



# NEWSLETTER

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

I cannot believe I am writing to you all as we come to the end of this school term and also towards the end of another year! 2023 has certainly been a year which has felt, in many ways, like a pre-COVID year. Many of our traditional events have been re-established and some new and exciting things have also taken place.

As we approach the end of term, I want to thank you all for the support and co-operation you have given as Parents and Carers. We are very lucky to have such supportive and positive families. You have been particularly supportive around our Christmas celebrations and events.

The children have been enjoying the various festivities throughout December and these continue this week with our Christmas Parties, Panto and Carol Service.

Throughout all of the events, we know that we are marking the Holy Feast of Christmas. We recall the true story of Christmas and the message of peace and goodwill offered to all. Christmas is a time to remind ourselves of the hope and the light that the baby Jesus brought to the world.

We know that many people are struggling, both in our own community, our country and around the world. Those struggles are personal and, whatever they are, they are important to the individuals and communities they impact upon. We have continued to pray for peace in our world and we have sought to help those in need through our charitable deeds.

I want to pay tribute to the hard work of our school staff. They continually go above and beyond for our children, and not just at Christmas! I am very proud to lead such a team of dedicated people.

On behalf of everyone at St. John Paul II, I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the year that lies ahead. May your days be merry and bright!

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

*Mr Thomas*

*Head Teacher*



## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our Christmas Parties continue this week. Please see the details below.

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 4 & 5:** Tuesday 19th December

**Primary 2 & 3:** Wednesday 20th December

**Primary 1:** Thursday 21st December

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to our wonderful Catering Staff, who prepared a magical Christmas Feast for the children and staff. We know how much work goes into such a task! We also know that you have to prepare Christmas Lunch for other schools.



Thank you to the entire team for all that you do throughout the school year, but particularly for a wonderful Christmas Lunch!

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Friday 8th December, we held our Christmas Fayre. This was the first event of its kind in **FOUR YEARS!** The event was very well planned by Mrs Murtagh and her team. She was supported by staff and senior pupils who were amazing on the day.

The children made wonderful items to sell on the day. Our Parent Council provided refreshments on a cold winter's day! The community turned out in their hundreds to support our school. It really was a wonderful day.

We raised £3700 on the day, which is an amazing achievement and testimony to the generosity of our children and their families. Thank you!

Part of this money was used to fund the Panto which came to school on 18th December. The cost of this was £1399. We were able to provide this free of charge!

Thank you again to everyone for their hard work and generosity. Well done to Mrs Murtagh and all who helped to make the day such a huge success. We are looking forward to next year already.

## St John Paul II

### Christmas Carol Service

Friday 22nd December  
2023 at 11am

Everyone is welcome!



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

## Christmas Masses at St Columba's

**Christmas Eve: Mass at 11pm**

**Christmas Day: Masses at 9am & 11am**

*You are warmly invited to celebrate the birth of our Saviour!*

## Christmas Masses at St. Gabriel's

**Christmas Eve: Masses at 4pm & 7:30pm**

**Christmas Day: Masses at 8am, 11am & 9pm**



**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
Primary School & Nursery Class



### **AN IMPORTANT REMINDER TO EVERYONE FOR JANUARY AND BEYOND...**

*A number of our children run the risk of hospitalisation and serious illness if they come into contact with products containing nuts.*

Perhaps this does not involve your own child or children, but if you send your child with products containing nuts, this could cause a serious problem.

**ALL products including Nutella products, Kinder products and other more obvious products are not allowed in school.**

People with nut allergies do not need to come in direct contact with the actual product. Simply touching the hand or sharing a resource with someone who has eaten a nut product can cause a reaction.

*Please do everything you can to help us with this. We will monitor packed lunches in particular. Thanks!*

## THANK YOU!

At this time of year, we are always humbled by the generosity of our families who make such an effort to offer cards and gifts to our staff team.

Whilst these gifts and cards are very much appreciated, they are never expected. In fact, we are only too aware of the financial pressures everyone is facing these days. However, this does not seem to stop the generosity from taking over!

On behalf of the entire staff... Thank you! Your generosity is overwhelming.



## A WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHOIR!

Our school choir have had such a busy term. They have all been involved in some festive singing and smaller groups of them have been out and about in the community, entertaining the residents of Rose Park Care Home or at the North Lanarkshire Schools Christmas Concert in Airdrie Academy. Not only that, but they have been entertaining the masses via Celtic Music Radio. We are very grateful to Frankie Farrell who hosts *Passing Time with Frankie* on the station for inviting us to record our songs and for playing them on his show.

The children have been very well supported by Mrs McGregor and Mrs MacFadyen (with the odd accompaniment provided by me!)

A highlight has definitely been their rendition of Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen). This brought many a staff member to tears (including Mr Thomas!)

Well done to our wonderful choir and the talented children who are part of it. We are very proud of you.



## PARENTS AS PARTNERS EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!

A reminder of the dates for our next set of Parents as Partners Events.

### 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

*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?*

### 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!



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:
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. <b>Christmas Jumper/ Add something Christmassy</b>
Friday 22nd December	School Closes	2:30pm <b>Please note earlier time.</b>
Monday 8th January	School Reopens	<b>8:15am for Breakfast Club or 9am</b>
Tuesday 16th January	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the Dining Hall
Tuesday 23rd January	<b>Parents as Partners</b> P3B Mrs Moodycliffe P3C/4A Miss Humes P4B Mrs McDade	See Newsletter for Details
Wednesday 24th January	<b>Parents as Partners</b> P2A Mrs McCluskey/Mrs Mulgrew P2B Mr Thomson P3A Mrs McKay	See Newsletter for Details
Thursday 25th January	<b>Parents as Partners</b> P1A Miss Millar P1B Miss Byrne P1C Miss McCardie	See Newsletter for Details
Wednesday 31st January	P3 to attend Mass in St. Columba's	10am <b>All welcome to attend</b>
Thursday 1st February	P1, P2 & P3 Movie Night	Parent Council Event Details to follow
Friday 2nd February	P2 to attend Mass in St. Columba's	10am <b>All welcome to attend</b>
Tuesday 6th February	P4 and P5 Movie Night	Parent Council Event Details to follow
Thursday 8th February	P6 and P7 Movie Night	Parent Council Event Details to follow
Monday 12th February	HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 13th February	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 14th February	INSET DAY (Ash Wednesday)	<b>Pupils should not attend.</b>
Friday 16th February	Whole School Mass for Lent	10am in St. Columba's <b>All welcome to attend</b>
Thursday 22nd February	P7 Confirmation	7pm in St. Gabriel's Church