLETTER

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

A very Happy New Year to everyone!

I am writing to you towards the end of what I hope was a good holiday for everyone. I hope that you all managed to celebrate Christmas in a fitting way, but I realise that many in our school community did have to isolate throughout that period. I hope that this finds you safe and well as we begin the new term.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the children back at school. However, I am aware that the recent changes to testing and isolation rules will be confusing for everyone. They are complicated and I myself regularly feel the need to read them over again to ensure I am understanding them.

I took part in a virtual meeting today (Friday 7th) with our Executive Director and around 90 other Head Teachers. There was a second meeting for the others this afternoon. This was so that we could ensure we are planning for Monday morning and what lies ahead.

The coming weeks are going to be a challenge for everyone - staff, children and parents/carers alike. There will be anxiety around what may or may not happen. As long as we work together, we will continue to get through this current spike in cases the way we have in the past. And so, I am writing to you to appeal to everyone to do the following:

- ◆ Ensure that you are aware of the national rules on Testing and Isolation
- ◆ Ensure that you are aware of the NLC rules around schools and early learning establishments
- ◆ Ensure that you are aware of the ongoing school mitigations that are in place
- ◆ **Ensure that you stick to these** and do your bit to keep our school open and everyone in it safe, even if that is a challenge or inconvenient
- ◆ Ask for support if you need it. We are always available to explain the above rules and mitigations - please call for clarification if needed
- ◆ Be patient with school staff. This is difficult and worrying time for them too and they are only doing their jobs

In the midst of all of this uncertainty, there is one constant and that is our commitment to the children and their learning and development. We look forward to a successful term ahead and a year which will gradually see a return to better and more settled times!

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher

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

It is VITAL that everyone co-operates and follows our school arrangements. Please, please, PLEASE do not ignore them. If you know you have relaxed in certain areas, get back on board and stick to the rules!

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 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.

At the end of the school day:

Children will continue to be dismissed at 2:50pm and 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, wear a face covering 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!



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.***

DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT OR MASK!

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

FURTHER SCHOOL MITIGATIONS CONTINUE/ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- ◆ **No large gatherings** - We will return to having our assemblies virtually and the children will be in their class bases. We will not be gathering the children in large groups in the hall, etc.
- ◆ **Outdoor PE will continue** - obviously, if the weather is severely inclement, we will try to make alternative arrangements! However, please send your child to school prepared for outdoor PE.
- ◆ **Handwashing/sanitizing** - this is now just simply part of our daily routine and, even if COVID disappeared, we would continue with this good hygiene!
- ◆ **Seating plans** - we have these in place already and will continue to use them. This allows us to identify anyone who is a close contact, etc.
- ◆ **Staggered Lunches** - we will be looking at the viability of reintroducing this, so that we can know who sits next to who. It may not be that we return fully to this, but we will keep you updated and we will risk assess on an ongoing basis.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE SCHOOL COVID UPDATE

NLC have updated their schools guidance on the website. At first, you may think this is only directed at Secondary Pupils, but a lot of it applies to all children. Please take a little time to look through the information and if you have any questions, please contact us.

You can access this information by clicking [HERE](#).



FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR P5

The free school meal initiative has been extended to include all children in P5. This means that children from P1—P5 are all now entitled to a free school meal from Monday 10th January 2022.

I would encourage you to take advantage of this new provision! It is a great thing and will save families some valuable money.

If your child uses the Tuck Shop - you will need to put money into their online account to ensure they have sufficient funds. Funds for lunch are added to the account after interval and removed after lunch if they are not used to buy a lunch that day.

ENROLMENT FOR P1 AND NURSERY

Many of you have already sent in your Enrolment forms for P1 children who are eligible to start in August 2022. If you have not, please do not worry! You have until 22nd January to complete the forms and send in your documents.

Please click [HERE](#) to go to our school website and access information about how to do this, or go to [Primary school registration \(P1\) | North Lanarkshire Council](#) to complete the process.

TO ENROL FOR NURSERY, please see the page following this one. The deadline for this is 11th February 2022. Please note that the enrolment for Nursery is completely different to enrolment for school. Spaces are allocated on a category basis and if there are insufficient spaces, a ballot is carried out.

IN BOTH CASES— Please make sure you save your form before completing it and ensure the form you send has all of the information saved on it. Contact us if you need support!



**NORTH
LANARKSHIRE**

Parents/carers of 3 to 5yr olds *apply now*
for early learning and childcare
2022/23 session entry

All 3 to 5 year old children are eligible to receive 1140 hours of early learning and childcare per year.
Applications are now open.
Download your application pack from our website.

DEADLINE
11 FEB 2022

northlanarkshire.gov.uk/elc

LEARN HERE

December 2021 - January 2022

Schools close: 2.30pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021

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

February 2022

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

In-service day: Wednesday 16 February 2022

April 2022

Schools close: Friday 1 April 2022 at 2.30pm

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

Good Friday 15 April 2022

Easter Monday 18 April 2022

Schools return: Tuesday 19 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 (One day has been moved due to Queens

Jubilee celebrations

June 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations: Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June

Schools close: Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 1pm

August 2022

Teachers return and in-service day: Monday 15 August 2022

In-service day: Tuesday 16 August 2022

Pupils return: Wednesday 17 August 2022



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality