



# ST. JOHN PAUL II

## Primary School & Nursery Class

February  
2025

# NEWSLETTER

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

The new year and new term are off to a great start, and the holidays seem a distant memory now!

Although Christmas feels like a long time ago, I do want to reiterate my words of thanks and appreciation to you all for your generosity in the run up to Christmas. Your support of the many events as well as your kindness towards our staff team was very much appreciated. Thank you on behalf of the whole team at St. John Paul II!

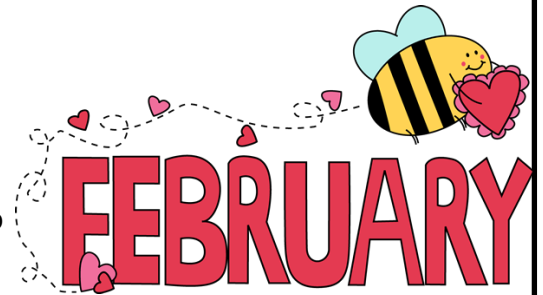
Our Parents as Partners events for this year have now drawn to a close, with the P1-3 children welcoming their families to school to see what they have been learning and to share their work. These events, again, have been very well attended. I have outlined some of the feedback from the short survey I asked you to complete, so please take a look at it.

We do have a lot happening in the coming weeks and months, and we will make every effort to let you know dates and times in advance. Lots of them are already in this newsletter, so please keep a note of the things that are relevant to you and yours.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



### FEBRUARY HOLIDAY WEEKEND:

Monday 17th February:	SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Tuesday 18th February:	SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Wednesday 19th February:	INSET DAY for Staff Only
PUPILS RETURN:	Thursday 20th February

### 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 local families. They have helped many of our families in the past. 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 tell me that they can pretty much provide anything families may need, including white goods.

They assure you of confidentiality and discretion. Please reach out to them if you need help.





**Friday 14th February 2025**

**Non-  
uniform  
£1**

**Raffle to  
win a big  
Valentine's  
Bear £1**

**Scratch Cards  
- everyone  
wins a sweet/  
mini or star  
prize £1**

**NEW Golden  
Scratch Cards  
- £1  
Special prizes  
donated by  
staff**

**+ Fun Class Activities!**

## SCHOOL UNIFORM MATTERS

We have a high percentage of children who wear school uniform every day. This includes on PE days! However, more recently, there has been an increase in children wearing items that are not school uniform. I am including this reminder in our Newsletter in the hope that we can return to 100% uniform in the coming weeks.

### OUR UNIFORM CONSISTS OF:

- Pale Blue Shirt/Blouse
- School Tie (P7 have their own ties)
- Black Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore
- Royal Blue School Sweatshirt/Cardigan/Top/Fleece
- Black shoes
- **Items do not need to be branded with the school badge. This helps to keep costs down.**

### ON PE DAYS, WE WEAR PE UNIFORM!

This should include:

- Black shorts/track suit bottoms (weather dependent)
- Pale Blue School Polo Shirt
- School Sweatshirt or Cardigan
- **No branded sports gear!**

***Why PE uniform? Because PE is only for one block of the day. The rest of the day is for routine lessons.***

### WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD NOT WEAR TO SCHOOL?

- Items that are not school uniform
- Make up
- Hoop or dangly ear rings
- Fake nails

### WEARING EXPENSIVE ITEMS

If you send your child to school wearing an item that is very expensive, you do so at your own risk. Very often expensive jackets spend a lot of time lying on the playground, on the pitch or on the floor of the cloakroom! Our children are very prone to removing jackets whilst outside when they are running about.

### MAKE YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS IDENTIFIABLE

We always try to return items with names on them. Please try to make your child's clothing and other belongings easily identifiable with their name clearly on them.

## PRIMARY 7 UNIFORM

For our Primary 7 children, it is **even more important** that they are in the habit of being in full school uniform every day. As they prepare to go to Cardinal Newman (or another chosen High School) the expectation there will be that they not only wear shirt and tie, but a blazer also!

At the end of P6, I presented every child going into P7 with a special P7 tie. I have since given a number of children a replacement tie. This is a costly exercise, but one which is worthwhile.

As senior pupils in our school and the current leaders, we expect our P7s to set an example to the younger children. Leading by example is something that they can do in terms of wearing uniform. ***If a P7 child requires a new P7 tie, they can ask for one at any time. If they require new shirts, we can also provide these.***

### P7 LEAVERS' HOODIES

Leavers' Hoodies have become a tradition, but they are also a privilege. They are worn as **part of our school uniform**. The expectation is that a shirt and tie is worn underneath the hoodie. More information about these will be issued in due course.

## MAKE UP, FALSE LASHES AND FALSE NAILS

An increasing number of girls (particularly in P7) are coming to school wearing make up. This has been building up in recent weeks. Children also wear false eye lashes and false nails to school. Whilst I understand that this may be for a special family occasion, it is not appropriate at any time for school.

In terms of nails, these are particularly dangerous in the playground and during PE. They can also be restrictive when holding a pen/pencil.

Earrings should also be studs and not hoops or dangling!

I know that this can be a sensitive issue and we want to avoid any upset, so would appreciate the support of Parents/Carers.

## St. John Paul II



## Nursery News

### MESSAGE FROM MR THOMAS

Our Nursery continues to be a busy wee place, with lots of fun, laughter and learning going on every day. We had a recent visit from our North Lanarkshire Council Quality Officer, and this went very well. She was very impressed with our staff and with our children. This visit is all part of our work to ensure that our children are receiving the best opportunities at Nursery.

I wish to thank the whole Nursery Team for their hard work and dedication!

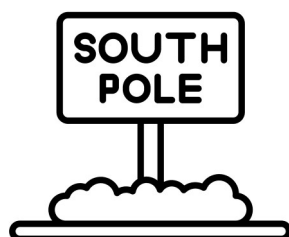
### LEARNING CONTEXT

#### Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing is an approach to developing skills for writing, linked to stories/books/texts. Our current text is **The Penguin Huddle** and the children are thoroughly enjoying this story! It is allowing them to explore the fun side of stories as well as link it to other areas of the curriculum.

#### North and South Pole

Linking with the Talk for Writing Text, we have also been learning about the North and South Pole. The children have contributed to what we learn and how we learn about it and they have had wonderful ideas, for example looking at the wildlife associated with these areas.



### BIG CHEF, LITTLE CHEF

We have been offering this wonderful opportunity again within our Nursery and it has been lovely to see so many of our families getting involved in this. Why not come along if you haven't already managed?



### ROAR FOOTBALL

Our Roar Football sessions began on Thursday 6th February. We have worked with Roar before and they offer the children an opportunity to develop their sports skills within football. These will run for 6 weeks.

### P6 TRANSITION PROGRAMME

Our Primary 6 children have been visiting the Nursery to meet our children. They will be trained up as future P1 Buddies for next year and this will take place on Thursday 20th February. It is wonderful to see the special bonds and friendships developing.

#### VISITS TO THE VIEWPARK LIBRARY

We have been visiting the local Library each week, as part of our work to use the local area and environment to enhance learning for our children.

Primary 6 children have also been helping us with this. It is a great opportunity for us to make good use of a local resource, and our Nursery children love to do it!



### UPCOMING DATES:

**Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th February;  
6th and 13th March**

Roar Football Sessions

**17th/18th/19th February**

Nursery Closed to Children

**Monday 24th February**

Visit to Tesco

**Friday 21st March from 9am**

Nursery Daffodil Tea in the Dining Hall

**Friday 4th April**

Nursery Easter Party

## ATTENDANCE, LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY COLLECTION **FEBRUARY UPDATE**

### IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL:

- Please contact the school to report this absence ASAP, either by phone, email or through the absence reporting option on **PARENT PORTAL**.
- Not reporting an absence will mean that your child's absence is marked as **Unexplained**.

THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE TARGET FOR ATTENDANCE IS **95%**. THE CURRENT AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR ST. JOHN PAUL II IS **91%** WHICH IS **LOWER** THAN THE NLC/NATIONAL TARGET.

### ATTENDANCE LEVELS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER:

PRIMARY:	AUGUST:	SEPTEMBER:	OCTOBER:	NOVEMBER:	DECEMBER:
P1	96%	90%	92%	90% ↓	84% ↓
P2	94%	91%	91%	92% ↑	83% ↓
P3	93%	92%	90%	89% ↓	86% ↓
P4	96%	92%	95%	96% ↑	86% ↓
P5	95%	90%	89%	90% ↑	79% ↓
P6	90%	94%	92%	95% ↑	85% ↓
P7	90%	86%	85%	82% ↓	72% ↓

December was a pretty difficult month for attendance, with every year group being down and some significantly down. This was due to the high level of sickness bugs and infections going around... which is out of everyone's control! Lets make a conscious effort to maximise attendance at school when children are fit and healthy.

### HABITUAL LATE ARRIVAL:

As well as early collections, we have so many children who arrive late every day. For some, this is an habitual thing, meaning it happens almost every day (if not every day!)

I outlined the issues with this last term and I continue to appeal to everyone... try and get your child to school BEFORE the bell! Aim for 8:55am, just to be sure. It is a long walk from the gate, to the cloakroom, to the classroom, especially for P4-7!



### EARLY COLLECTIONS:

**Week Beginning 3rd February:** **60** children were collected early.

**This is a good improvement, but we could do better! Thank you for your support.**

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS.**  
**ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

Please help us to make improvements with our attendance, late arrivals and early collections.

Thank you for your support!



## SCHOOL TRIPS

Mrs Cummings has been working with our class teachers to organise the various trips for each year group. We are trying to give you as much notice as possible and some time to pay these up if you need.

Stage:	Where:
Nursery	Almond Valley 30th May
Primary 1	Almond Valley 24th April
Primary 2	Five Sisters Zoo 27th March
Primary 3	Science Centre on 6th March
Primary 4	Forth Bridges on 17th June
Primary 5	New Lanark End of May TBC
Primary 6	Stirling Castle End of May TBC
Primary 7	Palacerigg Country Park

- ♦ If you have not already received a letter regarding your child's trip, this will be with you ASAP.
- ♦ If your child's trip is TBC, this will be done in the next week or so.
- ♦ Stirling Castle cannot be booked too far in advance, therefore, we need to contact them in March.
- ♦ ***Our preference is that you make payments through the online payment system.***



**NO DOGS  
ALLOWED ON  
SCHOOL  
GROUNDS**

## P7 TRIP OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIP 10th to 14th March 2025 at Palacerigg Country Park, Cumbernauld

Our Primary 7 children are invited to attend a week long Outdoor Education experience at Palacerigg Country Park. This is a change to the usual venues of Strathclyde Country Park, due to ongoing refurbishments and improvement works being carried out.

### How much does it cost?

- **Parent Council** will pay £20 per child
- **The school** will pay £10 per child
- **Parents/Carers** are asked to pay £90 ***This can be paid online.***

***If you do not wish to take advantage of the reduced rate, you can pay £120 in full and we will use the other money to support other families.***

### What is provided?

- Daily Transport to and from Palacerigg
- All specialist equipment
- Expert Coaches to work with the children

### How do I sign my child up?

- All P7 children have been issued with a permission form which should be returned by **FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2025.**

Please do not let cost be a barrier to your child attending this trip. Our children have always had a wonderful time during their week away.

## LOST PROPERTY

We are looking for volunteers to help us wade through the huge amount of lost property in school. Could you spare an hour or two to help us do this? If so, please contact Mrs McGhee the school office and give your name.

Once sorted, we will return the named items and the rest will be made available for you to come and browse through.

More information about this will be issued in due course.





## St. John Paul II Parent Council



### The Parent Council at St John Paul II Primary **NEEDS YOU!**

*As you know, the Parent Council helps the school with so much throughout the school year. Our numbers have dwindled and at the most recent meeting it became very clear that more help is needed!*

*We are down to single digits which is a risk to the Parent Council no longer being able to function – this means **ALL** our future Events and fundraising is at risk!*

**THE PARENT COUNCIL HAVE ALREADY HELPED THE SCHOOL WITH SO MUCH  
AND WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO!**



*Join the 4 meetings per year with the Parent Council and Mr Thomas and have input into the school discussions about current issues and preparing for events!*

**Remaining Meetings**  
Tuesday 29 April 2025 - 6pm

*If you are unable to commit your time to the meetings – Any help you could offer to help assist with preparing for and at Events would be greatly appreciated!*

**School Mid Term Disco**  
Thursday 13 February 2025

**Summer Disco**  
Thursday 19 June 2025

**Contact St John Paul II Parent Council for more information via their email:**  
**[stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com)**

The Parent Council is a very important part of our school community. They have contributed so much since our school opened almost 20 years ago. Please respond to the above appeal from our Parent Council if you can. Every school should have a Parent Council and we would not want to lose ours!

Mr Thomas

## ICT PURCHASE

We have purchased a further 10 laptops to add to our existing stock. This takes us to around 60 laptops for use in the school. We will continue to increase the number as and when finances allow. This recent purchase cost us just over £5000 from the school budget.

We are now looking into purchasing a charging trolley, which can store and safely charge around 20 devices at a time. These cost in the region of £1200 each, so this is another significant investment which we will need to make.

These device trolleys allow us to charge safely overnight in a ventilated unit, which is lockable and therefore more secure, protecting our devices.



## Parent Council Mid-Term Disco

Thursday 13th February 2025

P1-3: 6pm - 7:15pm

P4-7: 7:30pm - 8:45pm

Tickets Priced £1 from the school office or at the door on the night.

Tuck Shop available on the night.



## CAR PARK SAFETY

Safety in our Car Park continues to be a concern. I would highlight all of the usual concerns like double/triple parking, parking on the double yellows, mounting the pavement and adults being abusive to someone who politely asks them to move and let them out.

**A particular concern is Parents/Carers allowing their children to exit the car into the path of other moving vehicles.** If you do this, you are putting your child in danger and there is very little we can do to protect them! Mrs Martin and I regularly see this happening. Children exit in the middle of the road, or when a car is parked up and not in a space.

We often see children walking from one end of the car park to the other (not on a pavement) and cars are trying to reverse into a space. Not all children have the spatial awareness, nor can they risk assess and know that a car will be reversing. These are definite moments where our hearts are in our mouths!

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE TRY TO BE A SAFE AND CONSIDERATE USER OF OUR CAR PARK ALWAYS!**

# NO PARKING HERE



## STOPPING HERE PUTS CHILDREN IN DANGER.



## P7 TRANSITION

We have been working already working closely with the staff at Cardinal Newman High School. We know that some of our children will head off to different High Schools and we await communication from them.

For now, all children are participating in the transition programme. Children have visit the school and they have visited us. Here are some dates for your diary:

**Friday 28th February:** P7 Visit to CNHS Science Department

**Friday 21st March:** Commonwealth Games Event for all P7s at Cardinal Newman Sports Mugga Pitch.

**28th and 29th May:** 2 Day Visit including a Disco on the evening of 28th. **Please take note of these dates!**

**We hope to hear soon about a meeting for Parents/Carers with staff of Cardinal Newman High School.**

## P1 ENROLMNET & TRANSITION

We have completed the enrolment processes for our new P1 intake for August 2025. We await the result of some Placing Requests before we can confirm our actual numbers.

We will now work on firming up the details of our Transition Days, where we will welcome our children and their Parents/Carers to attend.

Children will have the opportunity to meet their Teacher and also to visit a classroom, as well as have their lunch.

There will be lots more information shared very soon, so please look out for it.



*"Everyone is a reader... some just haven't found their favourite book yet!"*

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who attended these events in November and in January. Literally hundreds of people attended throughout the period and we are delighted that they well so well received. We asked for your feedback about these and future events. Here is a summary of what your told us...

**100%** *Everyone said that they thought the events were worthwhile, they liked them and that they should continue!*



*We had some suggestions, for example, an additional Parents as Partners, drop in sessions or sessions on Teams about the curriculum and more photos on Teams as well as finished jotters coming home. Look out for the ways in which we try to respond to your feedback!*

*The majority of people said they wouldn't change anything about the format of the day. In general, people are just delighted to be in school and seeing children!*



**Thank You!**



# ST. JOHN PAUL II

## Primary School & Nursery Class



During the Jubilee Year, as a community of faith and learning at St. John Paul II, we have a series of events planned throughout the year to help us focus on the theme set out by Pope Francis. This will allow us all to journey together as **Pilgrims of Hope**.

*'Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – *Pilgrims of Hope*

#### JANUARY 2025

- Introduction to the Jubilee Year in Assembly and Class lessons.
- Introduce Quiet Prayer to P5, P6 and P7 classes
- **Chain of hope** around our school. Every member of our school community will be asked to write a prayer/message of hope onto a link for our chain.

#### FEBRUARY 2025

- **Meet Luce** (mascot for the 2025 Jubilee Year)
  - Raincoat: journey through life's storms
  - Staff and shell: signs of a pilgrim
  - Muddy boots: the long journey
  - P5-7: The Adventures of Luce – children invited to create stories/comic strips about Luce's adventures as a Pilgrim of Hope.
- **Connecting with the elderly and sick in our local community**, including a programme of visits to nursing home.  
*'Signs of hope should also be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)



#### MARCH 2025

- **A hope and a future for the poor, linked to Lenten almsgiving.**  
*'I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life... The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

#### APRIL 2025

- **Grandparents Day Coffee Morning**  
*'I would also mention grandparents, who represent the passing on of faith and wisdom to the younger generation. May they find support in the gratitude of their children and the love of their grandchildren, who discover in them their roots and a source of understanding and encouragement.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

#### MAY 2025

- **A hope and a future for parishes of St Columba's and St. Gabriel's.**  
*'Christ's life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God's grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)
- **Whole School Pilgrimage to Carfin: The National Marian Shrine of Scotland**

## JUNE 2025

- **Cluster Event**

*'A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

## SEPTEMBER 2025

- **A hope and a future for St. John Paul II Primary School.**

*'Signs of hope are needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm.'* (Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

- **International Day of Peace (21<sup>st</sup> September)**

*'The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war.'*  
(Pope Francis: Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)

## OCTOBER 2025

- **A hope and a future for planet earth.**

*'Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.'* (Pope Francis, Laudato Si)

## NOVEMBER 2025

**Catholic Education Week**

- SCES materials
- Education Mass in Motherwell Cathedral
- Education Sunday

**17<sup>th</sup> November:**

**Staff CLPL Session - Pilgrims of Hope – David Wells**



## DECEMBER 2025

- Liturgy/Assembly to close the Jubilee Year

# The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

*Franciscus*

**Written by His Holiness, Pope Francis**



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR P3, P4 & P7

### PRIMARY 3 - RECONCILIATION:

**Tuesday 11th March**

St. Gabriel's will take place during the school day, with no need for Parents/Carers to attend.

St. Columba's will take place in the evening with allocated times given by Father Bogan nearer the time.

### PRIMARY 4 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

**Saturday 31st May** 11am in St. Columba's  
1pm in St. Gabriel's



### PURCHASE OF WORKBOOKS:

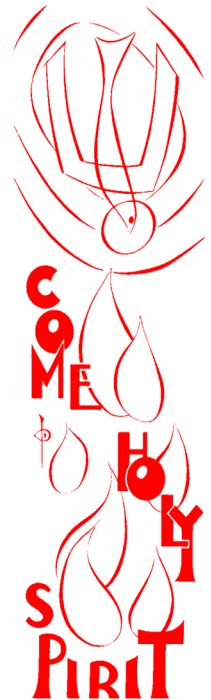
Children will be issued with Workbooks and there is a small charge of £3 per workbook. You can pay for this using your online account or you can send the money into school.

*If you have any questions regarding any of the process or any of the actual celebrations, please do get in touch.*

### PRIMARY 7 - CONFIRMATION: CONGRATULATIONS!

We recently welcomed Bishop Toal to our school and he spent about an hour chatting to our P7 Confirmandi. They had some great questions for him.

Bishop Toal then came to St. Columba's Church to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our Primary 7 Confirmandi on **Thursday, 6th February at 7pm in St. Columba's Church**. The Mass was beautiful and prayerful. The children represented themselves, their families and their school so well.



Thank you to everyone who helped with their preparation and to those in our school team who helped prepare practically and spiritually. Thanks also to the large number of staff who came to join us at Mass.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Netball continues for P6/7 on a Monday, Drama Club has continued for P4-7 on a Wednesday and Football continues for P6/7 on a Thursday.

Mrs MacFadyen is in the process of preparing the offering for this term. Please remember that these are run by our own staff members at the end of a busy school day!

More information about this will be issued as soon as we have it.

## SCHOOL SPORTS AWARD - SPORTING LEGENDS

As we continue our work towards gaining the Silver School Sport Award, Mr Cooney and our Sports Leaders are looking for **Sporting Legends** to come forward! Any child who achieves anything in sport (medals, trophies, certificates, next level, etc.) can have their photo placed on a special display in our hall. This is updated monthly. Please encourage your child to come forward and share their success with us. We love to celebrate with them and hear how they are doing in their wider achievement.





**SUPPORT FOR PARENTS** *Helping you understand and support your child with or without a diagnosis*



NEURODEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE



**FEBRUARY 2025 WORKSHOP CALENDAR**

Date & Time	North Workshops
04/02 12.30-14.30	Sense-Ability
11/02 12.30-14.30	Visual supports to aid understanding, routines and transitions
18/02 12.30-14.30	An introduction to understanding distressed behaviours

Date & Time	South Workshops
06/02 10.00-12.00	Supporting language and communication in young children with neurodevelopmental differences
13/02 10.00-12.00	Why won't you eat
20/02 10.00-12.00	Sleep
27/02 10.00-12.00	Supporting your child to manage their anxiety

North:  
NCT Centre, 15 Manse Road  
Newmains, ML2 9AX

South:  
Blantyre LIFE  
90 Park Lane, Blantyre, G72 9AS

This is an overview of all Neurodevelopmental Service workshops for the month.

For booking information, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/78023144453>



## ENTREPRENEURE ME

We recently welcomed Matt Stewart from Entrepreneur Me. Matt has visited our school many times over recent years and this time, he worked with our Primary 5 and Primary 6 children. **Enterprise is the Business** was a full day gathering for the children during which they learned about what it takes to set up a successful business and create a product worthy of selling.

The skills our children develop by taking part in this session are so worthwhile and transferable to other areas of the curriculum as well as other social situations. This day enhances what we have already been doing in the area of Developing the Young Workforce and Enterprising Schools Scotland.

## PRIMARY 4 WORKING WITH ST. ANDREW'S HOSPICE

Our P4 classes are also taking on the **Business Bears Programme** on 13th February. Matt from Entrepreneur Me will also visit them on 20th February.

# DYW



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



## CREATING YOUNG ENGINEERS

Our Primary 6 children will shortly be taking part in our annual Cluster Engineering event. This involves each school using K'Nex materials to build a structure. These will be judged and then one team from each school will progress to the cluster finals. At these finals, a winning team will be chosen to represent the cluster at the University of Glasgow at the regional finals.

This is always a great experience for the children and it helps them to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

This is a truly cross-curricular opportunity, where children will use prior knowledge, whilst linking their learning to design, technology, problem solving, mathematics and much more!

## WELCOME TO OUR STUDENTS!

We welcome a number of students from various universities around Scotland. It is always a great pleasure to have them as part of our school team. We hope that they gain invaluable experience from their time with us. As a school, and as teachers, we have a duty to shape the next generation of teachers during their studies and professional development.

## SCHOOL CHOIR

The choir are in the throws of rehearsals in preparation for the Glasgow Music Festival which takes place in March. We do not have the final details as yet, but we will let you know as soon as we do.

They prepare two pieces. The first is the Test Piece, chosen by the organisers and this piece is adjudicated and marked. The second piece is of our own choice and for fun.

Mrs McGregor and Mrs MacFadyen continue their hard work with the children, who are themselves working very hard in preparation! I am sure that they will be wonderful.

## READING SCHOOLS AWARD UPDATE

We continue to work towards our Reading Schools Award and this work is really making a difference in our school. Here are some of the initiatives we have on the go...

- Drop Everything & Read happens in for every class, every day.
- My Reading Experience is a regular feature at Assembly, with staff and children sharing their personal reading journeys.
- Each class is still visiting the Library at least once a week to engage with our selection of books.

### Coming up...

- ♦ Pop up reading zones throughout the school.
- ♦ Reading space in the playground.
- ♦ Lunchtime Reading Clubs



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 13th February	Parent Council Disco	P1-3 from 6pm—7:15pm P4-7 from 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Friday 14th February	Fun Day & Non Uniform	Games/raffles/scratch cards
Monday 17th February	HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 18th February	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 19th February	INSET DAY for STAFF. HOLIDAY for CHILDREN	
Thursday 20th February	Children return	Breakfast Club at 8:15am
Thursday 20th February	P6 Buddy Conference	In School 11am
Friday 21st February	P1 Visit to the Fire Station	
Tuesday 25th February	P6/7 Netball Qualifiers	Time Capsule
Friday 28th February	P7 Visit to Cardinal Newman High School Science Department	1pm - 3pm
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Not Mass)	11:15am in school
Thursday 6th March	P3 Visit to the Science Centre	
Monday 10th - Friday 14th March	P7 Visit to Palacerigg Country Park	
Tuesday 11th March	P3 First Reconciliation	St Gabriel's Parish: In school/children only St. Columba's Parish: In church with time slots
17th—21st March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week	
Friday 21st March	Nursery Daffodil Tea	9am in the Dining Hall
Friday 21st March	P7 CNHS Commonwealth Games	From 9:30am in Cardinal Newman
Tuesday 25th March	P2 to attend Mass	10 in St. Columba's <b>All welcome.</b>
Thursday 27th March	P2 Visit to Five Sisters' Zoo	Depart after 9am and return before 3pm.
Friday 28th March	Fun Day	
Thursday 3rd April	Parents' Night	Details to follow
Friday 4th April	Nursery Easter Party	
Friday 4th April	End of Term	School closes at 2:30pm
Tuesday 22nd April	School Reopens	Breakfast Club at 8:15am



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