



NEWSLETTER

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

November is upon us and I am writing to you with lots of information and dates in advance of what is happening in our school community. I'm not sure that there is ever a time when our school is not busy, but you will already know that November and December are particularly busy as we approach that time of year (which I won't say out loud just yet!)

Many thanks to you all for your support of our Halloween Parade on 31st October and also the Halloween Disco which was planned and executed by our Parent Council. A number of additional Parents/Carers volunteered as helpers and this was very gratefully received. Many thanks to the staff for their support of this event, too. A staff presence is always necessary and much appreciated by the Parent Council.

We welcome Mrs Gustanelli and Mr Lambe who are both Additional Support Needs Assistants and have recently joined our staff team. We hope they are settling in nicely!

Please do take some time to read over the information in our Newsletter and do get in touch if you have any questions regarding the contents. We are always happy to help!

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



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

Local, confidential support for any families in need.

St. Columba's Parish 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. We can contact on your behalf if you would prefer.

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.

IF YOU LIVE IN ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH - You can still contact the number above and the group will pass on your details to those in St. Gabriel's if needed or if they cannot provide the support you need.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2023 *Pilgrims of Faith*



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, Pope Francis has announced the theme is *'Pilgrims of Faith'*. For 2024, the theme will be *'Pilgrims of Hope'* and for 2025, the theme will be *'Pilgrims of Love.'* The Holy Father said...

"The beauty of the Christian faith lies not in its theological explanations but in the lives of people who dedicate themselves to prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel..Be discoverers of beauty, seekers of the treasures of faith...because faith cannot remain a memory of the past, something 'museum-like.' No, it always lives again in the joy of the Gospel, in the community made up of people, in the assembly of those who experience mercy and recognize themselves as brothers and sisters loved by God by grace..."

Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith."

Our school community demonstrates the beauty of faith in many ways:

- We place Jesus Christ at the centre of everything we do.
- We reach out to those in need at home and abroad by our charitable works and deeds.
- Our Pope Francis Faith Award children work hard to put into action the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and they try to inspire others to do the same.
- We work with organisations such as SCIAF, MISSIO, Mary's Meals and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- We have a strong bond with our school chaplains and our associated parishes.



P6 POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARD

ENROLMENT

Many congratulations to the Primary 6 children who have been enrolled as candidates for the Pope Francis Faith Award! All of our Primary 6 children were given the option to join in this journey, with a group of them applying to take part.

Over the next two years, the children will work hard with Miss Williamson and Miss Byrne on a number of tasks and activities. This journey encourages the children to put the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into action in their lives. We look forward to sharing aspects of their journey with you all!

MORNING GATHERING

In recent weeks we have been trying a new approach to starting each school day together. We have set up a temporary sound system in the main corridor. Each morning, just after the bell, Mr Thomas greets the children. We have a short time of morning prayer together (just as the children would do every day with their Class Teachers) and we set the tone for the day ahead. It is an ideal opportunity to share information, make any announcements and give messages of encouragement for attitude/behaviour/mindset/work. The children and staff are enjoying this new approach and so, we are looking at installing a permanent sound system that we can use. This will also allow us to have larger sessions together in just the infant or junior/senior departments.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2023 - 24

Many thanks to those Parents/Carers who were able to come along to the Enrolment Meetings hosted by our two parishes back in September. We held these earlier than usual so that we could give you dates earlier. These were issued at the meetings. It was good to see so many making the effort to attend and start the preparation journey together. Thanks to Father Bogan and Father Morris for hosting the meetings in their respective churches.



ENROLMENT FOR A SACRAMENT:

Those who attended the Enrolment Meetings have now essentially enrolled their child for their particular Sacrament. Those who did not manage along should have contacted the relevant Parish Priest to let them know that they wish to present their child for either Reconciliation, Communion or Confirmation. If your child still requires to be Baptised, please contact your priest urgently!

PRIMARY 3 - RECONCILIATION:

Monday 4th March: St. Columba's will take place in the evening with allocated times given by Father Bogan nearer the time.
St. Gabriel's will take place during the school day, with no need for Parents/Carers to attend.

PRIMARY 4 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday 27th April: 11am in St. Columba's
1pm in St. Gabriel's

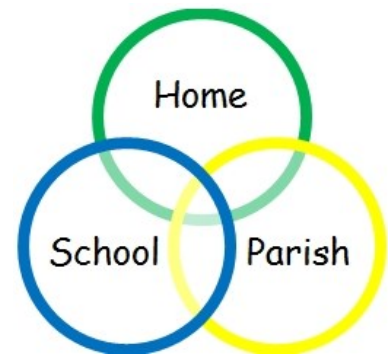
PRIMARY 7 - CONFIRMATION:

We have been informed by the Diocese of Motherwell that Bishop Toal will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to **ALL** Primary 7 Confirmandi on **Thursday 22nd February at 7pm in St. Gabriel's Church**. There will be NO Confirmations in St. Columba's this year.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PERHAPS NOT MADE IT ALONG TO MASS FOR A WHILE:

Please do not worry about this! Both Father Bogan and Father Morris invite you to come along to any of the weekend Masses. Between St. Gabriel's and St. Columba's, there are 9 opportunities to go to Sunday Mass and this includes 3 Saturday Vigil Masses and 2 Sunday Evening Masses!

You can always be assured of a warm welcome!



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We have a wonderful staff team who willingly give of their time to offer the children quality After School Clubs! I want to thank them sincerely for their efforts, without which there would be no After School Clubs!

ALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL FINISH THIS WEEK. There will be no After School Clubs until after the Christmas Holiday. This is to accommodate the fact that the stage is up in the hall for our Christmas Show and this restricts the use of the hall.

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.

SMART SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year, our Smart School Council are hard at work! Miss Millar and Mrs McCluskey continue to support the pupils who are part of the Smart School Council. They are currently planning alongside Mrs Murtagh and Miss Thompson to take responsibility for aspects of our forthcoming Christmas Fayre.



The Smart School Council presents the children in every class with some questions or debate topics and the results of these are collated and discussed at assembly.

This is an excellent way for our children to increase their contributions to school improvement as well as increasing the overall Pupil Voice within the school.

Look out for more news and information coming from our Smart School Council!

IT'S GETTING COLDER OUT THERE!

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. The weather is very changeable and sometimes we can see four seasons in one day! 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.

THORNIWOOD WINTER COAT APPEAL

The Community Council are holding their annual Winter Coat event this year. If you have any pre-loved items which are clean and in good condition, please hand them into Tannochside Miners' Welfare, 438 Old Edinburgh Road, G71 6PJ. You can do this between 11am and 11pm 7 days per week.

The Winter Coat Event will then open on 27th November 2023. Anyone is welcome to go along and browse the garments and take advantage of this free event.

There will be various coats of all sizes, so why not pop along any day between 11am and 11pm from 27th November?

A great way to keep warm in the winter months, reuse and recycle pre-loved garments and save some of your own cash?!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our Christmas Parties are always a highlight for the children. Here are the dates (giving you plenty of notice) so that you can plan ahead, plus some other general information.

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 by 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.

The dates are as follows:

Primary 6 & 7: Friday 15th December

Primary 4 & 5: Tuesday 19th December

Primary 2 & 3: Wednesday 20th December

Primary 1: Thursday 21st December

INFANT NATIVITY *Advance notice of Dates*

Our Infant Nativity Show will be performed by P1 – P3 on two occasions again this year. As with previous years, we will initially restrict the number of tickets to **2 per family**, to ensure that **every** family has some. Thereafter, the remaining tickets will be available for general sale.

Afternoon Performance: Tuesday 12th December at 1:30pm

Morning Performance: Wednesday 13th December at 9:30am

More information about tickets will be issued in due course.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas Lunch will be served on **Wednesday 13th December**.

An online form will be sent out to all Parents/ Carers regarding this, **as we need to order these by Friday 1st December** to allow the catering staff to order supplies. Please be prompt to send this back.

On 13th 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.

CHILDREN IN P6 & 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 FAYRE

Preparations for our Christmas Fayre are well under way! All classes have been issued with a budget and they are setting up their own businesses which will design, produce and market their products. This is another aspect of our Developing the Young Workforce strategy and it also contributes to our work towards becoming an Enterprising School!

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 8th December 2023 from 9:30am until 12noon.

As well as the children's stalls, there will be local businesses, a café and lots more! You are all welcome to join us!



HEADLICE

I have been contacted recently regarding headlice in a couple of classes. I wanted to give you a reminder of what happens and what the NHS guidance is on treating headlice. ***Gone are the days where a routine letter informing Parents/Carers of a headlice outbreak is circulated.*** There are quite clear reasons for this, not least that we could be sending out regular letters and this may encourage routine treatment as a preventative measure. This does not stop your child getting headlice!

The NHS has produced a very good leaflet for Parents/Carers and I have added the link below. Please follow this in order to access the information.

[NHS Scotland -Headlice - Facts, Detection, Treatment](#)



DEVELOPING THE YOUNG

WORKFORCE

Mrs Murtagh and Miss Thompson are both taking the lead in school with our DYW agenda. We are currently working towards an Enterprise Award and there have been some great examples of how this can enhance our curriculum in recent weeks.



**SCOTLAND'S
ENTERPRISING
SCHOOLS**

P6/7 WORK WITH ENTREPRENEUR ME

P6 and P7 have recently been working with our good friend, Matt, from Entrepreneur Me. We have worked with Matt of the last few years and the children learn lots about setting up a business and all of the tasks and roles around designing producing and marketing a product. The children had a wonderful day!

P4 YOUNG INVENTORS CHALLENGE

P4s worked with representative of Enterprise Scotland for the day recently where they learned about various historic inventors and they had to design, market and cost their own new invention.

CHOCY CHALLENGE

Our children took part in this initiative with Enterprising Schools Scotland, along with many other schools from across Scotland. In their classes, there were part of the marketing department of **Chocorama Chocolate Company** the they had to solve a problem. They were in competition with their rivals, **Chocs-R-us** and they had to design a new chocolate product to entice customers back. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in their activities throughout the day!

PARENTS AS PARTNERS EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!

Please take note of the forthcoming dates for this year's Parents as Partners events. You will note that some of these events will take place after Christmas. This is due to other demands within the school calendar.

DATES FOR NOVEMBER:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Wed 15th November: | P6A Mrs Bell P6B Miss Agnew |
| Thurs 16th November: | P4C Mr McLaughlin P5A Mrs Reeves P5B Miss Williamson |
| Fri 17th November: | P7A Miss Thomson P7B Mrs Howard/ Mr McCann |

DATES FOR JANUARY:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tues 23rd January: | P3B Mrs Moodycliffe P3C/4A Miss Humes P4B Mrs McDade |
| Wed 24th January: | P2A Mrs McCluskey/ Mrs Mulgrew P2B Mr Thomson P3A Mrs McKay |
| Thurs 25th January: | P1A Miss Millar P1B Miss Byrne P1C Miss McCardie |



PROGRAMME FOR EACH MORNING:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:10am | Tea/Coffee Served in the hall |
| 9:20am | Introduction from Mr Thomas |
| 9:30am | Children showcase |

The morning is normally over by about 10:15am. You will hear about one aspect of learning which the children have chosen to showcase and then you will have an opportunity to view their work and discuss it with them. Please come along and join in these events if you are able. They have been very well received in the past!

We realise that not everyone will be able to attend, due to work or other commitments. Perhaps an older sibling, grandparents or another significant adult could come along in this case?

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Smart School Council are planning on running a **Chocolate Tombola Stall** during the Christmas Fayre on Friday 8th December. To help them organise this, they are holding a **Christmas Jumper Day** on Friday 1st December. Everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper or to add something Christmassy to their uniform on 1st December and in return, we are looking for donations of: Chocolate bars, selection boxes, boxes of chocolate, etc. These can be of any shape or size! **HOWEVER - please do not send any chocolate that contains nuts.** Children can bring their donations on the day or at any time beforehand.

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE INCLUDED IN CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY MAKE A DONATION. We will also have spare jumpers in school for those who forget.

TOMBOLA STALL - We are looking for donations for a Tombola Stall. This will not be for the children, so gifts, prizes, bottles, etc. of all shapes and sizes will be welcome. These can be handed into the school office.

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES - If you or someone you know would like to have a stall at our Fayre to sell your own products, please get in touch. We charge £10 and a raffle donation per table.

Please take a look at our school diary and take note of any events that involve you or child.
Some dates may be subject to change!

| DATE: | EVENT: | DETAIL: |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 16th November | P4C, P5A and P5B Parents as Partners | See information in newsletter |
| Thursday 16th November | P6 at St. Margaret's Day Mass | St Gabriel's Church at 9:30am Parents/Carers welcome to walk to and from the church with the children. Leaving school at 9:10am. |
| Friday 17th November | P7A and P7B Parents as Partners | See information in newsletter |
| 27th Nov - 1st December | Catholic Education Week | |
| Thursday 30th November | P5 at St. Andrew's Day Mass | St Gabriel's Church at 9:30am Parents/Carers welcome to walk to and from the church with the children. Leaving school at 9:10am. |
| Friday 1st December | Smart School Council Christmas Jumper Day | Children wear jumper as part of uniform or add something Christmassy! Donations in the form of chocolate bars/boxes/selections! See item in newsletter. |
| Tuesday 5th December | Advent Day of Adoration & Reconciliation | |
| Wednesday 6th December | P6/7 Choir—NLC Christmas Concert | See letter to be issued in due course. |
| Friday 8th December | Christmas Fayre & National Christmas Jumper Day | 9:30am - 12noon in the school hall. Christmas Jumper/ Add something Christmassy |
| Monday 11th December | Infant Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal | School only |
| Tuesday 12th December | Infant Christmas Show (PM Performance) | 1:30pm—ticketed event |
| Wednesday 13th December | Infant Christmas Show (AM Performance) | 9:30pm—ticketed event |
| Wednesday 13th December | Christmas Lunch | See details in newsletter Christmas Jumper/ Add something Christmassy |
| Friday 15th December | P6/7 Christmas Party | See information in newsletter |
| Monday 18th December | Christmas Panto | 1:30pm In school. |
| Tuesday 19th December | P4/5 Christmas Party | See information in newsletter |
| Wednesday 20th December | P2/3 Christmas Party | See information in newsletter |
| Thursday 21st December | P1 Christmas Party | See information in newsletter |
| Friday 22nd December | Carol Service | All Welcome. 11am in the school hall. Christmas Jumper/ Add something Christmassy |
| Friday 22nd December | School Closes | 2:30pm <i>Please note earlier time.</i> |
| Monday 8th December | School Reopens | 8:15am for Breakfast Club or 9am |