



NEWSLETTER

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

We are just over half-way through March and, despite the lighter mornings and evenings, there is still a wee chill in the air!

Our Newsletter has some updates and information for you. As always, please take note of anything coming up for your diary.

We are into the latter part Lent and it has been wonderful to see so many of our children coming along to Mass each morning at 8:20am. We've been joined by some Parents and Grandparents too! If you haven't managed along, please know that you are welcome to come on any day. There is a little more information about Lent within our Newsletter, particularly about our upcoming Fun Day which will be part of our Lenten efforts to help those in need. We are looking for your support and donations in preparation for the Fun Day. It is always a great way to end the term and the children get so much enjoyment from experiences like these, whilst helping others.

Parents' Night is coming up and we have already had a good uptake of appointments. Please make every effort to come along and hear about your child's progress. I realise that the Parents' Night appointments are rather short and that there are usually other people waiting on either side of your appointment. We are able to meet with Parents/Carers at any time and so I encourage you to get in touch if you have any specific concerns out with Parents' Night.

FOOD BANK FRIDAY is coming up. Except, this time, it will be Food Bank Thursday. The last day of term is when we are collecting for the Food Bank. Please see inside for further details.

If there is anything I can support you with, please do get in touch.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher

NORTH LANARKSHIRE TACKLING POVERTY TEAM:

Email: TPteam@northlan.gov.uk

Tel: 01698 322551

For support to **maximise** your income and ensure that you are receiving the correct benefits and support.

You can also click on the link below.

[Managing your money | North Lanarkshire Council](#)



VISIT FROM NLC HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR

Many thanks to those of you have tried to respond favourably to my recent letter regarding Health and Safety in the School Car Park. I have noticed some improvement, but things still remain concerning. In the space of a couple of days, I have witnessed a couple of near misses involving vehicles and pedestrians.

As I mentioned in the letter, I invited a member of the NLC Health and Safety Team to come and view the Car Park at the end of the school day. It was an interesting experience for me to witness his response to what he saw. When I asked him how many near misses he witnessed in the space of about 20 minutes, he said, **"Too many to count!"** In one way, I was glad that he experienced things as he did, however, his hi-viz vest made some people think twice and so, the Car Park was not as bad as it usually is!

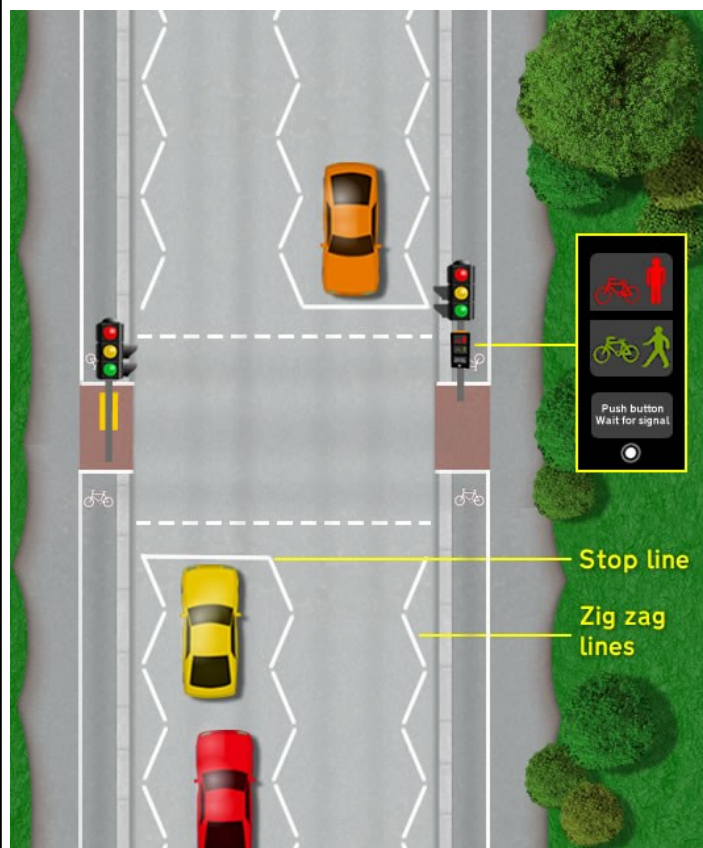
He has gone away to write up some suggestions for us to consider and this may or may not help us to find a way forward which ensures the safety of our children and other people.

One thing he did mention was children walking on the road to get to their Parents/Carers who are waiting in cars. Children are moving in and out of a space where vehicles are moving and, in particular, reversing. With the best will in the world, can you be guaranteed to see a small child in your rear view mirror before reversing? ***Perhaps we everyone should reverse INTO a space so that they are facing OUT which makes it easier to see.***

I will share the outcome of the Health and Safety visit as soon as I can. In the meantime, I encourage you all to consider how YOU can contribute to a safer Car Park.

IF EVERYONE KEEPS CALM, DRIVES SLOWLY (10MPH) AND IS COURTEOUS TO OTHER PEOPLE, THINGS WILL IMPROVE!

REMOVAL OF CROSSING PATROL, REMOVAL OF ZEBRA CROSSING & INSTALLATION OF NEW TOUCAN CROSSING ON LABURNUM ROAD



We welcomed John, our former Crossing Patroller into school recently to a small assembly to mark the end of his time with us.

John was very touched by the sentiment of the children and staff and was appreciative of the small gift we offered him as a token of our thanks.

He was even treated to a sneak preview of our choir and their numbers for the Glasgow Music Festival.

It was an emotional farewell from John, who said he has loved being our Lollipop Man! He will miss being with us and says it's the best job he has ever had.

Please continue to help the children get used to the new Toucan Crossing. If you notice anything wrong or any defaults, either contact the council directly or let me know and I will do so.

Thank you!



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

Lenten Charity Fun Day Thursday 28th March 2024

We are planning a fun-filled day to end this very busy term. There will be something for everyone to enjoy!

EVERYONE IS INCLUDED:
Regardless of whether children are able to bring money or make donations, they will all be included. Please to do not worry about what you donate.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
We are looking for donations of:

Shop bought, individually wrapped sweets, cakes, biscuits, crisps for our Tuck Shop. Remember NO NUTS!

We thank you for your continued support and thank you in advance for your donations of tuck shop items!

You can send donations in any time.

Raffles will be on sale from this week!



We will have the following fun activities...

NON UNIFORM DAY

Voluntary donation of £1 per child (or a maximum of £2 per family)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

£1 for 2 tickets

Staff will donate Easter Eggs

PERCY THE PIG HAMPER RAFFLE

£1 for 2 tickets

CAKE & CANDY

£1 for 3 items

We are looking for donations of shop bought, individually wrapped sweets, cakes, biscuits, crisps.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Free of charge for all.

HOW MANY EGGS IN THE JAR?

£1 for 2 guesses to win the jar

TATTOOS

£1 for 2 Tattoos.

GUESS THE BUNNY'S BIRTHDAY

£1 for 2 guesses.

GUESS THE DOG'S NAME

£1 for 2 guesses.

SCRATCH CARDS

£1 per card. Every card wins either a sweetie, mini or star prize!

You can see that everything is £1 for ease, so start collecting those £1 coins!
All donations gratefully received!



FAITH IN ACTION



*At St. John Paul we like to celebrate our faith and put it into action. Our Lenten Journey continues. Could you join us for Mass at some point? We would love to see you!
#LivingOutLent*



We have had a good number of people coming along to Mass in the morning, but this is dwindling a little as we are at the half way mark! We would love you to join us... even once or twice! The Mass takes about 20 minutes and is always finished by about 8:40am.

JOIN US FOR MASS AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT:

8:20am every weekday from now until the end of term. Wednesday 27th March there will be **NO 8:20am Mass** because of a later service on the same day..



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR END OF TERM SERVICE:

The last week of term is Holy Week. Holy Week is a special time when we journey with Jesus as the story unfolds. We will have our End of Term Service on **Wednesday 27th March at 11:15am**. We will have some prayers and reflections, along with some lovely hymns. We extend a warm invitation to everyone.



We will be chatting to the children about the idea of fasting and abstinence. Although the children are too young to abstain from food, they can certainly abstain from other things! Perhaps a little less tech time, or less TV or saving pocket money for charity could be something to consider. Whilst this can be a challenge, it also teaches us a lot about being thankful for what we have.



LENTEN CHARITY FUN DAY

On the last day of term, Thursday 28th March, we will have our Lenten Charity Fun Day. This is always a great way to end the term. The children will have lots of fun activities and competitions to get involved in and we will raise some much needed funds for our chosen charities as well as school funds.

MUDDY PLAGROUND

I have no doubt that most of you, if not all of you, will be aware that there are areas within the school grounds which are very muddy, especially in the winter. We have a steady stream of children at the office during intervals because they have been in the mud. Sometimes, this is accidental and other times, the children have simply been having fun and have not noticed that they are on the grass and in the mud.

I guess that I am writing to you all to firstly apologise for this! It is not something which I can control, per say, but it is something we try to talk to the children about, encouraging them to stay off the grass during wet periods. The school is surrounded by grass verges, which the children are obviously attracted to! There are also large grassy areas in the infant playground and our infant children are the ones who get the most muddy! I cannot really offer a solution, but I wanted you all to know that we do try and cope with this issue as best we can. It is not easy, and with hundreds of children in the same space, it is an ongoing problem! If only we could change them all into full waterproof gear on a wet/muddy day!

PRIMARY 7 VISIT TO STRATHCLYDE PARK - 22nd to 26th APRIL 2024

The Primary 7 children will attend their week of outdoor learning and activities from 22nd April - 26th April 2024. The children are looking forward to this and the groups who have gone from our school in previous years have thoroughly enjoyed their time! I am sure that this year will be no different. We pray for good weather!

PAYMENT

As the date draws closer, I remind Parents/Carers that, although the total cost is £120, you need only pay £90. The Parent Council have subsidised the trip by £20 and the school is cover £10 per child. This can be paid online using, or money can be sent into school. Online payments are preferable.

Payments can be made in installments, as and when you are able.

If there is anyone who is concerned about paying the full amount, please let Mr Thomas know. We can offer support.

Important Information:

- Pupils are required to bring a packed lunch for lunch time, a snack and drink for morning break.
- **No valuable items such as phones should come to the park.** There is no safe place to store them. If a pupil does bring a valuable item, such as a phone, it is at their own risk.
- **The pupils will be outdoors most of the time** at the park so should come dressed appropriately according to the weather – see equipment checklist (Please check weather forecast each day).
- **Boats** - Your child will take part in boats activities on the water of Strathclyde Park Loch and in the Scottish rowing centre at Strathclyde Park. The pupils will be given a thorough briefing on water safety, rules for when on the boats and a life vest. The life vest will be fitted by NLC staff only. Please be aware, that there is always a safety boat out on the water during the boats activities.
- **Cycling** – If your child is a non-cyclist or not confident, we will work with them to increase their confidence throughout the week. We supply the bikes & helmets.
- **Transport** – Pupils are picked up by a bus at 9am from the school and returned to the school for 3pm.

Kit List (Depending on season) – some of this will be provided as indicated below.

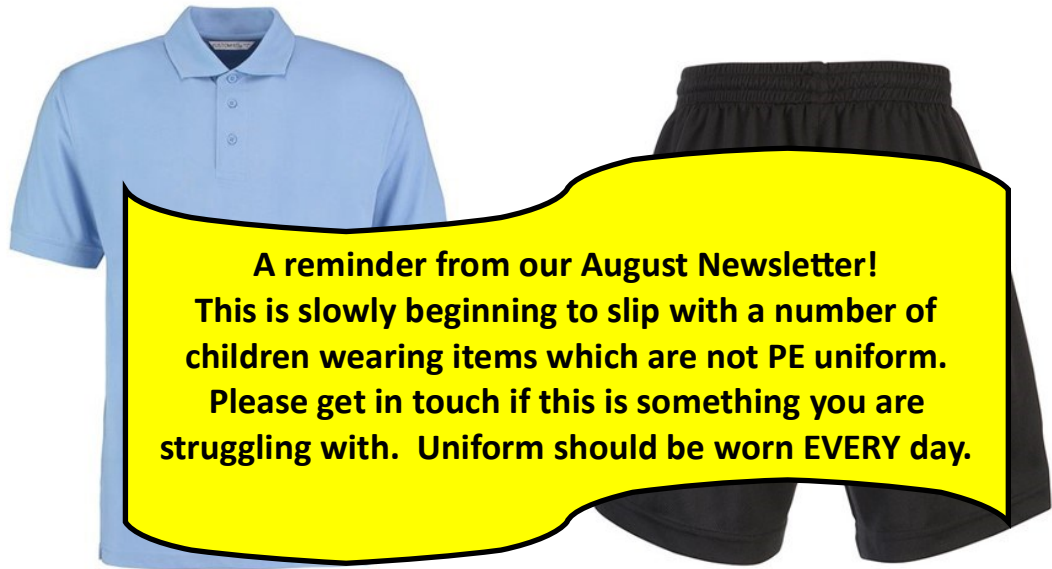
- Spare socks
- Waterproofs – Jacket & Trousers (We have spares if the pupil does not own these)
- Full change of clothes
- Plenty of water
- Packed Lunch (school lunch provided to those entitled to Free School Meals)
- Healthy snacks for morning break
- Warm clothing (Gloves, hat, scarf, layers if possible – season dependant!)
- Suncream
- Own helmet if they wish & cycling gloves if they have these
- Change of shoes/wellies (We have spare wellies if pupil does not own these)
- Hand towel

Items on the above list will be required EACH DAY.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch and we will answer any questions you might have, or find out the answer for you if we don't already know it!

The children will have a ball throughout the week! It is really something to look forward to.

P.E. UNIFORM



**A reminder from our August Newsletter!
This is slowly beginning to slip with a number of children wearing items which are not PE uniform.
Please get in touch if this is something you are struggling with. Uniform should be worn EVERY day.**

*We are having a big push on the wearing of **PE Uniform**. Lots of information has been sent out about this towards the end of June, during the holidays and before the beginning of the new school year. We want to discourage children from coming to school on PE days dressed as though it is another non-uniform day! It is not good for their work ethic or the ethos of the school and it also places unnecessary pressure upon families to be providing expensive gear to wear to school!*

*If you stick with the suggested **PE Uniform**, then your child is dressed for a day at school! There are plenty of opportunities for children to dress down on fun days, non-uniform days, parties and Halloween.*

PE UNIFORM IS:

Plain black jogging bottoms/leggings/shorts, pale blue school polo shirt, royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan. It's up to you if you want the badge to be on any of these garments.

*Some children are coming to school wearing school hoodies. This is a privilege reserved for P7 as a leavers' treat! **Please note that HOODIES are not part of school uniform**, but could perhaps be worn on PE days, if they are school colours (royal blue) and you have already made the purchase.*



IF YOU NEED ANY HELP OR SUPPORT WITH THE SOURCING OR PURCHASE OF ANY ITEMS OF UNIFORM, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH! WE HAVE WAYS TO SOURCE HELP AND THIS CAN BE DONE WITH DISCRETION AND PRIVACY.

DYW



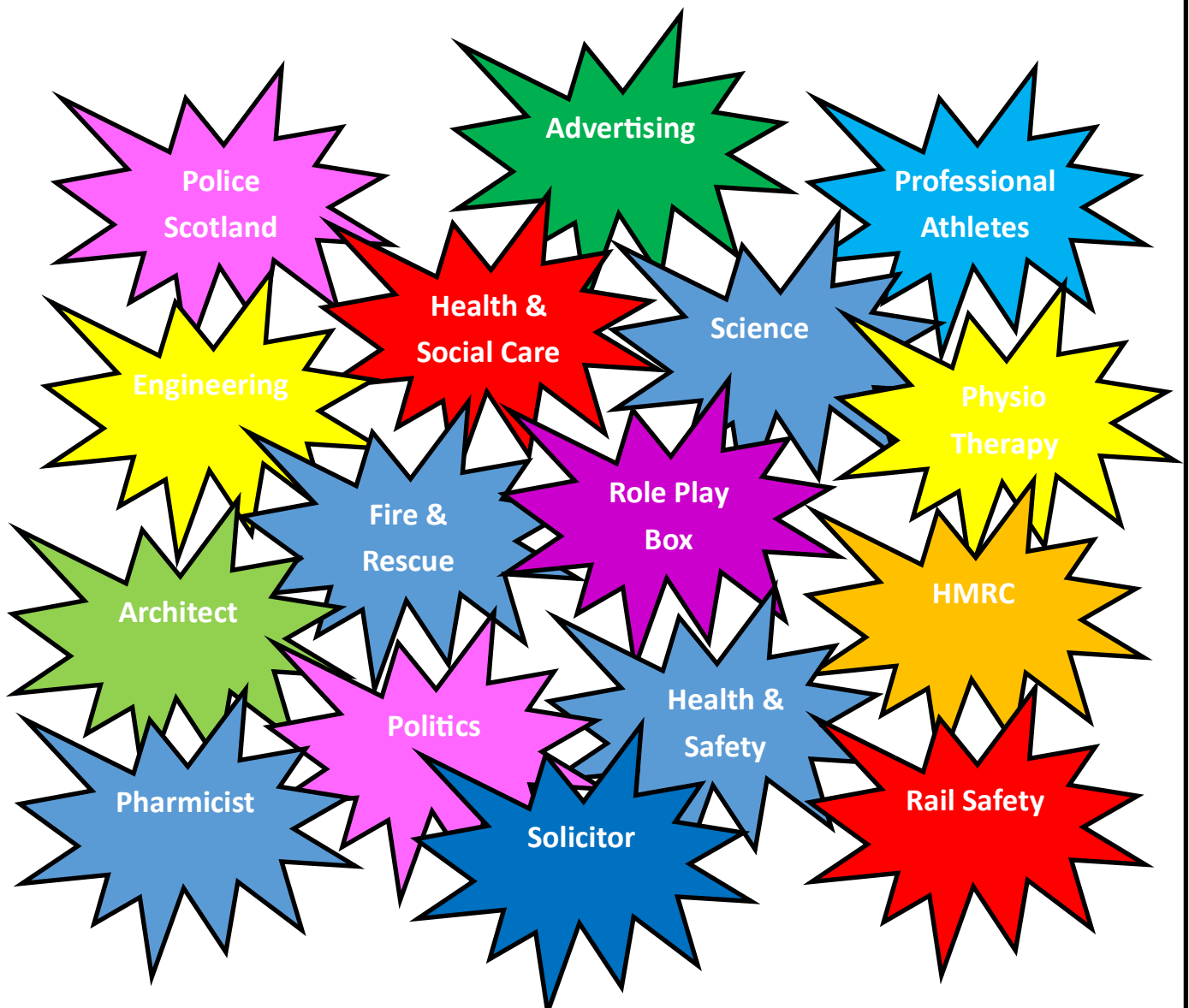
**ST. JOHN PAUL II
PRIMARY SCHOOL &
NURSERY CLASS**
Developing the
Young Workforce

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE WEEK : 11th—15th March 2024

You may remember from our previous Newsletter that a fun-filled week of learning was being planned. It was indeed a wonderful success, with a whole variety of volunteers coming into school to speak to the children. Each year group had a number of events or workshops planned throughout the week.

I am very grateful to Mrs Murtagh and Miss Thompson for taking on the mammoth task of organising such a week-long event! It is clear that a huge amount of work has gone into this.

One of the main themes for this week was to break down the idea that gender should be a barrier to anyone in terms of a job. By talking to and hearing from a variety of people, we want all of our children to realise that anything is possible for them in their future careers!



PARENTS' NIGHT

A reminder that Parents' Night will take place this coming Thursday 21st March. The online booking system has been up and running for a couple of weeks now and this was due to close today.

If you have not managed to book an appointment, it is not too late! Please contact the school office for support with this.

As always, you will have the opportunity to see some of your child's work in their jotters and visit their classes.



Parent-Teacher Consultations

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday!

FAREWELL TO OUR STUDENT TEACHERS

Over the past weeks and months, we have been joined by a variety of Student Teachers for their placements. They have come from a number of partner universities. It is a privilege for us to contribute to the ongoing formation and development of Scotland's future Teachers. All of our students have performed very well throughout their placements and we wish them well in the next chapter. I wish to thank Mrs Martin for co-ordinating this and the Class Teachers who agree to take on this additional role as mentors and supporters.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We received some feedback after our last Parents' Night with a number of you asking why we didn't have the Book Fair anymore.

This is something that I have been thinking about and, with the work we are doing to re-open a dedicated Library space in the school, along with working to increase the *reading for enjoyment* levels for the children, I decided to try having the fair again.

We will have the Scholastic Book Fair in school from **Tuesday 19th March until Monday 26th March** and it will be available during Parents' Night if you wish to purchase anything. We will also make this available during the school day and at the end of the school day if you wish to visit at those points.

PAYING FOR BOOKS

This time, the company will send us a QR code, which gives you the option of paying using your phone. This is the handy new function!



You will still be able to pay using cash.

THE MORE BOOKS WE SELL, THE MORE COMMISSION WE MAKE!

For every purchase, we are given a certain amount of commission. The commission is then spent on new books for our library and for our children to use.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL CHOIR!

Our School Choir recently paid a visit to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall to participate in the Glasgow Music Festival. This is a competition, where choirs from all over the local area participate in various categories. The children had to learn a 'Test Piece' which is chosen by the adjudicators (judges) and prepare this to a particular standard. They also chose their own piece to showcase. The children have put in a great deal of work, supported by Mrs McGregor and Mrs MacFadyen. They came joint 3rd in their category, which was really something to celebrate! Well done and congratulations to everyone involved!



P7 TRANSITION TO CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cardinal Newman High School invite all P7 Pupils and their Parents/Carers to a Information Event at Cardinal Newman from 6pm—7pm on **Monday 18th March 2024**. You will receive some important information and will have a chance to meet some of the staff who will be working with your child. Please try your best to attend this event.

P7 have been working with staff from the English, Maths, Music, Science and Drama departments. There is more to come! We are grateful to Cardinal Newman for their efforts in providing a valuable transition programme for P7. We know how much of an investment of time this has taken!

TWO DAY VISIT TO CARDINAL NEWMAN

P7 will attend Cardinal Newman on Thursday May 16th 9am to 3pm and Disco 6-7.30pm - and then Friday May 17th 9am to 3pm

Please note that there will be no transport provided for this two day visit and families should make their own arrangements for this.

FOR THOSE TRANSITIONING TO ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY EVENTS PLANNED. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED IF/WHEN THOSE SCHOOLS CONTACT US.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION—2023/2024



Confirmation

Our Sacramental Preparation Programme is well underway for P3 (Confession), P4 (Communion) and P7 (Confirmation). Please note: If you have not sent us the return slip for either of the Sacraments, please do so as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will presume your child is not making this Sacrament.

CONFIRMATIONS (P7) Many congratulations to all of our Primary 7 children who made their Confirmation. The Mass was prayerful and beautiful! Bishop Toal was very happy with everything! The children sang their hearts out and participated very well. I hope that everyone who was in attendance left the Mass feeling uplifted!

FIRST CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION (P3) Congratulations to all of the P3 children who have recently made their First Reconciliation (Confession). Despite some nerves, the children did very well. We are grateful to Fr Bogan and Fr Morris for their assistance with preparation and for supporting the children. Many thanks to the families too. Hopefully, you felt you had a saint with a shiny halo at least for a little while at home!



Reconciliation

FIRST COMMUNIONS (P4) will take place on Saturday 27th April at 11am in St. Columba's and 1pm in St. Gabriel's on the same day. Further information will be distributed in due course.



Communion

PAYMENT FOR WORKBOOKS: If you have not already done so, could you please pay the **£3 for your child's preparation workbook? You can do this online or send in the £3 to school.**

COMPLETION OF HOME LEARNING TASKS

Please make every effort to complete the home learning tasks when they are sent home. There will be some prayers to learn for all of the above Sacraments, so please support with this too.

DO WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU? BETTER STILL, HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR PARENTS PORTAL?

I mentioned in our last Newsletter that the cost of texting Parents/Carers so many times throughout the year is not sustainable. One way you can help us is by signing up for Parent Portal. At the very least, you could provide us with an up-to-date email address.

Emailing Parents/Carers from our system is FREE. If you are on Parent Portal, you can update your personal/contact details without contacting the school. You can also make payments, report an absence, give permission for outings and access your child's reports. ***We are moving towards issuing reports to you via Parents Portal in June of this year.***



Sign up for Parents Portal [HERE](#).

If you are already signed up for the online payments, then it is easy to sign up for Parents Portal.

VISION, MISSION & VALUES - IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

In 2018, we established our current Values which are displayed around our school and have become very much part of our school ethos.



As part of this year's Annual Improvement Plan we are looking at our Curriculum Rationale (the what,

the when and the how things are taught!) We are reviewing our Values as well as our Mission and Vision. The kind of school we aspire to be, has a huge impact upon our Curriculum Rationale. We want as many people who are involved in our school community as possible to have their say! We would value your contribution.

We have put together a very short survey and would ask that you complete as soon as possible. It won't take you long... we promise! Simply click [HERE](#) to take part.

Thank you!

P6 & P7 UNPAID SCHOOL MEALS

I have been asked by North Lanarkshire to remind you that Universal Free School Meals are not currently available for P6 and P7 children. For now, children need to pay for their meals, **unless you have applied for Free School Meals**. You can do this by clicking [HERE](#). You can apply for a Clothing Grant at the same place. It is not too late to apply and you can apply at any time!

If your child attends Breakfast Club, they must also pay for their breakfast.

If you are worried or concerned about a school meal debt, or you feel that you are unable to pay for this, please contact Mr Thomas. There are ways in which we can help in this situation, but it would be better to make contact, rather than continue to let the amounts increase on your child's account.

PARENTS PORTAL

We have advertised the use of Parents Portal for some time now. Many thanks to those who have managed to sign up. We know that some of you have had issues signing up and that this can cause frustration and even put you off entirely from using the app. However, we are being encouraged by North Lanarkshire to encourage 100% sign up!

By using Parents Portal you can:

- Update your child's details/contacts/other information at any time
- Report an absence without having to call the school office
- Sign a permission slip for trips and other events
- Access your child's reports. **All reports from now on will be sent via Parent Portal.**

These are just a few of your options with Parents Portal...



READY FOR YOUR ANNUAL DATA CHECK?



You can now complete your child's annual data check online at **parentsportal.scot**

SAVE TIME, DO IT ONLINE

For more information, visit

parentsportal.scot



MAKE SCHOOL PAYMENTS ONLINE WITH PARENTSPORTAL.SCOT



With **parentsportal.scot** you can make payments using your ipayimpact account so everything is in one place.

To find out more, visit

parentsportal.scot



MAKE SCHOOL PAYMENTS ONLINE WITH PARENTSPORTAL.SCOT



With **parentsportal.scot** you can make payments using your ipayimpact account so everything is in one place.

To find out more, visit

parentsportal.scot



IS YOUR CHILD 5-10 YEARS OLD?



WANT FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR YOUR CHILD?



APPLY ONLINE

No uploading documents

Just a few clicks and you're done

For more information, visit

parentsportal.scot

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A GUIDE ON HOW TO SIGN UP, PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#). Alternatively, please contact the school office. North Lanarkshire Council information for Parents/Carers can be found by clicking [HERE](#).



Are you a parent who is feeling:

- **Low in confidence?**
- **Isolated?**
- **Overwhelmed?**

Working for families is here to support you to get things back on track

Get in touch today for an informal, confidential chat:

Freephone:
0800 073 0226



Find out more:
workingforfamilies.co.uk



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:
Monday 18th March	Cardinal Newman High School Meeting	In Cardinal Newman. Save the date!
Tuesday 19th March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Tuesday 19th March	P1 at Mass for Feast of St. Joseph	10am in St. Columba's. All Welcome!
Wednesday 20th March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Thursday 21st March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Thursday 21st March	Parents' Night	Details already published
Friday 22nd March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Monday 25th March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Tuesday 26th March	Lenten Mass	8:20am in the back stage area
Wednesday 27th March	NO 8:20AM MASS Holy Week Service	11:15am in the Assembly Hall All Welcome
Thursday 28th March	Lenten Mass CHARITY FUN DAY/NON UNIFORM End of Term	8:20am in the back stage area DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER School Closes at the EARLIER TIME of 2:30pm
Monday 15th April	School Reopens	Breakfast Club from 8:15am School Day start at 9am sharp!
Monday 22nd—Friday 26th April	P7 Strathclyde Park Outdoor Experience	Bush leaves at 9am each day and returns at 2:30pm.
Tuesday 23rd April	Parent Council AGM	6pm in Dining Hall. All Welcome.
Thursday 2nd May	INSET DAY	PUPILS SHOULD NOT ATTEND
Monday 6th May	HOLIDAY	PUPILS SHOULD NOT ATTEND
Thursday 9th May	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord	Mass in St. Columba's at 10am. All welcome.



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