



NEWSLETTER

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

We have loved welcoming the children back following a two week break for Easter. I have to say, I did sympathise with you all having to entertain the children through what turned out to be a very wet and windy holiday! The rain was relentless. Nevertheless, I hope you all managed to do something nice during the time off.

We have returned refreshed and ready for what will be a typically busy term. We have lots going on between transition events, First Holy Communions, reports, school trips, health week and the school show to name but a few things! Throughout this term, we look forward to welcoming you at some of the various events.

Amidst the busy-ness of this term, the children and staff continue to work hard in class. The Learning and Teaching goes on!

THE COUNTDOWN TO DIGITAL PUPIL REPORTS IS ON! *As I've repeatedly mentioned, our end of year reports will be sent to you via Parents Portal this year. It is the first time this has happened and I have spent the last couple of years trying to encourage ALL of our Parents/Carers to sign up for Parents Portal. If you need help with this, please contact us! No paper copies will be sent out this year in line with North Lanarkshire Council policy. See more information inside!*

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](#)

THE COUNTDOWN TO DIGITAL PUPIL REPORTS IS ON!

This session our Pupil Reports will be sent digitally using the Parents Portal website. In order to access your child's report you will need an active Parents Portal account. If you do not already have an account, please see below for information and advice on how to set up an account.

A Parents Portal account allows you to:

- make online payments for school lunch, trips and visits.
- report your child's absence, without having to call the school
- complete the annual data check online
- update your contact preference details online
- electronically sign permission slips
- book your parent's evening appointment
- access your child's pupil report online

A graphic with the text 'IT'S NOT TOO LATE!' in a stylized font. 'IT'S' and 'TOO' are in blue, 'NOT' is in yellow, and 'LATE!' is in blue. A yellow swoosh underline is under 'NOT'.

Please note that when creating an account the information you use for your Parent Portal account must match the information held in the school system.

INTRODUCING PARENTS PORTAL

Please click the link or picture below to view a video introducing Parents Portal. <https://youtu.be/c9GgNJw5zms>

REGISTER FOR PARENTS PORTAL

Click this link or the picture to view a video which shows how to register for a Parents Portal account. <https://youtu.be/ULIf7GqBkFk>

Further advice on creating and using a Parents Portal account can be found here on the North Lanarkshire Council website.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/nl-digital-school/parents-portal>

Help, Support and Frequently Asked Questions can be found here:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/nl-digital-school/parents-portal/parentsportalscot-help-and-faq>

REPORT AN ABSENCE USING PARENTS PORTAL

Parents Portal can also be used to report your child's absence. Please click the link or picture below if you would like to learn how to do this. <https://youtu.be/SrWci9GnNF0>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MR & MRS COONEY!

We were delighted to announce to the children before the holidays that Miss McCardie and Mr Cooney would be celebrating their Wedding Day during the holidays... to EACH OTHER! There were a few confused faces in the assembly hall, as the children worked out what was happening. Then, the happy couple were met with cheers and good wishes.



Friends and colleagues from our school community joined the happy couple on the big day and we are so proud of both of them. It was a wonderful celebration and we are all thrilled for them both. It has been lovely to see the children so excited for Mr and Mrs Cooney and they have all been congratulating them since our return to school.

We offer Mr and Mrs Cooney our congratulations and assure them of our prayers as they embark upon their married life together. We wish them every blessing and happiness together!

SUPPORTING ST. ANDREW'S HOSPICE

P1 Teddy Bear's Picnic

Our Primary 1 children will be participating in a sponsored Teddy Bear's Picnic in conjunction with hundreds of other P1s around Lanarkshire. This will take place in school and during the day. More information and sponsor forms will be issued to you.

P7 Wear Yellow Walk at Strathclyde Park

The wear Yellow Walk has become an annual P7 event for us and we have always been very well supported by our community, raising much needed funds for St. Andrew's Hospice. The Wear Yellow Walk will take place on Wednesday 1st May 2024. Further information will be issued nearer the time.



SCHOOL TRIPS IN THE SUMMER TERM

We have a number of class excursions taking place in the next few weeks.

P1 attended the Almond Valley Heritage Centre on 18th April and had a wonderful time!

P2 Science Centre

P3 Science Centre

P4 Forth Road Bridge

P5 Holyrood Palace

P6 Stirling Castle

P7 Strathclyde Park & Wear Yellow Walk

Information about dates, etc. will be sent ASAP.

Please note - cost should not be a reason for a child not to attend their trip. We can help if you need us to!



FAITH IN ACTION



ROSARY AT CARFIN GROTTTO

Our Pope Francis Faith Award Children have signed up to lead an Evening Rosary at Carfin Grotto during the month of May. We invite you all to join us on Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 8pm in Carfin Grotto. The Rosary is recited in front of the Lourdes Grotto.

You don't have to be a family member of those leading the rosary! It would be lovely to see lots of our families coming to the Grotto of Our Lady to pray with us and to support our school. We extend an invitation to all family members including grandparents and we will ask our Parish Priests to advertise this too,

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday 27th April 2024, 39 of our Primary 4 children will be making their First Holy Communion either in St. Columba's at 11am or St. Gabriel's at 1pm. We continue to keep these children in our prayers as they make their final preparations. We look forward to celebrating with them and their families.

SAVE THE DATE—ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS

On Thursday 9th May 2024 at 10am, we will attend Mass at St. Columba's Church. We invite all of our Parents/Carers and family members to join us for Ascension Thursday Mass. Our Masses with the parishioners and Father Bogan are always joyful and they are always delighted to welcome us.

LENTEN CHARITY FUNDRAISING

On the last day of term, we had our fundraising day and the majority of this money will be donated to our chosen Lenten Charities. We raised over £2000! We would like to thank you all for your generous support. It is so heartening that we can support charities at a time when financial strains are heavy.



PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **ALL WELCOME!**

The Parent Council will hold their AGM on Tuesday 23rd April 2024. All parents/carers are considered members of the Parent Forum and all members of the Parent Forum can attend Parent Council Meetings. In order to have a vote on Parent Council you need to be an elected member of the committee, however, you can still use the opportunity to voice opinions and get involved.

During the AGM there will be various roles vacated, including the Chair Person and Vice Chair Person. These roles will be elected during the AGM.

THANK YOU TO OUR OUT-GOING OFFICE BEARERS!

We take the opportunity to offer our thanks to Anna Louise Coyle (Chair Person) and Julie Gordon (Treasurer) for their many years of service to the Parent Council. They have gone above and beyond in what can sometimes feel like a thankless job! They leave the Parent Council in a great position, having tirelessly raised funds for the school and having worked alongside North Lanarkshire Council representing our school at events. They have been true champions for our children and for our school and we thank them most sincerely. As their children move on to high school, they leave us with our grateful thanks and prayers. They're not finished yet, though... with the Beach Party still to take place!

DYW



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

Our work continues to 'develop the young workforce' this term, following on from our very successful DYW Week last term.

PRIMARY 6 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Primary 6 are working with Enterprising Schools to develop a Social Enterprise. This involves the children establishing a company/business, creating a business plan and logo, designing and making a product to sell and ultimately raising money that can be used to impact something in the community. This could be school based or it could be a charity or something else to impact the local community here in Viewpark and beyond. The children in P6 have some fabulous ideas!

STAFF TRAINING

Our Teaching Staff are taking part in a training session with a trainer from Enterprising Schools Scotland. This will focus on allowing us to evaluate our curriculum and how this offers the children opportunities to be enterprising as well as looking at how we can improve this. We know that there are lots of things on offer to the children which develop them as enterprising individuals including leadership opportunities, growth mindset and problem solving.



**SCOTLAND'S
ENTERPRISING
SCHOOLS**

Our children need to be prepared for a world that is changing rapidly. Many of the jobs which they will have do not exist yet! We need to equip them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to cope with this.

We continue to work towards achieving our Enterprising Schools Award and will keep you updated on our progress.

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a lot of lost property gathering in the school. Anything with a name is returned to the owner! However, we have had a few jackets lost recently and they have not been found, despite extensive searches of the school.

If your child has brought home a jacket that does not belong to them, please return it to school.

Please make sure that you label EVERYTHING your child brings to school. It makes it so much easier to return lost property quickly!



**Lost
property**

SPORT SCOTLAND AWARD

Mr Cooney and our Sports Leaders are currently working hard in the background as we navigate our way towards a Sports Scotland Gold Award. We were delighted to be awarded with the Bronze Award recently and now the team are looking at the criteria for Silver! Of course, it takes everyone to contribute to an achievement such as this, but we do thank Mr Cooney and his Leaders for all that they are doing to lead this.



VISIT FROM HEALTH & SAFETY TO CAR PARK

Observation

The Safety and Wellbeing Advisor, observed cars arriving to the car park as early as 1350, from then onwards the parking became less available and drivers became more careless in their parking options, such as, double parking, blocking the movement of other vehicles, engine idling and a disregard of established signage, that is, parking in hatched areas and at the 'no dropping off/pick up' area. As the school decanted at 1500 a few children had been seen to run to their parents with little regard for the traffic. This demonstrated the lack of sufficient pedestrian/vehicle segregation. There are designated crossing points, however, this was not respected on two observed occasions. On a number of occasions vehicles had been reversing/maneuvering while children were walking in the area, brakes had been applied heavily at the designated crossing and there were a couple of vehicle near misses.

Conclusions

Although some thought has been given to traffic management, the Safety and Wellbeing Advisor found the traffic management to be insufficient considering the nature of the premises. The following recommendations should be considered.

Recommendations

- Consideration should be given, by the Head Teacher and Education Manager, to the elimination of moving vehicles within the car park at key times at the start and end of the school day. This could be achieved by closing the car park gates.
- There may be an option to park within the grounds of St Columba's church, however, this has not been broached with the church.
- Provision of a longer barrier to the 'no drop off/pick up' point could be considered, however, observing the behaviours of drivers, this may be ignored and the children encouraged to enter the cars via the road.
- Consider signage to reinforce the one way system, parking restrictions, pedestrian/vehicle demarcation and strong messaging to parents and carers.

MOVING FORWARD:

As you can see, there are concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the children. I will discuss the recommendations, as advised, with our Education Manager as well as Local Councillors and our Parent Council.

Any changes are subject to approval from North Lanarkshire Council. I do not have the authority to close the Car Park, nor do I have the finances or authority to make physical changes or add barriers/signage. I will keep you all informed as things progress. In the meantime, I ask for your co-operation and that you drive with care and courtesy within the Car Park.

VISION, MISSION & VALUES - These are in Draft Form!

As you know, we have been consulting with the community with a view to renewing our current School Values, along with our Vision and Mission. Here is a draft version based on all of the comments and opinions. If you have any thoughts, please let me know.



Inspired by the person of Jesus Christ and our Patron, St. John Paul II, our vision is to be a school community where everyone is included, listened to and valued. Our children will be at the heart of everything we do, as we support them to be the best version of themselves as Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.



To nurture the faith, strengths, and talents of every child through high quality learning experiences in an inclusive environment, which prepares and equips them for learning, life and work. Through excellence and equity, we strive to meet the needs of everyone in our school community. Our Catholic faith will be nurtured, lived and celebrated.



Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Achievement | Inclusion

The next stage is to meet with our Captains and Vice Captains to get the seal of approval and then we will officially launch our new School Vision, Mission and Values.

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.

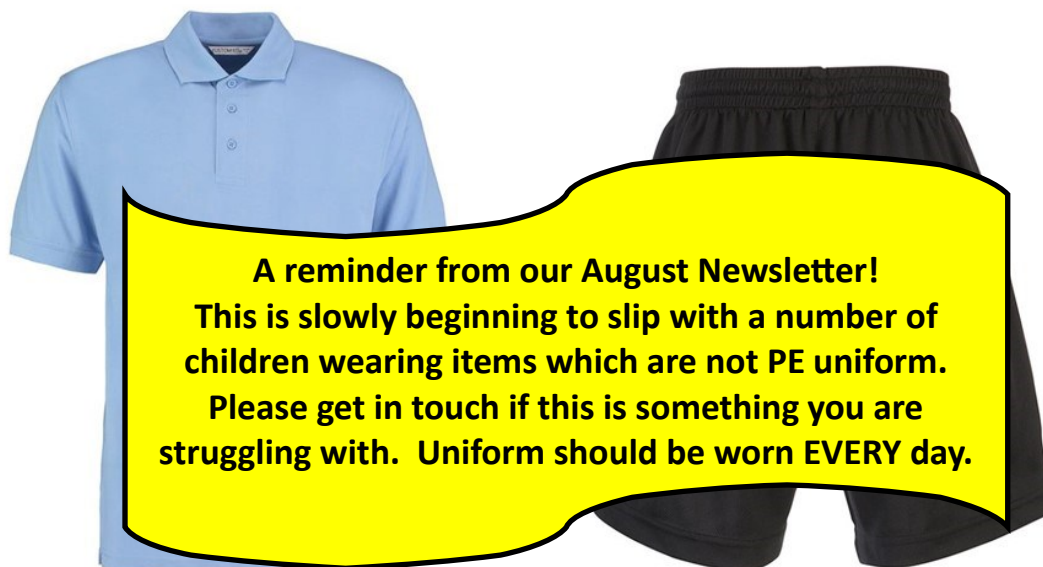
The Scottish Government has provided North Lanarkshire Council with funds to wipe off any existing debt. Therefore, all children started this new term with zero debt.

Going forward, we really need you to load funds onto your child's account. We have been asked to issue reminders to you when you owe money for school meals. The system is set up to automatically message you when your child does not have sufficient funds in their account to cover the next school meal. We will also contact you if we notice the amount is creeping up.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL MEALS HAVE BEEN INCREASED TO £3.25 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND £3.30 IN HIGH SCHOOLS.

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.

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.

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 22nd—Friday 26th April	P7 Strathclyde Park Outdoor Experience	Bus leaves at 9am each day and returns at 2:30pm.
Tuesday 23rd April	Parent Council AGM	6pm in Dining Hall. All Welcome.
Saturday 27th April	First Holy Communions	11am in St. Columba's 1pm in St. Gabriel's
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.
Thursday 16th May	P1 Induction Day 1	
Thursday 23rd May	P1 Induction Day 2 M&M Theatre Productions in School	Whole School Performance after Lunch
Friday 24th May	HOLIDAY	PUPILS SHOULD NOT ATTEND
Monday 27th May	HOLIDAY	PUPILS SHOULD NOT ATTEND
3rd—7th June	Health & Wellbeing Week	More details to follow
Thursday 6th June	New P1 Transition Sports Day	9:30am on the pitch (weather permitting)
Friday 7th June	Sports Day	Parents/Carers invited to attend Traditional Races at 2pm on the pitch (Weather Permitting)
Thursday 13th June	Parent Council Beach Party	P1-3: 6pm - 7:15pm P4-7: 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Tuesday 18th June	Drama Club Show	7pm in the School Hall
Monday 24th June	P7 Leavers' Mass & Graduation	6pm
Wednesday 26th June	End of Term Mass	10am in St. Columba's
	Last day of School	School Closes at 1pm



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality