



NEWSLETTER

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

So much has happened since our last newsletter and the remaining weeks of this school year will continue to be very busy for us at St. John Paul II.

This time of year always has a focus on change and transition. For every child in our school, there is a transition to the next stage of their educational journey about to happen. For most, this brings a sense of anticipation and excitement. For some others, this can be an anxious time. We use this time to plan for successful transitions which are supportive for our children.

Some of the children have already been on their trip over the last few weeks and we have some more coming up. Every group, so far, seems to have had a wonderful time on their trip.

We have said goodbye to a few children and their families recently. It is always sad when this happens, as we have built positive relationships with them. We have also welcomed some new children to our school in recent weeks and we hope that they and their families feel very welcome and quickly feel part of our community.

With some beautiful sunny days ahead, we are certainly welcoming the Summer! I look forward to perhaps seeing you before the end of term.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas
Head Teacher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

This edition of our Newsletter is packed with information. Here are some of the main highlights you might want to look out for...

- P1 Teddy Bears' Picnic & P7 Wear Yellow Walk
- Health & Wellbeing Week and Sports Day 2023
- School Uniform
- Diary Dates
- Drama Club Show

And much more...!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR P4 FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

On Saturday 13th May, you may have spotted a number of children in white dresses, kilts or smart suits! They were, of course, our lovely P4 children as they made their First Holy Communion.

Thank you to everyone who supported the children in their preparation, especially their families.

Sincere thanks to our school staff who worked very hard with the children too. Thanks also to Father Bogan and Father Morris for their prayerful support both in preparation and celebration of our Masses.



Communion

FUSION & SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERING & PARENT PORTAL

All classes have been using Fusion to order school lunches. We have had one or two teething problems but, for the most part, it has been a smooth introduction.

What should I do now?

- **Download the Fusion App. Search for Fusion Online in your App Store.**
- **The school will issue each child with their Onboarding Code which**
- **You need to be signed up for Online Payments (see the link within this article).**
- **You can use the app to order your child's lunch with them up to two weeks in advance.**

Have you signed up for online payments? If not, you will need to do this to access the online menus and meal order service. Click [HERE](#) to sign up! Contact us if you need help!



ON BOARDING CODE FOR FUSION:

The school will issue all children with their On Boarding Code, which will allow you to link your app to your child(ren). If you require support with this, then please do not hesitate to contact our office staff, who will be happy to help, as always!

PARENTS PORTAL:

Many of you have already linked up to Parents Portal. This is a one stop shop for everything digital and is designed to replace the normal things which would be sent back and forth in your child's school bag.

Permission slips, letters, reports, absence reporting, responding to school texts, all of these things can be accessed through Parents Portal. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to sign up! **From August 2023, no letters or reports will be sent home in paper form.**

DIGITAL SUPPORT:

We are hoping to have some drop in sessions for Parents/Carers, where we can offer support in making sure you are connected to the various digital tools which we are being asked to use by North Lanarkshire Council. ***Please look out for dates and information on these!*** We will probably save these until early in the new school year, so that we can catch our new P1 Parents and Carers.

P1 TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC & P7 WEAR YELLOW WALK: *Supporting St. Andrew's Hospice*

It has been quite some time since our P1 and P7 children participated in these events. All of this fell by the wayside due to COVID restrictions. Our P1 children and our P7s are delighted to be part of such worthwhile events.

Primary 1 Teddy Bears' Picnic: This took place on Thursday 25th May in school. The children took part in some lovely activities as well as the all important picnic! Many thanks to everyone for their generosity. P1 have raised £970 for St. Andrew's Hospice! This is an amazing amount for our wee P1s to raise. We are so proud of them and we thank all of their families for their support.

Primary 7 Wear Yellow Walk: Letters and sponsor forms have been sent out last week. This takes place on **Wednesday 7th June**. The children will leave for Strathclyde Park just after 9am. Children will return before the 3pm bell and will be dismissed at the usual time.





NURSERY NEWS - Message from Mr Thomas

The Nursery continues to be a very busy place, with lots happening! The children and staff have loved welcoming Parents and Carers into the Nursery setting for the various events which have taken place.

DOES YOUR CHILD BRING A PACKED LUNCH TO NURSERY?

A number of our children bring a packed lunch to Nursery. We are noticing that an increasing number of them are coming to Nursery with packed lunch boxes filled with excess snacks. We obviously want to encourage the children to eat the lunches provided by our school kitchen, but we understand that the menu does not always appeal to every child.

If you are sending a packed lunch in to Nursery, please do try to ensure that there is a healthy balance and that there are not excessive amounts of sweets and treats!

Many of the sweets we are seeing have lots of additives and colouring in them. This does have an impact on behaviour within the Nursery!

Please try to remember the following:

- One sweet treat is enough.
- Keep packed lunches as health as possible.
- Snack is also provided within the Nursery, over and above the lunch on offer.
- Do not over fill your child's packed lunch



AS WE ARE NOW IN THE THROWS OF SUMMER...

Please ensure that you put Sun Screen on your child before they come to Nursery. Remember that, even if it is cloudy early in the morning, the sun can be splitting the trees by mid morning/afternoon. Our Scottish weather can be unpredictable! It can be sunny one minute and raining the next, so please try to plan ahead for all weathers!

NURSERY TO P1 TRANSITION

Our pre-school children had two very successful visits to school to, when they met their teachers, met some new friends and were supported by their buddies.

Buddies have also been able to visit the children who attend our own Nursery Class and Laburnum Family Learning Centre. Class Teachers have visited all of our partner Nurseries to see the children in their current setting and to learn a little more about them! This has been a great opportunity for the Class Teachers and I thank them for their efforts.

Our new P1 children are also invited to join us for Sports Day on **Thursday 15th June 2023** at 9:30am on the pitch and they will be supported by their buddies. This will only last an hour and will be **weather permitting!**





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Library Visit	ICT Room Visits		Gym Hall
Classroom Visit	Playground Visit	Playground Visit	Classroom Visit	Classroom Visit
Trim Trail	Classroom Visit	Trim Trail	Trim Trail	Pitch Time

NURSERY DROP OFF & COLLECTION TIMES

Just a little reminder that the times are 8.40am – 2.40pm. Each morning a staff member will be present at the door from 8.40am – 9am. If you are running a little late, please don't worry, however, it would be greatly appreciated if you let our school office staff know as we order lunches each day at 9am. Children must be dropped off and collected by an adult.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Please check the calendar at the back of this Newsletter for Holiday Dates.

Nursery Reports

These were sent out on Friday 2nd June. They were only for the children starting School in August. All children returning to nursery will get a learning insert into their learning story.

Parents Consultations

These will be on **Tuesday 6th June** 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.

Father's Day Tea

The children will be hosting a 'Father's Day Tea' which will be held on Friday 16th June at 9am-9.45am. This is for the children to say thank you to some of the important people in their lives. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Summer Party

Our Summer Party will be on Friday 23rd June. On this day we will have party games and hope to have a special visit for the children in the morning! We will also have a lunch time treat...

Graduation Tea

Our nursery Graduation will be on Friday 23rd June, this will be after nursery hours. More information will be sent out nearer the time, but save the date!

Last Day of Term:

The Primary School will close for the Summer Holiday on Wednesday 28th June at 1pm. As always, we ask that you inform us if your child will require Nursery provision beyond 1pm. Your child is entitled to their full allocation of hours, but if you let us know we can put plans in place for the last day. We will send out a reminder of this nearer to the end of term.

DRAMA CLUB SUMMER PRODUCTION & CHOIR RECITAL

The children and staff of the Drama Club have been working very hard during rehearsals and are looking forward to their performance of *When You Wish Upon a Star!*

The children of the School Choir will also perform at this event, showcasing their talent and their hard work from recent months.

Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7pm
in the School Assembly Hall



Tickets will be FREE, but they must be ordered through the school office. We will have a collection at the door for donations and a raffle on the night too.

Initially 4 tickets per family will be available until Friday 9th June. After this, all tickets will be available for general sale, including unclaimed allocations. **No ticket - no entry!**

ST. JOHN PAUL II PARENT COUNCIL

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Parent Council Race Night which took place recently. By all accounts the night was a huge success and those who were in attendance had a great time. Not only that, but the event raised around £1400 for Parent Council funds. As you know, the money raised is always put towards supporting our school and our children.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and to those who gave of their time and energy to organise such a successful event. **Look out for details of a Bag Packing event being held to raise more funds!**

TICKETS FOR THE BEACH PARTY ARE NOW ON SALE!

St John Paul II Parent Council

Beach Party

Thursday
15th June

£2.50
Snack & Drink
Included

TUCK SHOP
Available

Primary 1-3
6.00-7.15

Primary 4-7
7.30-8.45

If you need financial support to purchase a ticket—especially if you have more than one child at our school - please get in touch with the school office and we will support this!

PRIMARY 7 GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

As is our tradition here at St. John Paul II, we like to give our Primary 7 children a memorable send off! You will remember that we were only allocated four days for our visit to Strathclyde Park and we had to refund some of the money people had paid. We are planning a trip to Hollywood Bowl on **Wednesday 21st June**. Children will play bowling and will be provided with lunch whilst there.

- There will be a charge of £7 for this. Letters have been sent out regarding this.
- The school heavily subsidising this trip (the Bowling and lunch are £11 plus the cost of the bus at £260).
- If finance is a worry, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will make arrangements for you.
- **You can pay online using Parentportal and/or the online payment system.**



Save the date...

Primary 7 Graduation Mass, Ceremony & Party

Monday 26th June 2023

at 6pm in the school hall.

Invitations and further details will be sent out in due course. We look forward to welcoming you all!

EARLY COLLECTION BEFORE 3PM

I have previously appealed to our Parents and Carers regarding the number of children who are collected before 3pm.

On a daily basis children are collected from as early as 2:20pm.

Early collection should only take place when it is **absolutely necessary!**

When you collect your child early it impacts upon the entire school. Children are tannoyed which interrupts Learning and Teaching. The end of the day is just as important as the start. Classes review their learning, are finishing off tasks and setting homework. Classes prepare for the events of the following day.

Going forward, I would ask for your co-operation and consideration:

- ◆ Avoid early collection if at all possible.
- ◆ Only collect your child if another arrangement is not possible.
- ◆ Call the school in advance so that we can assist and have your child ready and their teacher is aware. This can also reduce the calls over the Tannoy!

LATE ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING

Arriving late in the morning is something which is becoming more of a problem in school. We have a steady stream of children arriving late and this can be up to 10am or later! Even being 5 or 10 minutes late is disruptive.

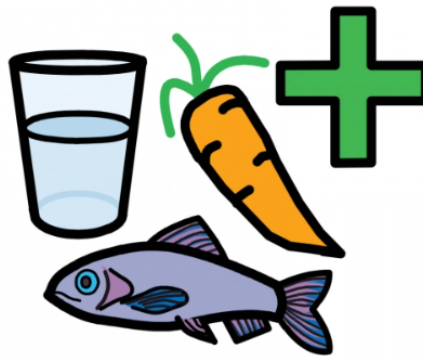
School starts at **9am**. We have a soft start in the morning where children can come into the building from **8:50am**. This allows children to settle and get themselves ready for the day ahead.

If your child is regularly late, please try and work with us to reduce this. Being on time for school means:

- ◆ Children do not miss the start of the day and the morning routine which includes registering, ordering lunch, talking through the timetable for the day and setting the tone for the day.
- ◆ Less disruption to the rest of the class.
- ◆ The Teacher does not need to stop teaching a lesson which has already begun.
- ◆ Your own child doesn't feel any pressure when arriving late.

We know that there will be occasions when exceptions have to be made! We know life gets in the way and late arrivals or early collections need to happen. We just don't want this to be the norm! Lets work together to maximise school attendance. Please contact Mr Thomas if you have concerns about your child's attendance.

Rights Respecting School RIGHT OF THE MONTH:



UNCRC Article 24

I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food

REPORTING TO PARENTS/CARERS—End of Term Reports

Our Teachers are currently putting the finishing touches to the end of term reports for the children. These will summarise the progress made throughout the school year. They will offer some next steps and highlight areas of strength for all children. This year, we are looking for some feedback on your child's report. We ask you to scan the QR Code on the front page to do this.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be the last time you will receive a paper copy of your child's report. North Lanarkshire Council are now issuing reports via Parent Portal. More information about Parent Portal is included in this Newsletter.

THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL TRIPS

So far, lots of our classes have been on their annual school trips. These have all been really well received by the children and the reports they bring back with them have been very positive. It is always lovely to hear how they have enjoyed themselves.

I want to say THANK YOU to a number of people:

- To parents and carers for supporting the trips financially
- To those parents/carers/grandparents who volunteered to come along as volunteers. We couldn't do this without you!
- To Mr Johnston and Mrs Cummings for their excellent organisation skills and making sure everything is prepared and runs smoothly.
- To our Teachers and Support Staff who always make such a wonderful effort for our children.
- Finally to our CHILDREN who have all represented our school with pride and enjoyment!

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK 2023

This year, we are condensing Health & Wellbeing Week into four days! Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June. This is due Father Morris' 50th Anniversary Mass, when we will want all children in full school uniform!



Health & Wellbeing Week | 12th - 14th June 2023

Children will have a timetable of activities which will take place indoors and outdoors; in the classroom and beyond!

They will focus on all aspects of Health and Wellbeing... Physical, Mental, Social, Emotional. Experiences will cover many curricular areas in what we call **Inter-disciplinary Learning**.

Thanks to Mrs MacFadyen for her work to organise the week for our children and staff.

TOYS & FOOTBALLS

More and more children are bringing toys into school on a daily basis. Can I please remind our children and all parents/carers that toys should not be brought into school, even on a Friday for Golden Time. The only reason a toy should be brought into school is if the Teacher has requested this for reasons to support the curriculum.

THE SCHOOL HAS A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF FOOTBALLS. Children should not bring their personal footballs to school. This can cause issues on the pitch. If we use school footballs, then there is no issue over who a football belongs to. New footballs have recently been purchased.

We are not being spoil sports! This makes life easier for everyone, the children don't lose anything that is special to them and we have less disagreements!



*50th Jubilee
of Priesthood*

As previously mentioned, Father Morris, one of our School Chaplains and Parish Priest of St. Gabriel's Parish will celebrate his 50th Jubilee of Priesthood. This is a momentous occasion which we want to celebrate fittingly.

We invite you to join us for a

Mass of Thanksgiving

on Friday 16th June 2023
at 1:45pm in the School Assembly Hall

Due to the number of children and staff as well as the invited guests we will have limited space for Parents and Carers. Please call or email the school and reserve your space by 3pm on Monday 12th June 2023.

Call: 01698 522723 or

email: enquiries-at-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please remember that the expectation is that **ALL CHILDREN** wear school uniform when they attend school. Garments which are NOT uniform are creeping in... in every class!

We ask that all children wear their school tie. The reality is that, when they attend secondary school, they must wear a tie without exception! Therefore, the more they wear it at primary school, the easier it will be for them in the future.

Please make every effort to send your child to school in school uniform. If you need support with this, please get in touch and we can help you with uniform.

WHAT TO WEAR OR NOT TO WEAR FOR PE!

Whilst we do not ask children to change into their PE kit in school these days, we do ask that they wear a kit that is appropriate.

The most appropriate kit is:

Black tracksuit bottoms/shorts, school polo shirt, school sweatshirt, trainers.

FOOTBALL STRIPS ARE NOT PERMITTED. This includes ALL football strips or track suits. More and more children are wearing football related garments and this has never been permitted. Please do not send your child to school with ANY football items - including bags and other accessories.

PREPARING TO BUY UNIFORM FOR NEXT YEAR...

The start of a new school year is a very good time to get back into routine and the wearing of full school uniform! Many of our children do this, but it can slip at times. I have already outlined what the requested uniform is, as well as the accepted PE kit.

DAILY SCHOOL UNIFORM:

- Light Blue Shirt
- School tie
- Black trousers/skirt/pinafore
- Plain Black Shoes/Trainers
- Royal Blue Sweater/Cardigan/Top
- School Fleece/Blazer/Jacket & embroidered garments are OPTIONAL.

PE KIT:

- Light Blue Polo
- School Sweater/Cardigan/Top
- Plain black Trainers

Keeping everyone dressed in this way, keeps a sense of uniform and it means that you are buying things which can be worn on other days at school!

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE END OF TERM

Our school has an agreed Transition Policy for children who are moving from stage to stage within our school (for example, P1 to P2, etc.) This allows us to prepare children for the changes they are about to experience. It also lets them spend time with their new Class Teacher before the end of the school year. This is particularly important for children with an identified need, but it is important for all of our children! It is a valuable exercise for our staff too.

We offer a **UNIVERSAL TRANSITION PROGRAMME** to all children. This involves two 'Meet the Teacher' sessions. These will take place on:

Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 9:15am and Monday 26th June 2023 at 1:45pm

Please try to ensure your child is in attendance for these events.

We also offer an **ENHANCED TRANSITION EXPERIENCE** for those children who will perhaps find the experience more challenging. This will involve some individual time for children with their new Teacher. It will also involve a more specific information sharing process between Teachers. There is also extensive information shared between Teachers in order to support our children in their next steps.

END OF YEAR MASS

We will have our final Mass of the school year on **Wednesday 28th June at 10am in St. Columba's**. This Mass is special for a number of reasons and we take the opportunity to mark a couple of events.

PRESENTATION OF P7 TIES TO P6 PUPILS

At the end of this Mass, our P6 children who are making the move into P7 in August will be presented with their special P7 Ties. This marks the moment these children are handed the leadership of the school from our outgoing P7 cohort.

PRESENTATION OF THE POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARD TO P7 PUPILS

Some of our P7 children have come to the end of their Pope Francis Faith Award and they are presented with their framed certificates and a small gift from the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

All Parents/Carers and family members are invited to join us for this Mass. A special invitation goes to our P6 and P7 families. We hope to see many of you there!

THANK YOU TO MISS MCDONALD & WELCOME TO MRS MCGHEE

As you know, we have had a vacancy within our Breakfast Club since Mrs Cummings was appointed as a full time clerical assistant. Since then, Miss McDonald has been looking after the children in the Breakfast Club. This was initially only supposed to be for a short period, however, there were a few delays in making a permanent appointment. I wish to thank Miss McDonald for supporting us and for looking after the Breakfast Club over the last months.

I have pleasure in welcoming Mrs McGhee who has taken up the posts of Breakfast Club Assistant and also as Dining Hall Assistant. Mrs McGhee also supports our children at lunch time. We are delighted to welcome Miss McGhee to our staff team and we hope that she quickly feels part of the St. John Paul II family! Mrs McGhee has previous experience, which she is already putting to good use!



ENCOURAGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR, POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND WORKING HARD TO THE END OF TERM...

As we approach the end of term, we always find that the children can begin to flag a little. They are tired and have the summer holidays in sight!

The message from us in school is that we still have a lot to do! Lots of learning and lots of fun events coming our way.

We are encouraging the children to continue to show RESPECT for themselves, to others and to property and the environment around them.

The hot weather can bring different challenges! When children are hot, they need some water to refresh them. Please try to send in a bottle which can be refilled. I realise that some children do not like water. A small amount of diluting juice in their water is perfectly acceptable. **No fizzy drinks, energy drinks or drinks filled with additives should be sent into school!**

Finally, the end of term can bring some extra squabbles in the playground! We always try to deal with issues promptly and fairly. Please encourage your child(ren) to play sensibly and gently!

BOOK ANMESTY

If you have any school books at home, please do try to return them before the end of term. This allows us to get a true 'stock level' before we start to order new resources.

Books which belong to the school will have a school stamp on the inside cover. The infant reading books are particularly recognisable! Please support our efforts. Replacing books is like everything else these days... very expensive!

Thank you for your support with this.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We have ordered new furniture so that we can reinstate our school library. This will cost us around £5000 for the furniture. We have a good stock of library books, but we will be looking to increase these in the future. We are also planning to:

- Apply for a grant for Library Resources.
- Source a digital solution for cataloguing our library books so that children can scan them in and out.
- Set up a small group to run the Library.
- Run some book clubs and other events to raise the profile of reading for enjoyment with our children and families.

Watch out for more information in the new school year!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Here are some important dates for the next few weeks. Please take a look and mark them in your own calendar!

DATE:	EVENT:	DETAIL:
Wednesday 7th June	P7 at Wear Yellow Walk	Letters have been issued with details.
Friday 9th June	P6 trip to Stirling Castle	All day
Friday 9th June	Feast of St. Columba	P4 to attend Mass. All welcome.
Monday 12th June	Focus Youth Project to speak to P7 pupils	
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th June	Health & Wellbeing Week	More information to follow. Children should wear PE kit on all 4 days
Wednesday 14th June	P7 to Rosepark for Sports Day with Residents.	
Thursday 15th June	New P1 intake - Potted Sports with P6 Buddies	9:30am on the Pitch Weather permitting!
Thursday 15th June	Sports Day (Whole School)	Parents invited to attend races at 1:45pm on the pitch. This will be weather permitting.
Thursday 15th June	Parent Council Beach Party	P1- P3: 6pm-7:15pm P4 - P7: 7:30pm-8:45pm
Wednesday 21st June	P7 Trip to Hollywood Bowl	
Thursday 22nd June	Drama Club & Choir Show	7pm in the school hall Entry by ticket only!
Monday 26th June	P7 Graduation Mass, Ceremony & Party	Further details will be issued
Wednesday 28th June	End of Term Mass P6 issued with their P7 ties P7 Pope Francis Faith Award	10am in St. Columba's
	School closes at 1pm	

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.

Tel: 01698 403170

Email: TPTeam@northlan.gov.uk



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

1 Laburnum Road, Viewpark, Uddingston, G71 5DG

t: 01698 522723 e: enquiries-at-st-johnpaul@northlan.org.uk

w: www.johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk twitter: @JPIIPrimary

Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality

School Holiday Dates for Schools in North Lanarkshire Council



June 2023

Schools close: Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 1pm

August 2023

Teachers return and in-service day: Monday 14 August 2023

In-service day: Tuesday 15 August 2023

Pupils return: Wednesday 16 August 2023

September 2023

September weekend: Friday 22 September and Monday 25 September 2023 (inclusive)

October 2023

October week: Monday 16 to Friday 20 October 2023 (inclusive)

November 2023

In-service day: Monday 13 November

December 2023 - January 2024

Schools close: Friday 22 December 2023 at 2.30pm

Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 25 December 2023 - Friday 5 January 2024 (inclusive)

February 2024

Mid-term break: Monday 12 February and Tuesday 13 February 2024

In-service day: Wednesday 14 February 2024

April 2024

Schools close: Thursday 28 March 2024 at 2.30pm

Spring holiday (Easter): Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April 2024 (Inclusive)

Good Friday 29 March

Easter Monday 1 April 2024

May 2024

In-service day: Thursday 2 May 2024 (to coincide with UK Parliamentary elections, but may be subject to change)

May holiday: Monday 6 May 2024

May weekend: Friday 24 May 2024 and Monday 27 May 2024 (inclusive)

June 2024

Schools Close: Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 1pm