



NEWSLETTER

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

We are making our way into the month of December, which is hard to believe! Advent began on Sunday and our preparations are already underway for Christmas. For the first time in a few years, we are looking forward to welcoming our parents and carers and the wider community to participate in some of our Christmas events.

Mrs Martin and myself are in the process of carrying out 'Learning Visits' in every class and we are delighted to be doing this. It not only allows us to monitor the quality of Learning and Teaching within our school, but it give us an excellent opportunity to talk to the children about their learning experiences. We have loved our visits so far and are looking forward to further visits in the next week or so.

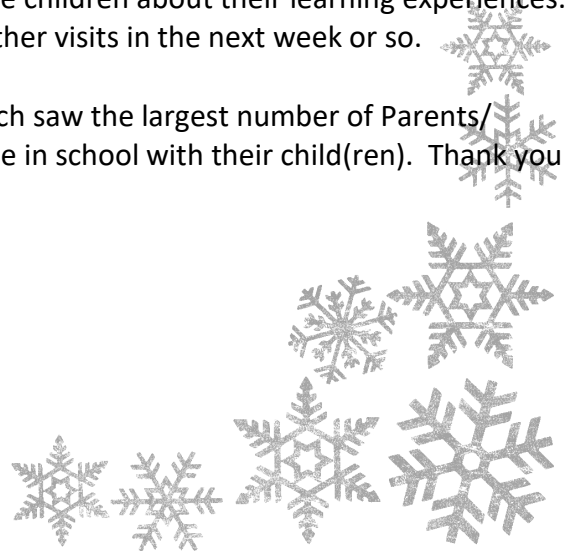
We had successful Parents as Partners events in October, which saw the largest number of Parents/Carers we have ever had coming along and enjoying some time in school with their child(ren). Thank you for supporting these events.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



THANK YOU TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

The children who attended our recent Halloween Discos seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. They were the best attended discos we have had (prior to COVID).

A lot of organisation went into preparing for the disco, both by our Parent Council and also Mrs Cummings and Mr Johnston. We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered their services and we offer our thanks on behalf of all of the children,

Thanks to you, our Parents and Carers for supporting this event and others into the future.

ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH - SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Columba's Parish the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) have asked that we share their contact details. They offer help (practical/financial/material) support to parishioners of St. Columba's. If you want to make contact with them, please call: 0774788888.

They also have a furniture project which will both take donations and offer support to those who need help with furnishing their homes.

They assure you of confidentiality and discretion. Please reach out to them if you need help.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2022 *Communion, Participation and Mission*



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 '**Communication, Participation and Mission**'. These three words are taken from the ongoing Synod which has been called by our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Pope Francis' reflection on the Opening of Synodal Path. The Holy Father said that: "Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone's life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry along or keep looking at his watch to get the meeting over. He was always at the service of the person he was with, listening to what he or she had to say."

Our school community is a witness to the Gospel in many ways:

- The liturgical and sacramental life of the school is part of our annual calendar. Not only this, we try to ensure that our children and school community experience the best liturgy - prayerful, joyful and uplifting .
- Our children put the Gospel Values at the heart of school life through our involvement in Laudato Si, Pope Francis Faith Award, Rights Respecting Schools and community outreach and involvement.
- Our school is a diverse and multicultural community. We celebrate this and embrace it, whilst placing our faith in Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do.



THORNEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We are supporting the Thorniewood Community Council and some of their initiatives.

Christmas Tree Decorations:

Each child will have the opportunity to make a Christmas Tree Decoration which will be hung at the community memorial garden this year.

Caring Cuppa & Winter Coat Exchange:

Their Caring Cuppa Community Cafe is now open every Wednesday from 12-3pm offering heat, chat, soup, snacks and more. They are operating this on a donate only if you can basis. It is held in the Tannochside Miners Welfare.

Along side this, they are also running their Winter Coat Initiative, whereby if there is a coat which you would like, you can take this free of charge.

Please do make use of these great initiatives which are being made available to all in our community.



St. John Paul II



Nursery News

NURSERY NEWS - *Message from Mr Thomas*

The Nursery continues to be a very busy place, with lots of learning and fun times to be had!

Please take a look at what has been happening in our Nursery Class. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd December 2022. It should be a wonderful occasion.

I have a feeling that we will have some excited children from that day forward...!

LEARNING CONTEXT

The children have been learning about the wider world of work and have had visits from an electrician, a flight attendant, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (from Bellshill Fire Station). One of the parents is also joining the Nursery to show the children how to sew.

It is never too early to introduce our children to this important part of life! It helps them to develop their knowledge as well as their own personal aspirations. Many thanks to everyone who has come to visit during the last couple of weeks. This has brought learning experiences to life for our children!

The children have also visited Tesco to learn about the various roles within the supermarket and these visits will also continue into the new year.



STAY AND PLAY SESSION

Our Stay and Play session was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. We plan to hold another session in the new year. Again, this is an excellent opportunity for parental involvement in a child's learning experiences and it is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know more about our Nursery and to build positive relationships between our staff and our families. Thank you to the staff for organising and hosting this and thank you to everyone who made it along to take part.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

We are so excited to invite our nursery families to our first Coffee Morning in such a long time! When we held our parent's group in September, some of the feedback we received was that parents would like to see the return of Coffee Mornings. This can be a lovely opportunity for you to meet other nursery parents/carers and bring your families along to be included in our nursery family!

The Coffee Morning will be on Friday 2nd December at 9am-10.20am in the School Dinner Hall. The children would like to sing some of their favourite Christmas Songs for you all and we will hold a raffle. Any donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated. If you would be interested in helping with the coffee morning, please speak with a staff member.



On the day of the coffee morning the children are invited to wear something 'Christmassy'. The children can arrive at nursery at the usual time of 8.40am and families will get access to the hall from 9am. Staff will bring the children through to the hall. This will be such a lovely opportunity for everyone to meet in a fun setting.

If you are able to attend it would be very helpful to staff to have a rough idea of how many people will be coming along to ensure we have catered for enough people.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2022 - 23



Reconciliation

Many thanks to those Parents/Carers who were able to come along to the Sacrament Meetings. Thanks to Father Bogan and Father Morris for hosting the meetings in their respective churches. ***If you did not make it along, and you wish your child to take part in any of the Sacrament, please do let us know. You should also inform the relevant Priest.***

Father Morris (St. Gabriel's) 01698 817609
Father Bogan (St. Columba's) 01698 813311

DATES FOR FIRST CONFESSION:

St. Gabriel's - Thursday 9th March 2023 in school for children only.
St. Columba's - date to be confirmed

DATES FOR CONFIRMATION:

St. Columba's - 28th February 2023 at 7pm
St. Gabriel's - 1st March 2023 at 7pm.



Communion

DATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

St. Columba's - Saturday 13th May at 11am
St. Gabriel's - Saturday 13th May at 1pm

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, especially during Advent and Christmas. 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 continue to be overwhelmed by your support of our 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 LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

Our Nursery will have their Christmas Lunch on Thursday 8th December. Children can wear something 'Christmassy' on this day,

The school Christmas Lunch will be served on **Thursday 15th 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 15th 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.

If your child is in P6 or P7 - 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.



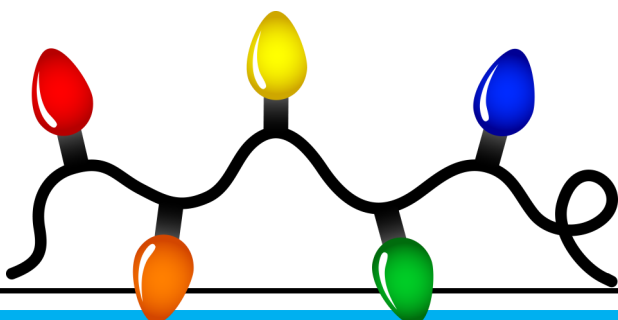
CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Here are the arrangements for Christmas Parties. Dates are included later in the newsletter.

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 for 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. **PLEASE - DO NOT COME EARLIER THAN 12:15PM TO AVOID DISRUPTION.**



NORTH LANARKSHIRE TACKLING POVERTY TEAM

The Tackling Poverty 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. More and more often, families are just about managing to make ends meet. 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:

Tel: 01698 403170

Email: TPTeam@northlan.gov.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of help.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

On **Tuesday 20th December** we will welcome Hopscotch Theatre Company to perform *Jack and the Beanstalk* in what we are sure will be a fantastic and magical performance! There is no charge for this event, however, if you would like to make a donation, it will be gratefully received. There is no obligation to donation anything at all.

The performance will begin at 9:30am, so please ensure your child arrives for 9am so that they are in time for registration and the start of the production.

Children can wear their Christmas Jumper as part of their uniform, or they can add something 'Christmassy' to their uniform instead.



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.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER or ADD SOMETHING 'CHRISTMASSY' TO YOUR UNIFORM DAYS

As outlined above, children will be invited to do this on the following days:

Thursday 8th December ***National Christmas Jumper Day***

Thursday 16th December ***Christmas Lunch Day***

Tuesday 20th December ***Pantomime Day***

Thursday 22nd December ***Last day of term***



By something 'Christmassy' we mean a Santa hat, reindeer head band, tinsel, etc. Children do not have to participate in all or any of these events! Some children opt out and there is no pressure to take part.

However, we also do not want anyone going to unnecessary expense. We will have a supply of Santa hats, reindeer antlers (new) and hopefully a collection of preloved Christmas Jumpers for children to make good use of.

Again, if you need any clarification, please contact us!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

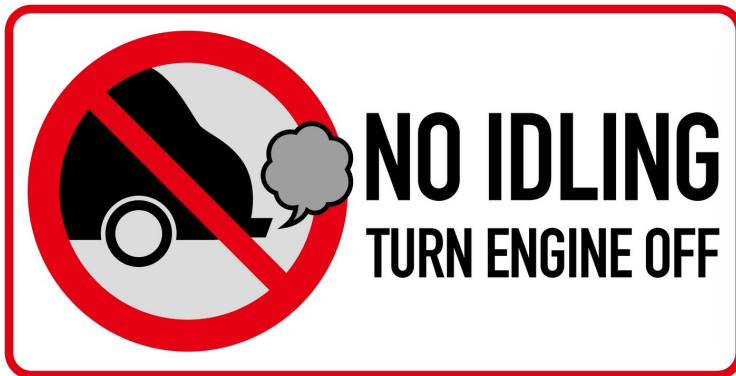
We extend a warm invitation to all Parents/Carers, extended family members and parishioners from our parishes to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service. This takes place on the last day of term and will be our final celebration as a school community for the Christmas Season. It is always a very beautiful and prayerful occasion with readings, candlelight and beautiful carols.

Thursday 22nd December 2022
at 11am
in the School Assembly Hall
All welcome!



PLEASE KEEP POLLUTION TO A MINIMUM

Very often, when parents/carers are waiting to collect children or waiting to put them into the Breakfast Club, they sit with their engine running. There are so many reasons why we should not do this.



- Keeping your engine running whilst the car is idle causes pollution. We all need to do our bit to cut CO2 emissions. Switch off while waiting please!
- Pollution can cause respiratory (breathing) conditions. Switch off while waiting please!
- Keeping your engine running whilst you are parked is a waste of petrol and a waste of money! Switch off while waiting please!

DON'T SMOKE IN FRONT OF FOLK—ESPECIALLY AT THE SCHOOL GATE!

Some of you will remember the project we carried out with Ash Scotland a year or two ago. We signed up to Scotland's Charter for a Tobacco Free Generation by 2034. This partnership led to our P7s creating the slogan, '*Don't smoke in front of folk!*' Their campaign was to stop Parents and Carers from smoking around the school gate.



Recently, it has become clear that adults are once again smoking at the school gate and it is not only cigarettes which are being smoked.

The smell is clearly not shop bought cigarettes! We ask you to please refrain from any smoking on school grounds or around the school gate where others have to pass by. Thank you for your support with this.



O come, O come
Emmanuel...

LOST PROPERTY

We have recently sorted through every item of lost property (AGAIN!) This was a huge undertaking, due to the sheer amount of items which are left behind in school.

I realise that this is frustrating for Parents/Carers, but it is also frustrating for us. It takes a lot of our time and energy to try and stay on top of this. I would ask that you do the following:

1. Label everything that belongs to your child— with a permanent marker! Make sure you do this for new items throughout the year.
2. Encourage your child to take responsibility for their belongings. Ensure they know what is theirs!

Anything with a child's name on it has been returned to them. Other items will be on display at Parents' Night. Please take anything you wish.

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

Each child in the school (and all staff members) are allocated to a house. Siblings are allocated to the same house (to save any rivalry!)

Our houses are named after places of pilgrimage - those associated with Our Lady. They are:

Knock (in Ireland), Lourdes (in France), Fatima (in Portugal), Guadeloupe (in South America) and Częstochowa (in Poland).

House tokens are issued throughout the week for a variety of positive things... behaviour, attitude, growth mindset, kindness, etc.

Our House Captains (P7) and Vice Captains (P6) have been leading our assemblies over the last few weeks and they are doing a wonderful job! They have also led their first House Meetings, where children and staff gathered in their own groups.

Houses are working towards winning House Tokens to win a special treat at the end of the school year.



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. In the run up to Christmas, when the stage is assembled in the gym hall, 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 have had the Photographer in, as you know, and things seemed to go very smoothly.



There were a lot of photographs taken and I thank all of the staff for their patience during this period. You should have received a QR code to enable you to access your child's photographs online.

We have booked the photographer for the next school year and have listened to feedback from you. This will take place before the October Holiday next year. Apologies that we could not make that work for 2022.

RIGHT OF THE MONTH: Article 27



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



Article 27 will be our focus for the month of December. This states that every child has the right to a good standard of living. The right to food, shelter, warmth and a good house to live in. It also states that children should be able to live in a way that helps them reach their full physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social potential.

PARENTS' NIGHT

A reminder that Parents' Night takes place on Thursday 1st December; the changed date due to the strike action which closed almost all schools across Scotland. I would like to thank you all for your support as we had to make this change of date. I also apologise if it has caused any inconvenience. I very much look forward to welcoming you all to Parents' Night.

CAR PARK

In the last few weeks, we have had a few incidents which have involved parents/carers from both St. John Paul II and Laburnum Family Learning Centre in the car park.

On all of these occasions, the incident has resulted in aggressive behaviour and swearing.

If this were an isolated incident, I would perhaps leave it to those involved. However, within two weeks, we have had around four incidents.

It is often suggested that it is the Head Teacher's responsibility to "sort" the car park. Whilst I take responsibility and make a lot of effort to encourage responsible behaviour and safe use of the car park, I cannot be expected to take responsibility for how people drive and how people react to each other under certain circumstances.

Regardless, it is completely inappropriate that children should be arriving at or leaving school and witnessing grown ups shouting and swearing at each other. We are **ALL** responsible for **OUR OWN ACTIONS!** I will continue to encourage everyone to be safe and courteous. Please do your bit if you use the car park.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SWIMMERS!

Congratulations to Ellé Stirling-Mills and Sophia Wilson who are representing the school in the North Lanarkshire Swimming Time Trials in Cumbernauld.

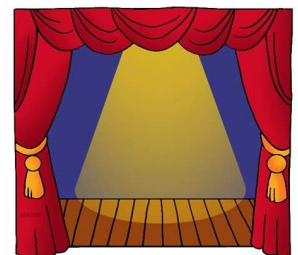
These girls, like many of our children, are associated with a team in the local community. They train hard and put a lot of time and energy into doing their best.

We are sure they will be great ambassadors for St. John Paul II in North Lanarkshire and we thank them for their hard work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LILYMAY BROWN

LilyMay has been rehearsing as part of the cast of 'Nativity: The Musical' which is taking place this week at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. We thought it appropriate to say "break a leg" to LilyMay!

This is a wonderful opportunity and we are certain that, after all of her hard work and dedication, she will do very well in her performances.



We are immensely proud of all of our children and we love to celebrate their achievements!



Here are the details of everything that is happening in the community of St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class between now and the end of term. Events which are only for our Nursery Class are highlighted in yellow.



DATE:	EVENT:	DETAIL:
Thursday 1 st December	Parents' Night	Appointments have been made online
Friday 2 nd December	Nursery Christmas Coffee Morning	9am – 10:20am in the school Dining Hall
Thursday 8 th December	Nursery Christmas Lunch	Children invited to wear something 'Christmassy'
Thursday 8 th December	National Christmas Jumper Day	Wear Christmas Jumper or add something Christmassy to School Uniform
Friday 9 th December	Nursery Christmas Party	Information circulated by Nursery Staff
Monday 12 th December	P1-3 Christmas Dress Rehearsal	Final rehearsal – performed to children in school. Full attendance if possible.
Tuesday 13 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show (AM Performance)	9:30am Entry by ticket only!
Wednesday 14 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show (PM Performance)	1:30pm Entry by ticket only
Thursday 15 th December	School Christmas Lunch	Children will pre-order Only Christmas Lunch served this day Children can still bring a packed lunch
Friday 16 th December	P6 & P7 Christmas Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can be collected from the main gate at 12:15pm They should not return to school until 1:15pm If not going home, they can change in school No charge for parties
Monday 19 th December	P4 & P5 Christmas Party	See 16 th December for details
Tuesday 20 th December	Christmas Pantomime Christmas Jumper	9:30am in school Free of charge (but donations towards the cost will be gratefully received!)
Tuesday 20 th December	P2 & P3 Christmas Party	See 16 th December for details
Wednesday 21 st December	P1 Christmas Party	See 16 th December for details
Thursday 22 nd December	Christmas Carol Service Christmas Jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am in the School Assembly Hall We invite our school community to join us
Thursday 22 nd December	Early School Closes	2:30pm
Monday 9 th January	School Opens for Term 3	Breakfast Club from 8:15am School starts at 9am prompt!

December 2022 - January 2023

Schools close: Thursday 22 December 2022 at 2.30pm

Christmas and New Year holidays: Friday 23 December 2022 to Friday 6 January 2023 (inclusive)

Schools return: Monday 9 January 2023

February 2023

Mid-term break: Monday 13 February 2023 and Tuesday 14 February 2023

In-service day: Wednesday 15 February 2023

April 2023

Schools close: Friday 31 March 2023 at 2.30pm

Spring holiday (Easter): Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April (inclusive)

Good Friday: 7 April 2023

Easter Monday: 10 April 2023

Schools return: Monday 17 April 2023

May 2023

May holiday: Monday 1 May 2023

In-service day: Tuesday 2 May 2023

May weekend: Friday 26 May 2023 to Monday 29 May 2023 (inclusive)

June 2023

Schools close: Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 1pm



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

1 Laburnum Road, Viewpark, Uddingston, G71 5DG

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Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas



Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality