



NEWSLETTER

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

February is upon us already and we are approaching the mid term break. ***Children should not attend school on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th February.***

As you know, there has been a recent easing of restrictions due to an improving picture with COVID-19. However, schools are still classed as a 'unique' setting and so, whilst there has been **some** easing of restrictions in our schools, we are still following the strict guidance issued to us by the Scottish Government. Of course, this is all in a bid to keep numbers low and to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

In recent weeks, we have had a few cases within the school. In this Newsletter, I will explain once again what the procedure is if we are concerned about the number of children isolating in any one class.

I do want to thank everyone for doing their bit to support us and I wish to thank our staff team in particular. We have had many challenges to deal with since the start of the Pandemic, but the last few weeks have been difficult due to staffing issues. Everyone has pulled together to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible to Learning and Teaching.

I also want to thank the children! They have continued to take everything in their stride and we are very proud of them.

I am continually aware that, as Parents and Carers, you are missing the closer connection with our school which is achieved by being able to attend various events throughout the school year. This is something that our children and staff are missing too. I know that we all look forward to welcoming you over the threshold once more, when restrictions are eased further and this is permitted.

Our own COVID Mitigations which are linked to the Scottish Government Guidelines are still in place

In the meantime, please do get in touch if you need anything.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas
Head Teacher



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

OUR ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL ARRANGEMENTS:

School starts 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.

We will continue to dismiss children from their current gate for the time being (Main/Pitch/Dining Hall).

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IN MY CHILD'S CLASS TESTS POSITIVE?

We are no longer asked by Public Health to isolate large groups or whole classes. If there is a concern about a rise in numbers in a class (a cluster of cases), Parents/Carers will receive a standard letter issued by NHS Lanarkshire. This will not instruct children to isolate, unless they have symptoms. The advice is that children should take daily Lateral Flow Tests (these can be collected from the school). As long as there are no symptoms or positive test results, children can continue to attend school.

You will only be contacted by Test & Protect if your child is considered a Close Contact but this will usually not apply to school contacts.

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



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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI

Many of our Primary 7 children will be making their Confirmation this week. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell, who will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is always a special occasion to welcome our Bishop to our Parishes and, in particular for this special Sacrament. We pray that the children who are being Confirmed are filled with the joy and gifts of the Holy Spirit!



Separate information has been circulated to the families involved. This is different, depending on which parish you are a member of.

MUD IN THE PLAYGROUND

We have been experiencing a high volume of mud in the playground recently. This is obviously due to the amount of wet weather we have had.

We remind the children daily to try and stay off the grass, but lots of them find this a very hard thing to do! This is understandable, because it is their playground. However, please do chat to your child and encourage them to try and stay off the grass verges around the playgrounds and also the grassy area.

The grass areas do not get a chance to dry out before the next wet period these days and so they are continually muddy.

We are aware that, in nursery, the children are out a lot and mud is part of the curriculum... but they are also provided with the appropriate outdoor garments!



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. This also includes free access to the Breakfast Club.

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.

P6 & P7

The plan is that Free School Meals will be available to P6 and P7 children from August. More information will be issued regarding this in due course.

ENROLMENT FOR P1—IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO ENROL!

If you have not already sent in your enrolment form and your child is due to start P1 in August, please contact the school office and we can help you with this. Forms should be submitted online and emailed to enquiries-at-st-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk along with the appropriate identification documents.

ENROLMENT FOR NURSERY

The deadline for enrolment has now passed and any new applications will be classed as a late application, in line with North Lanarkshire's policy. Again, if you need any further support with this, please get in touch with us.

As you know, children are put into a category based on their application and there is a schedule for offering places to children according to their category. Once we are instructed to do so, we will be in touch with families to let them know the outcome of their application.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do get in touch,

P7 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Our Primary 7 pupils have already started their transition work with the majority of them transferring to Cardinal Newman. Children in P7 will attend Cardinal Newman on Friday 18th February. A bus will take the children to and from CNHS and they will return in time for the end of the school day. The children will also attend CNHS on the following Friday, 25th February

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council met recently and discussed various items. Obviously, there is a limit to the Parent Council activities just now, due to the restrictions we have in place. They are keen to set up their calendar of events for the children to participate in, but we need to wait until we have permission to hold these events.

In the meantime, the Parent Council are discussing new fundraising initiatives. Any funds that they raise are always donated to the school. They cover various things such as the P7 Graduation as well as subsidising other school activities.

The next meeting of the Parent Council is on **17th May 2022**, which will be the Annual General Meeting.

Sincere apologies to those who struggled to get the link to work for our last meeting. We will try to ensure full access for everyone next time. Technical hitches are something we are all becoming more used to during Virtual Meetings!

SPONSORED DANCE-A-THON

Friday 4th March 2022

We traditionally hold some fundraising events throughout the school year, including our annual sponsored event.

Children will take part in this event throughout the day.

Sponsor forms will be issued and money should be brought to school on the day - or a donation can be paid into the Sponsored Dance-a-thon using the online payment system.

This year, we will share what we raise with the Parent Council, since they have not been able to hold their discos.

Children can dress down on this day (no charge) and they do not need to wear uniform.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

The last two years have been extremely disruptive for all of our children. Lockdowns, isolation periods plus other general absences will all have an impact on our children and their learning. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our children are on track. It is very important that children attend school daily and on time (as long as they are well enough!) The target for every child in North Lanarkshire is 95% attendance. We currently have a large number of children who are below 90%, with many even lower than that.

We all have a responsibility to make sure that children are at school and that they arrive on time. Parents/Carers have a responsibility to inform the school if their child is absent, so that we can update the register. Please make sure you contact us to report an absence. ***Did you know that you can report an absence using Parent Portal?*** This is an easy way to do it and it means you do not need to wait until there is someone available to answer the phone.

If you are worried about your child's attendance, please call and speak to a member of school staff. Let's work together to maximise every child's time at school to give them the best chance of a recovery from the Pandemic. I will be contacting Parents/Carers where attendance is a particular concern in the next week or two so that we can work out a way forward.



FAREWELL TO MR HALL

Mr Hall has been one of our Janitors since the school opened in 2006. He was also the Janitor at the former St. Columba's Primary School for a period. Mr Hall has decided to retire and his last day with us will be Friday 11th March.

Mr Hall has been a valued member of our staff team for such a long time. He quietly goes about his job, often going the extra mile to support staff and pupils alike. He is so much more to us than a Janitor... he is a friend, a colleague, a support and he is one of life's true gentlemen! We will miss him very much. Mr Hall has well and truly earned his retirement. He leaves us with our very best wishes for his future health, happiness and adventures. We hope that he takes away special memories of his time with us and we keep Mr Hall and his family in our prayers.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

I continue to encourage the wearing of full school uniform every day apart from PE days. As you all know, we encourage the children to wear their shirt and tie to school. When everyone wears their uniform, it means that nobody stands out for what they are wearing.

I remind you that PE Kit should not resemble something from the Paris Catwalk! It should be appropriate for both indoor and outdoor activities.

LOST PROPERTY

We have so many garments and items of property which have been left behind in school. We do try to locate the owners of items, especially if there is a name on it. However, so many of the items do not have a name on them.

Please label ALL of your child's belongings!

Your stuff misses YOU too.



FOOD BANK FRIDAY RESUMES!

We will have our first Food Bank Friday on **Friday 25th February 2022**. You can donate any of the items below. You can also donate outwith the last Friday of the month if you wish! Whilst it would be so much better if we did not need Food Banks to exist, it is good for us to share what we have with others. Thank you for your generosity!

FOODBANK FRIDAY

Suggested items for donating to our local foodbank.

- Cereal / porridge
- Soup (tins/packet)
- Beans/ Spaghetti hoops
- Tinned meats
- Tinned Fish
- Pasta/rice/noodles
- Tinned fruit
- Rice pudding
- Biscuits
- Jam/chocolate spread
- Tea bags/ Coffee
- Sugar
- UHT Milk
- Diluting Juice
- Basic Toiletries (toothpaste/toothbrush/deodorant)
- Cleaning Products



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER VISITS

The photographer will be in school on the following days. Please see below for details of which day individual photographs are being taken and for details of when sibling groups are being taken. On the allocated day, your child should wear full school uniform. Alternative arrangements for PE days will be made if there is a clash, with the exception of P7. P7 have PE on a Thursday with Cardinal Newman High School and this will take place as normal.

Wednesday 9th February 2022

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS -

- P1A - Miss Byrne
- P1B - Mrs Moodycliffe
- P1C/2A - Mrs McDonnell
- P2B - Mrs McKay
- P2C - Mrs Mulgrew
- P3A - Mrs McDade
- P7A - Mr McCann/Mrs MacFadyen
- P7B - Miss Agnew
- P7C - Miss Williamson

Thursday 10th February 2022

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS -

- P3B - Miss McCardie,
- P4A - Mrs McLaughlin,
- P4B - Mrs Reeves
- P5A - Miss Millar
- P5B - Mrs Dickson
- P6A - Mr Cooney
- P6B - Mr McLaughlin



SIBLING GROUPS (P1-P6 SCHOOL ONLY, EXCLUDING P7 AND EXCLUDING ANY CHILD WITH A SIBLING IN THE NURSERY). **P7 are not included in this, as they have PE with Cardinal Newman High School - see Friday 11th for P7.**

Friday 11th February 2022

SIBLING GROUPS (Any P1-7 with a sibling in school and/or in our Nursery Class or Laburnum Family Learning Centre)

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS - St John Paul II Nursery Class

Please note: Children will be given a card with an access code for you to view your child's photographs. This will be sent home with them on the day they have their photographs taken.

Dates for your diary



Date:	Event:	Information:
Monday 14th February	HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 15th February	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 16th February	INSET	
Friday 18th February	P7 Visit to CNHS	
Friday 25th February	P7 Visit to CNHS	
Friday 25th February	Food Bank Friday	All donations gratefully received
Wednesday 2nd March	Ash Wednesday	Details TBC.
Friday 4th March	Sponsored Dance-a-thon	
Friday 1st April	End of Term—Easter Holiday	School closes at 2:30pm
Tuesday 19th April	School reopens	8:15am for Breakfast Club
Monday 2nd May	May Day Holiday	
Thursday 5th May	INSET Day	This coincides with the Scottish Elections
Friday 27th May	HOLIDAY	
Thursday 2nd June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee HOLIDAY	
Friday 3rd June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee HOLIDAY	

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



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality