



NEWSLETTER

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

Can you believe it is June already? We certainly can't and there is so much happening in the upcoming final weeks of this school year! We have packed so many things into this term already.

Whilst there is still much to be achieved this term, we are already planning ahead for the next school year. Classes, staffing, resources, school improvement and other plans to name but a few things that are on the agenda!

However, before any of that, we are also focusing on transition for all of our children, ensuring that we have good and up-to-date information to pass on to receiving establishments and new teachers. We are also continuing to prepare end of term reports for everyone - **which will be issued to you via Parents Portal!**

I continue to ask for your help with **attendance and late coming**. We have real concerns about this for some of our children. The end of term can always bring an increase in this and so I ask you to really push to have the children at school on time, every day unless they are ill. Remember that the target attendance for our children is 95%. The current overall average attendance for our school is sitting at 89%. **Every school day counts!**

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...

- Health & Wellbeing Week and Sports Day 2024
- Diary Dates
- Drama Club Show
- P7 Graduation
- End of Term Information

And much more...!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new children and their families to our school in recent weeks. It is always a great joy to meet and get to know these new members of our school community. Our children are very good at helping new children settle in to their new surroundings and routines!

With these new families we increase the diversity of our community with new cultures and traditions to learn about.



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>

DROP IN SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

PORTAL SIGN UP...

Mr Johnston is making himself available to support any Parents/Carers who want to **drop in** to school so that he can help set them up in person! Sometimes doing this in person is easier than doing it over the phone!

ALL PUPIL REPORTS WILL BE ISSUED VIA PARENTS PORTAL and will arrive in the inbox of the email address you provide on your Parents Portal account.



TOYS, CARDS & FOOTBALLS

More and more children are bringing toys/cards into school on a daily basis. Can I please remind our children and all parents/carers that these 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 or if it has been agreed as part of a plan to support a child.

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.



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

Primary 1 Teddy Bears' Picnic: This took place on Wednesday 29th 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 **£1,200** 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: Our Primary 7 had a great time at Strathclyde Park supporting the work of St. Andrew's Hospice. They walked their socks off and were treated to a musical set by none other than Clyde One's George Bowie! The children have raised **£928**. This, again, is an amazing amount to be raised! Well done to our senior pupils and their families!

We look forward to presenting this money to the hospice before the end of the school year. Thank you on behalf of everyone this money will support at St. Andrew's Hospice.



DRAMA CLUB SUMMER PRODUCTION

The children and staff of the Drama Club have been working very hard during rehearsals and are looking forward to their summer performance.

Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 7pm
in the School Assembly Hall

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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 14th June.
After this, all tickets will be available for general sale,
including unclaimed allocations. No ticket - no entry!

ST. JOHN PAUL II PARENT COUNCIL

At the recent AGM the following appointments were made to office bearers:

Chairperson: Kelly Anne Burns **Vice Chairperson:** Annemarie Bell **Treasurer:** Jennifer Travers

Many thanks to those who have taken on new roles in our Parent Council.

First Meeting of the New Session: Tuesday 27th August at 6pm in the School Dining Hall

Please consider joining us and getting involved!

I reiterate my thanks to our outgoing Chairperson (Anna Louise Coyle) and Treasurer (Julie Gordon) and we thank everyone who has contributed to the Parent Council this year. We are very grateful for all that you have done and all that you have achieved!

Summer Beach Party

Thursday 13th June 2024

P1-3: 6pm—7:15pm

P4-7: 7:30pm—8:45pm

Tickets cost: £1

On Sale Now!

Tuck Shop available for snacks

Drinks (50p), Sweets (30p), Crisps (30p)

SCHOOL CHOIR & BRASS INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The children of our School Choir have been working all year round with Mrs McGregor. The children who receive Brass Instrumental Tuition have been working with Mr Kane. We want to showcase their talents!

Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 2pm

The children will perform as part of an Assembly and we invite parents, carers and family members to join us.



NO TICKETS REQUIRED but please follow the link below to tell us how many people we can expect!

Click [HERE](#) to let us know how many seats you require.

FAREWELL TO MEMEBERS OF OUR STAFF TEAM

We are extremely sad to be losing some of our staff team at the end of this school year. It is always difficult, particularly when three of them have been with us for a number of years.

Mr Paul McCann (Principal Teacher): Due to a restructure of Primary School Management Teams across North Lanarkshire, as part of ongoing savings, Mr McCann has been placed in another school. Mr McCann has been with us for 5 years now and he has contributed so much to our school. He is a skilled Teacher and what he doesn't know about maths is not worth knowing! Not only that, but he is a valued member of our staff team and school Leadership Team.

Mrs Suzanne Bell (Early Years Practitioner) and Mrs Amanda Mason (Early Years Support Worker): Due to staffing restructures within Early Years, as part of ongoing savings, both of these wonderful members of our Nursery Team will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Bell has spent many years as a member of our Team and she is known and loved by our families and our staff alike. Mrs Mason, although with us for a little shorter time, has had an equally positive impact upon our children, families and school.

Mrs Jennifer Howard (Class Teacher): Mrs Howard has come to the end of her contract with our school. She has quickly become an integral part of our school community and she has contributed so much in her year with us.

THANK YOU IS NOT ENOUGH! To sum up the loss of these excellent practitioners is way too difficult. They leave our school all the better for their hard work, dedication and skill. They will forever be part of our school and I know that our children and staff team will miss them all. We wish them every blessing and best wish as they move on to new chapters and new challenges and we thank them for all that they have given to and all that they have been to our school community. *St. John Paul II, pray for them!*

**You
Will Be
Missed**



The pupils of Primary 7
invite you to attend their

Mass of Thanksgiving
and
Graduation Ceremony

on
Monday 24th June 2024
at 6pm

in St. John Paul II Primary School
Assembly Hall



Click on the RSVP link below.

Further Information

The programme for the evening will be:

- 6pm** Mass of Thanksgiving
6:45pm Graduation Ceremony
7:15pm After 'photo ops' the children can change out of their uniform and they will be treated to food and refreshments courtesy of the Parent Council whilst enjoying some of their favourite tunes! Parents/Carers are asked to vacate the hall ASAP so we can set up for this part of the evening.
9pm Parents to collect children

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

You have been allocated an initial **6** tickets per family. Please return your RSVP by clicking the link. Tell us how many of the 6 tickets you will be using. If you do not want to use all of your tickets, we can offer them to other families.

If we have any spare tickets after 9am on Wednesday 19th June 2024, we will inform all Parents/Carers and we will issue these on a first come, first served basis.

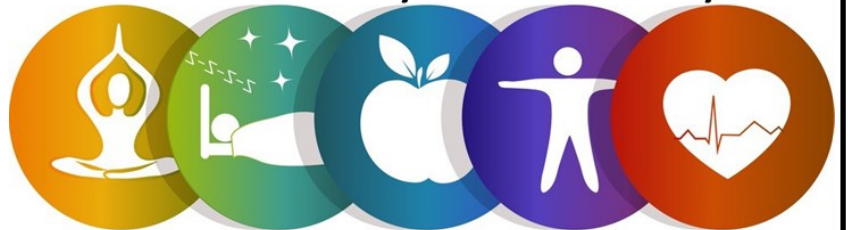


To RSVP for our P7 Graduation, please click [HERE](#) before 9am on Wednesday 19th June 2024. Thank you!

We have had a fantastic Health and Wellbeing Week, despite some bouts of rainy weather! The children have really approached it with enthusiasm.

A highlight from this year's programme has been our P7 pupils leading sessions in dance, rugby, archery, boules and curling! They also planned and set up our new P1 Transition Sports and were supported by our P6 Buddies. Although the weather was against us, it was lovely to see so many of our children who will be joining us for P1 in August 2024.

St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class



Health & Wellbeing Week | 3rd - 7th June 2024

There have been so many visiting specialists this week in school...

Bellshill Wado Kai Karate

Steven Lauder (First Aid)

JazzArt Street Beatz

Laura McIver (Mental Health Workshop)

AJabs Boxing

Mrs Reeves (Yoga)

Tick Tock Martial Arts & Fitness

Mr Campbell (UKTC Taekwondo & Little Tiger Cubs)

Thank you to all of our supporters and to Mrs MacFadyen for organising such a fantastic week!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

This year's School Improvement Priorities have progressed in the following ways:

Cluster Priority 1: Keeping The Promise

- The Promise is a Scottish Government initiative, whereby a promise is made to care experienced children and young people that they will grow up loved, safe and respected.
- Our cluster schools have set up a Working Group to ensure that we are engaging with The Promise within our establishments.
- Staff have been given Keeping The Promise Training and have engaged with the resources on their website.

Cluster Priority 2: Pupil Attendance

- We have increased communication with Parents/Carers around attendance and latecoming.
- It is worth noting that our attendance has generally worsened, as has latecoming. There is also an increase in the number of children being collected from school early.
- The Cluster Schools have developed a Dashboard which is updated monthly with data and statistics. This helps us focus on children and families where we have concerns.

Both of these priorities will be included in next year's Improvement Plan.

School Priority 1: Talk for Writing

- This is our second year of development within Talk for Writing and we are really seeing an increase in engagement from the children!
- More staff have received the full training.
- We have extended our approaches to include Non-Fiction Writing.
- We have developed our approaches to planning this area of the curriculum.

School Priority 2: Curriculum Content and Rationale

- We successfully evaluated and reviewed our Vision, Mission and Values and these have been shared with the school community.
- We have reviewed the provision of Literacy and Numeracy and have agreed expectations for Learning and Teaching at all stages within the school.
- We have begun to review our entire curriculum offering, taking into consideration the Four Contexts of Learning. These are the Curricular Areas & Subjects, Interdisciplinary Learning, Ethos & Life of the School and Opportunities for Personal Achievement.



PLANNING FOR SESSION 2024-25

The Cluster have decided to keep both of the current priorities for next session, building upon the work which has already been done. North Lanarkshire have produced a new Pupil Attendance Policy, which will contribute to the existing work being done.

We will publish full details of our Annual Improvement Priorities at the beginning of the next school year.

What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 and a Half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over <u>2 and a Half years</u>

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

IT'S NOT ONLY ATTENDANCE THAT COUNTS! GOOD TIME KEEPING AT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES COUNTS JUST AS MUCH!

As you know, we have had a focus on Attendance through our Annual Improvement Plan. We have serious concerns about attendance, late coming and early collection! These are increasing in our school! We need to work together to change this trend.

A child who is late or absent is NEVER punished and we take great care to ensure our children are warmly welcomed, regardless of their attendance issues. In fact, it is perhaps more important that a child who is missing school feels secure, welcomed, valued and loved in our school! This is what makes a child want to return. **Look out for more about this in the new school year.** If you know your child's attendance is concerning, approach us so that we can help to make improvements.

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 12th June at 9:45am and Wednesday 19th June at 9:45am

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.

PRIMARY 7 - LAST DAY ARRANGEMENTS

I am aware that various limos/buses, etc. may have been booked to help our P7 children celebrate their last day at Primary School. I would remind those who are responsible for organising these of the following:

- School finishes at **1pm**. P7 will walk out just after 1pm (to allow the crowds to clear a little) and staff will form a guard of honour for them as they exit the main double gates at the infant playground.
- **No hired vehicles should enter school grounds, including the car park.**
- It would be best if the vehicles did not turn up until about 1:10pm when the area will have cleared a little.

Thank you for your support with this!

LAST DAY OF TERM - ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL

- The last day of term is Wednesday 26th June 2024.
- Breakfast Club from 8:15am as normal.
- Mass at 10am in St. Columba's Church. ***All welcome to join us.***
- We will have an early lunch served when we arrive back from Mass.
- The school kitchen will only be serving Snacks to Go on the last day. These will be order **the day before (Tuesday 25th)**.
- **School will close at 1pm for the Summer Holiday.**

END OF YEAR MASS

We will have our final Mass of the school year on **Wednesday 26th 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.

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.



FAREWELL TO SOME OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS

At the end of the school year, we will say farewell to some of our school and nursery staff. We hope to make presentations to them at the end of Mass.

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!

SCHOOL UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

On Thursday 13th June, we will have all of the unclaimed school uniform laid out for a Uniform Swap Shop. You can bring along unwanted garments (please make sure that they are washed) and you can swap them for other garments which have been left in school and are unclaimed.

AS YOU KNOW, WE TRY TO RETURN ANY GRAMENTS WHICH HAVE NAMES ON THEM. However, many garments have no name at all, despite our numerous appeals throughout the year.

Please make use of this opportunity to swap uniform. Please also ensure you label all of your child's belongings! Thank you!



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.



MOTHERWELL FOOTBALL CLUB COACHES

We have re-established our links with Motherwell Football Club and their community trust. For the remainder of the term, a coach will be at our school during lunchtime working with P6/7 on Thursday and P4/5 on Friday, with some golden time football on a Friday afternoon.

We are already planning some ways in which we can work with them in the new school year. The children really enjoy when the coaches come into school!



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!

Monday 10th June	Focus Youth Project to talk to P7 pupils	11am in the School Hall
Monday 10th June	Drama Club Rehearsal—FULL CAST	3pm—4pm
Tuesday 11th June	P6 Hockey Festival	Uddingston Cricket & Sports Club
Tuesday 11th June	Drama Club—FULL CAST	3pm - 4pm
Wednesday 12th June	Pupil Meet the Teacher - New Classes	9:45am
Thursday 13th June	PARENTS' PORTAL SIGN UP - DROP IN SESSION WITH MR JOHNSTON	4pm—8pm in the school office
Thursday 13th June	Parent Council Beach Party	P1-P3 6pm - 7:15pm P4-P7 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Friday 14th June	P5 Trip to Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh	All Day
Friday 14th June	Nursery Fathers' Day Tea	9am in the Dining Hall
Monday 17th June	Drama Club Rehearsal—FULL CAST	3pm—4pm
Monday 17th June	PARENTS' PORTAL SIGN UP - DROP IN SESSION WITH MR JOHNSTON	2pm—4pm in the school office
Tuesday 18th June	Mini Vinnies Visit to Carfin Grotto	
Tuesday 18th June	Drama Club Show	7pm in the School Hall
Wednesday 19th June	Pupil Meet the Teacher - New Classes	9:45am
Monday 24th June	P7 Leavers' Mass & Graduation	6pm
Tuesday 25th June	P4 Trip to Forth Road Bridges Visitor Centre	All Day
Wednesday 26th June	End of Term Mass	10am in St. Columba's <i>All Welcome!</i>
Wednesday 26th June	Last day of School <i>Early finish!</i>	School Closes at 1pm



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

August 2024

Monday 12 August 2024 (Return date for Teachers & In-Service Day)

Tuesday 13 August 2024 (In-Service Day)

Wednesday 14 August 2024 (Return date for Pupils)

September 2024

Friday 27 September and Monday 30 September 2024 (September weekend)

October 2024

Monday 14 to Friday 18 October 2024 (October Week)

November 2024

Monday 18 November 2024 (In-Service Day)



December 2024 - January 2025

Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024

Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025 (inclusive) (Christmas holidays) Schools return on Monday, 6 January 2025

February 2025

Monday 17 February and Tuesday 18 February 2025 (Mid-term break)

Wednesday 19 February 2025 (In-service day)

April 2025

Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 4 April 2025

Monday 7 April- Friday 18 April 2025 (Inclusive)* Spring Holiday (Easter)* Good Friday 18 April and Easter

Monday 21 April 2025

May 2025

Monday 5 May 2025 (May Public Holiday)

Tuesday 6 May 2025 (in-service day)

Friday 23 May 2025 and Monday 26 May 2025 (May Weekend)

June 2025

Schools Close at 1pm on Wednesday 25 June 2025

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED DATES FOR 2025/2026

August 2025

Monday, 11 August 2025 (Return date for Teachers & In-Service Day)

Tuesday, 12 August 2025 (In-Service Day)

Wednesday, 13 August 2025 (Return date for Pupils)

September

Friday, 26 September and Monday, 29 September 2025 (September weekend holiday)

October

Monday, 13 to Friday, 17 October 2025 (October Week)

If you have any further comments or queries, please email TacticalTeam@northlan.gov.uk