



NEWSLETTER

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

We are well into the month of May and it is certainly a good feeling to have things gradually returning to a more normal flow. With normality, comes a busy few weeks ahead! Within this Newsletter, you will find everything you need to keep you informed of what is happening within our school community.

As you know, COVID restrictions have been lifted. However, we are still proceeding with caution! We are all encouraged to have some **COVID Sense**. There is some further information about this within this Newsletter. I continue to ask for your support and I ask you to remain vigilant so as to keep our school COVID-free.

We are planning a variety of trips this term; one for each primary stage. You may remember that I asked for volunteers recently. There was one issue with Question 5 in the form, but I have solved this problem now. Please click [HERE](#) to complete the form if you have not already done so. We are excited to be inviting Parents and Carers to volunteer again. There will further opportunities to volunteer soon.

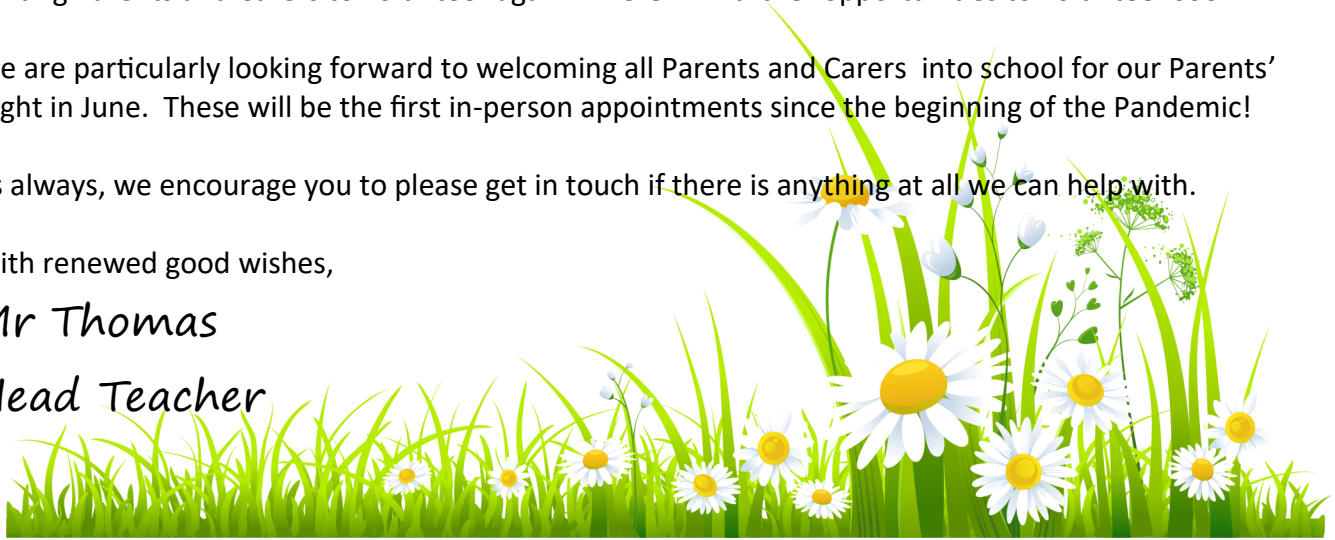
We are particularly looking forward to welcoming all Parents and Carers into school for our Parents' Night in June. These will be the first in-person appointments since the beginning of the Pandemic!

As always, we encourage you to please get in touch if there is anything at all we can help with.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



St. John Paul II

Parent Council

**GET
INVOLVED!**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 24th May 2022 at 6pm

In St. John Paul II Primary School

Please join us for the first **in person** meeting of our Parent Council since the beginning of the Pandemic.

ALL OF OUR PARENTS/CARERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Please join us!



The guidance has changed for COVID and school - PLEASE READ!

GUIDANCE FOR WHEN YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL

Pupils who develop covid like symptoms, such as those listed below, and are not feeling well should remain at home until they feel better. If pupils have these symptoms but are feeling well and **do not have a fever** they can attend school. We can only offer guidance as there is no longer a legal requirement to stay at home and self-isolate. However, we would appeal for your support so that illness is not spread from person to person. Essentially, we have returned to the 'common sense approach' Parents and Carers would exercise before COVID.

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that's unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick



ADULTS WHO HAVE SYMPTOMS ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO COME TO THE SCHOOL EITHER.

CLASSROOM VENTILATION

Our Learning & Teaching spaces, including our halls, continue to be well ventilated and Class Teachers use CO2 monitors to monitor air quality in these spaces.

Ventilation is one of the best tools we have at our disposal!

ONGOING HAND HYGIENE

We continue to ensure that the children wash or sanitise their hands on an ongoing basis. Our staff do this also. If you are visiting the school for any reason, we encourage you to sanitise your hands on arrival.



CHARITY DONATION

Thanks to the generosity of our families on recent fundraising days, we were able to make a donation of **£1000** to SCiAF and their efforts in Ukraine. This is a phenomenal amount to have raised and donated. We welcomed Siobhan from SCiAF at a recent assembly and she told us all about the work of SCiAF and how our donation will be used. Sincere thanks to everyone who donated in any way!

SCiAF
Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

NEW LUNCH MENUS

As you will know, the new Menus have been published by North Lanarkshire Council. I remind you that all P1 - P5 children are entitled to free Breakfast Club and free Lunch. As always, we have had some teething difficulties with the menu, but these will sort themselves out in due course. You can view the menus (there is a 3 week cycle) by clicking [HERE](#). If your child is in P6 or 7, a school lunch will cost £3.10. However, the plan is for this to be free for ALL children by the start of the new school year.

If your child uses the tuck shop or pays for their lunch, you must top up their account online!

SCHOOL TRIP PLANNING

We have been working hard to plan trips which will take place during the months of May and June. We have been unable to plan trips for the last two years. We are finding that there is great demand for bookings at lots of the venues we are approaching. We are also finding that the cost of entry and the cost of bus hire has increased due to the fuel prices, etc. **Please be assured** that we will subsidise these trips as much as possible from school funds. You can pay up the amount online in installments if this helps you.

If you require financial support with the cost of trips

please do get in touch with Mr Thomas directly by phone or by email on nlthomask@northlan.org.uk and every effort will be made to support.

Letters will be issued in due course to give you all of the information you need regarding your child's trip.

PLEASE REMEMBER that we are looking volunteers to support with Trip Supervision. Click [HERE](#) to register as a volunteer!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all of the children who received the Lord in Holy Communion on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May in St Gabriel's Church.

Children from St. Columba's Parish will receive the Blessed Eucharist for the first time on Saturday 21st May and we offer them congratulations also!

The children have been very well prepared by their Class Teachers and at home. Our thanks go to all of those involved. A large number of our staff played their part in the preparation process.

We continue to keep these children in our prayers and we hope that this first encounter will be the first of many in the future.

Children from St. Gabriel's Parish can collect their candle when they next attend Mass in St. Gabriel's.

All of the children will, of course, be able to fully take part in Mass on Ascension Thursday and receive Holy Communion as part of our school community!



LOST PROPERTY

As you know, I put out an appeal recently to draw your attention to the huge amount of unclaimed and unnamed property we have in school.

This was placed outside the school last week and we will do so again so that you might be able to reclaim what belongs to your child!

Anything that is left will be offered to others who can make good use of it.

This item belongs to:

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS!

The sheer volume of items with no name is tragic!

Label everything - jackets, bags, packed lunch boxes, uniform, PE kits... especially if it holds any value!

Anything which had a name on it has been returned to its rightful owner. However, we continue to encourage the children to look after their own property.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

This Feast Day takes place on Thursday 26th May 2022. We will be attending Mass at 11am in St. Columba's and Father Bogan will celebrate this Mass for us. It is wonderful to be back in the church!

Since the renovation of the church, there is less seating in the main body. We are therefore unsure how much space there will be for Parents/Carers and the wider community. We therefore plan to have this Mass for school children and staff only. Once we have a better idea of the space available, we can open this up to the wider community.

Pre-COVID, the arrangements were for a separate school Mass in St. Columba's anyway, with some other Masses being celebrated in school.

We will keep you informed if this arrangement changes before next Thursday.

PLEASE SUPPORT US AND SEND YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

The only day that children should not wear school uniform is on their PE Day. I have kept the arrangement that children come to school dressed for PE to save them having to change in the changing rooms. I will consult with parents/carers, children and staff when deciding on a way forward.

The current arrangements certainly save time at the beginning and end of the PE lesson, especially within the infant classes!

OUR UNIFORM CAN BE AS BASIC AS: Blue shirt, school tie, black trousers/skirt/pinafore and black shoes. It is entirely up to parents and carers as to whether you buy branded garments with the school badge on them. **Hoodies** are not part of school uniform – these are reserved for P7 child as a leavers' privilege only.

A REMINDER OF SOME DON'TS... Please do not send your child to school with make-up and false nails. The nails especially are a hazard in PE, the playground and other activities.

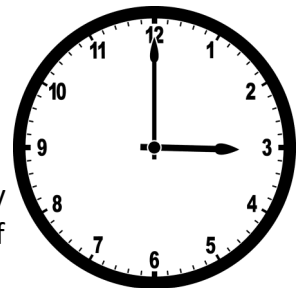
EAR-RINGS should be simple studs. No hoops or other dangling earrings should be worn. No earrings should be worn on PE days at all.



LOTS OF OUR CHILDREN ARE COLLECTED EARLY AND IT IS BECOMING A PROBLEM!

I would ask that you only collect your child before the 3pm finish if it is absolutely necessary. In recent months, I have been aware of the school tannoy system calling out for multiple children to come to the office early.

I understand that, from time to time, this will be necessary. However, for the last 20 minutes of the day, the tannoy system can be non-stop! This is extremely intrusive and disruptive for the children and staff in their classes. The last part of the day is not simply a time to down tools. The children review their day with their teacher and the teacher often prepares them for the next day and ensures that homework is understood.



PLEASE - only collect your child if they have an appointment. Otherwise, please come to collect your child from the appropriate area at 3pm. **Thank you for your support with this!**

PRIMARY 7 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

We have been working closely with the staff of Cardinal Newman High School for some months now. This has involved Class Teachers meeting with Mrs Murray and Miss Morrison regarding classes and giving them as much information as possible to support our children in their transition.

TWO DAY VISIT TO CARDINAL NEWMAN: TUESDAY 24th & WEDNESDAY 25th MAY

Letters from Mrs Murray have previously been issued to all families. I have copied the information from the letter below.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR THESE VISITS AND CHILDREN SHOULD MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS.

Tuesday 24 May

Pupils should arrive at Cardinal Newman High School, main entrance by 9.10am in their full primary school uniform. They will find details of the classes on the wall as they enter the school and staff and their pupil guides will meet them as they arrive.

After a brief introduction in the theatre pupils will follow their timetables for the day.

Pupils should bring a snack for break time; lunch will be provided free of charge for all pupils although if they would prefer to bring a packed lunch that will be fine. Pupils must not leave the school grounds at any point during the school day including lunchtime.

The school day will end at 3.30pm and pupils will be dismissed from the main theatre.

Pupils will spend their break and lunchtimes outside so please ensure they have an appropriate jacket.

Tuesday 24 May – Evening Social Event

On the Tuesday evening there will be a disco in school for all P7 pupils. Pupils will be able to mix with one another and with staff in an informal setting. The evening will start at 7pm and end at 9pm. Pupils should come casually dressed and parents/carers should make appropriate arrangements for drop off and pick up. There will be a small tuck shop available and pupils may wish to bring a small amount of money.

Wednesday 25 May

Pupils should arrive at Cardinal Newman High school, main entrance by 9.10am in their PE kit. This should be what they would normally wear for PE at primary school, no football colours, crop tops etc. They will follow their timetable and this will include a sports afternoon with the PE department. Please ensure that they have an appropriate jacket in case of inclement weather.

Pupils should bring a snack for break time; lunch will be provided free of charge for all pupils although if they would prefer to bring a packed lunch that will be fine. Pupils must not leave the school grounds at any point during the school day including lunchtime.

The school day will end at 3.30pm and pupils will be dismissed from the main theatre.

P7 pupils will spend their break and lunchtimes outside so please ensure they have an appropriate jacket.

Staff at Cardinal Newman are more than happy to answer your questions, if you have any!



PRIMARY 7 GRADUATION EVENTS

As mentioned in the letter I sent to all Primary 7 families, we are trying very hard to commemorate the Primary 7 Graduation in a number of different ways.

Please note that the official Primary 7 Graduation will take place on Monday 27th June 2022 at 6pm.

Invitations will be sent out to all families in the next week or two. We are hoping to be able to fit in as many people as possible, but will initially limit the numbers per family in order to ensure everyone has a fair number of seats.

LEAVERS' HOODIES

As with most things just now, we have been hit with a stock shortage of some of the colours of hoodies which were ordered. Mr Johnston has been on the case and hopefully everyone has managed to re-order if necessary. This was outwith our control.

CLASS OF 2022 YEARBOOK

The P7 Class Teachers are working with the children to put together a Yearbook of treasured memories. This is something which has been hugely popular since I started it a few years back. We will provide this free of charge!

P7 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

We have a high number of P7 children who attend school intermittently. Please work with us and ensure your child is in school every day and on time, so that they make the most of their last weeks.

Class of
2022



PARENTS NIGHT

This term, we will be holding our **in person Parents' Night on Thursday 16th June**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our Parents/Carers into the school. This will be the first large scale event since the beginning of the pandemic.

You will received details of how to book an appointment via Parent Portal. Please try to ensure that you have access to your account before the online booking opens. Please also make sure that your details are correct.

Through Parent Portal, you can carry out a number of tasks... Book Parents' Night, make payments, report and absence, change you contact details, give permission for something (trip/ club)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There has been a real buzz around the school since the new round of After School Clubs began. Literally hundreds of children are staying back at the end of the school day to participate in activities such as:

- ◆ Choir
- ◆ Netball
- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Homework
- ◆ Fun Fitness
- ◆ STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Maths)
- ◆ Football
- ◆ Learning Through Play



I am so proud of our staff! They have willingly offered their time in order to give the children such a wonderful range of experiences which are fun and challenging. What a wonderful sight to see after two years of the pandemic and no extra curricular clubs!

A MESSAGE FROM MR THOMAS TO OUR NURSERY...

As many of you begin the countdown to your children leaving us for Primary School, there is a busy few weeks ahead! The information included in this part of our Newsletter will ensure you are fully up to date and able to plan ahead for events.

As always, it is great to see and hear how the children are doing and how much they are thriving in their environment. I thank you all for your continued support and your recent generosity towards the fundraising for the Nursery. That was the best total we have ever had! The children will all benefit from these funds in the coming weeks.



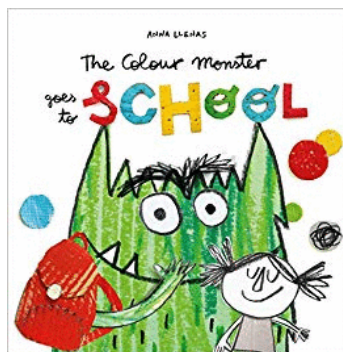
SPONSORED HEALTH WEEK

Our sponsored health week in April was a great success and all of the children had lots of fun. Microsoft Teams has been updated with lots of photographs and videos from the week. In total we raised a huge £1115! We truly appreciate all of your continued support. Staff are currently planning a summer fun day for the end of June with some of the money raised.

LEARNING CONTEXT

The children are currently enjoying watching our caterpillars grow, we are patiently waiting on them building their cocoons like The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Soon we will be moving onto our final learning context 'The Colour Monster goes to School'. This is to support our Nursery to School transitions.



SCHOOL BUDDIES

Our children who are preparing to go to school in August will begin meeting their buddies over the next week. Staff have been planning with the Primary 6 teachers to organise weekly visits to give the children the opportunity to build friendships with their buddy before starting school in August.

BETTER WEATHER

As the better weather is coming, we ask that on warm sunny days the children have sun lotion applied before attending nursery and children come to nursery with a sun hat, if possible. Sun lotion will be reapplied throughout the day when necessary.

TRANSITION TO PRIMARY 1

We have now begun our Nursery to School Transition for our children starting Primary School in August. The children have daily opportunities to visit the school and have been enjoying the opportunity to visit and work in a Primary 1 classroom. We began visits into the playground at playtime in March.

As part of our transition planning, children have been given the opportunity to bring a packed lunch on the last Friday over every month. On this day the children have the opportunity to bring a packed lunch or order a snack to go. The last date was: **Friday 20th May 2022** Please see the item in the Newsletter about School Lunches.

REPORTS & PARENT CONSULTATION

Staff are currently completing the children's end of term reports. These will be given out on Thursday 19th May.

We are excited to finally be able to offer in face Parents Consultations! These will be on Tuesday 31st May and like before 10 minutes will be allocated to each appointment. Please speak with the staff to arrange an appointment. If there are no appointments that suit staff will try to accommodate an appointment at another time. The children will have the opportunity to take their learning story home to share their learning.

GRADUATION & SUMMER PARTY

Our Summer Party will be on Friday 24th June. On this day we will have party games and a special visit from a magician for the children in the morning! We will also have a lunch time treat

Our nursery Graduation will be on Friday **24th June**, this will be after nursery hours. More information will be sent out to the children who will be Graduating this year.

Dates for your diary



Date:	Event:	Information:
Friday 20th May	P7 Entrepreneur Me Workshop	
Saturday 21st May	First Holy Communions	St. Columba's at 12noon
Tuesday 24th May	P7 Visit to CNHS	All day. See info in Newsletter.
Tuesday 24th May	P7 Disco at CNHS	
Tuesday 24th May	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the school Dinning Hall
Wednesday 25th May	P7 Visit to CNHS	All day. See info in Newsletter.
Thursday 26th May	Feast of the Ascension	Mass in St. Columba's—Children only
Friday 27th May	HOLIDAY	
Monday 30th May	P1 Visit to Summerlee	
Tuesday 31st May	P4 Trip to the Riverside Museum	
Tuesday 31st May	Nursery Parent Consultations	
Thursday 2nd June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee HOLIDAY	
Friday 3rd June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee HOLIDAY	
Monday 6th June	P3 Trip to Kelvingrove Gallery	
Tuesday 7th June	P5 Trip to Five Sisters Zoo	
Wednesday 8th June	P2 Trip to Clyde Valley	
Wednesday 8th June	P7 Football Tournament	St. Ambrose High School
Monday 13th - Friday 17th June	Health & Wellbeing Week	Children wear PE kit all week
Wednesday 15th June	P6 & 7 SCIAF Workshops	
Thursday 16th June	Parents' Night	Online Booking information to follow
Friday 15th June	Sports Day	Parents welcome for Afternoon Races.
Wednesday 29th June	End of Term	School closes at 1pm



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality