



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

March
2025

NEWSLETTER

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

We have sprung into March and here's hoping we begin to see a turn around in the weather... although we all know what March and April can be like!

There are quite a few things happening over the next few weeks before the end of term, so please do take note to anything relevant to you and your family. We continue to work hard on our School Improvement Priorities and will provide an update about those in this issue of our Newsletter.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all into the school before the end of term for Parents' Night. Look out for the information on how and when to book your appointments. Please do try to make those appointments online through Parents' Portal.

You will find information about our Lent activities and I encourage you to get involved with these if you can. In this Jubilee Year, if you have stepped away from your faith, why not join us in school? All are welcome!

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

Friday 4th April:

School closes at 2:30pm

Tuesday 21st April:

School re-opens

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:

07407005240. 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.

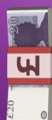
They assure you of confidentiality and discretion. Please reach out to them if you need help.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF
THIS LENT



PRAY
F
FAST
G
GIVE



The season of Lent is always a huge part of our Liturgical Calendar in school. We take the time during Lent to focus on the three words you see in this graphic. These are not only words, but three acts that we are invited to participate in as part of our Lenten Journey.

LENT AND THE JUBILEE YEAR

The Jubilee Year makes this Lent even more special! We are encouraged to be **Pilgrims of Hope**. Hope is something that can be fragile and it can fade from time to time. The Logo for this year (below) depicts people from the four corners of the world, all turning towards the cross and holding on to it. The cross is turning to them also, inviting them in. The bottom of the cross is also an anchor, which supports and keeps us safe in stormy seas.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US THIS LENT!

PRAY

- Join us each weekday at 8:20am for Mass in the Music Room. All parents/carers/grandparents and parishioners are invited! ***Our first Mass was on Thursday 6th March at 8:20am and we had over 60 children/parents/grandparents and staff there! What a wonderful start. Please do encourage your child to join us and come along if you can.***
- P4/5 and P6/7 will attend Stations of the Cross on a Monday. Times to be confirmed.

F
FAST

The children will talk and pray about the idea of making sacrifices. Often we think we need to give something up and this can be true. However, it doesn't mean we need to give something up completely; particularly children! However, they could agree to spend less time on TV or their games console, or even their phone! They could give up their time to do something extra, like a chore at home. Coming to morning Mass is also a sacrifice of time.

G
GIVE

We are lucky to have such generous children, who are supported by generous families. Doing charitable things in Lent is something we can be proud of as a school. This Lent, we will have a Fun Day on Friday 28th March in order to raise much needed funds for our chosen charities. We will send out more information nearer the time. We will make sure that the children have fun, whilst doing this important work to support others in our world who need it!





Lenten Charity FUNdraising Day!

Friday 28th March 2025

We will have lots and LOTS of fun things planned for our Lenten FUNdraising Day, but we are also looking for some donations in order to get things up and running! Below is a list of what will be on offer during the day. We need donations of Soft Toys and Tuck Shop items from our Parents/Carers. Please see below. As always, no child will be left out, regardless of whether they bring money on the day.

Easter Egg Raffle

£1 PER STRIP OF TICKETS

Staff will be asked to donate Easter Eggs

Guess the Bunny's Name

£1 FOR 2 GUESSES

We already have a bunny for this!

Guess how many sweets in the Jar

£1 FOR 2 GUESSES

We have this sorted!

Tuck Shop

£1 FOR 3 ITEMS

Parents/Carers: Could you donate multipack of crisps/sweets/biscuits? Everything should be individually wrapped.

Soft Toy Tombola (P1-P3)

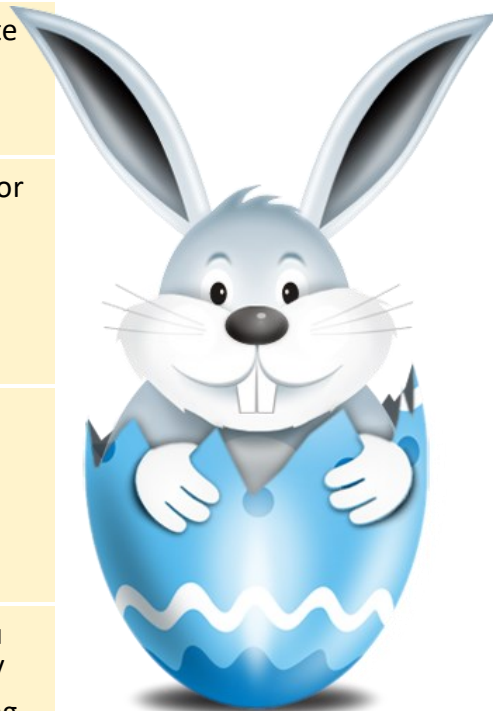
£2 PER GO - EVERYONE WINS!

Parents/Carers: We are looking for pre-loved soft toys which are clean and in good condition. Why not clear out the toy cupboard?

Prize Tombola (P4-7)

£1 FOR 3 TICKETS

We will provide the prizes for this through the school



WE THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR APPEAL TO WEAR UNIFORM EVERY DAY!

Since our last Newsletter, there has been an improvement. Thank you for your support! This information is a further reminder and encouragement to keep this up as we still have pockets of children wearing no uniform at all.

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

Congratulations and thank you to our P7s. Almost all children are wearing their P7 ties each day (with the exception of P.E. Day). I remind our P7s that this will be the expectation until the end of the term, in preparation for the transition to High School.

P7 LEAVERS' HOODIES

Orders have been received and we will keep you informed and get them to the children when they arrive.

PARENT COUNCIL MID TERM DISCO

I wish to thank all of those who supported our successful Mid Term Disco. This was very well attended.

There was a great number of Parent/Carer supporters on the night as well as staff members too. Without these volunteers, we would not be able to have such events.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and prepared for these events. The children had a wonderful time.

Particular thanks to Mr McCallum who was our resident DJ for the night. The children loved giving him their requests! We appreciate him donating his time and talent for free. I know that the Parent Council are extremely grateful for this.

Save the Date!

Parent Council Beach Party
Thursday 19th June 2025

Volunteers Required!

P1-3: 6pm—7:15pm
P4-7: 7:30pm - 8:45pm

ATTENDANCE, LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY COLLECTION **MARCH UPDATE**

THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE TARGET FOR ATTENDANCE IS **95%**. THE CURRENT AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR ST. JOHN PAUL II REMAINS AT **91%** WHICH IS **LOWER** THAN THE NLC/ NATIONAL TARGET. **However, we do see some pockets of improvement so thank you for your support.**

CURRENT ATTENDANCE LEVELS:

There was a HUGE improvement in attendance across all stages from P1—P7. Primary 7 still has the lowest levels of attendance in the school. January was a very good month, but then in February we saw some dips in P1, P3 and P6 (although P3 & P6 were only 1% lower).

PRIMARY:	AUGUST:	SEPTEMBER:	OCTOBER:	NOVEMBER:	DECEMBER:	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
P1	96%	90%	92%	90% ↓	84% ↓	92%	88%
P2	94%	91%	91%	92% ↑	83% ↓	94%	96%
P3	93%	92%	90%	89% ↓	86% ↓	90%	89%
P4	96%	92%	95%	96% ↑	86% ↓	92%	94%
P5	95%	90%	89%	90% ↑	79% ↓	91%	91%
P6	90%	94%	92%	95% ↑	85% ↓	93%	92%
P7	90%	86%	85%	82% ↓	72% ↓	85%	85%

HABITUAL LATE ARRIVAL:

School starts at 9am. If everyone could aim to have their children through the gate by 8:55am, it would make such a difference. It is a long walk from the gate, to the cloakroom, to the classroom, especially for P4-7!



During the week of 24th—28th February

Late Arrivals:

122

Early Collections:

86

You can see the number of instances of late arrival and early collection we have to deal with in one week. **Something needs to change in this regard** and I appeal to Parents/Carers to

play their part in helping us fix the problem. If you wish to talk to me about this; if there is anything I can do to help, please do get in touch with me at the school.

**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 *UPDATES below in RED*

Mrs Cummings finalised all of the dates, venues and transport for this year's school trips. You will see the P5 and P6 now have a date! A big shout out to Mrs Cummings for her hard work!

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 on Tuesday 13th May
Primary 6	Stirling Castle on Wednesday 14th May
Primary 7	Palacerigg Country Park 10th—14th March

- ♦ Letters and permission slips will be sent out in good time, if they have not already been sent.
- ♦ **Online payment is our preferred method of payment! We are asked, as far as possible, not to take cash for things like trips.**
- ♦ **You must sign up to Parents Portal in order to be able to pay online. Sign up by clicking [HERE](#).**



**NO DOGS
ALLOWED ON
SCHOOL
GROUNDS**

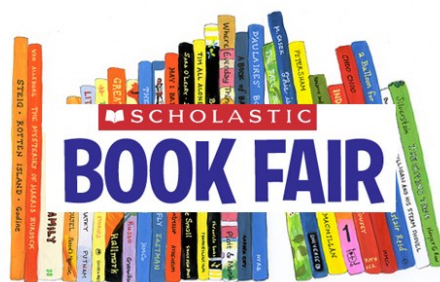
PARENTS' NIGHT

Our Parents' Night will take place on **Thursday 3rd April 2025**. As always, the following will be put in place:

- Booking is open from 6pm on 4th March 2025.
- **We will close the booking platform on Tuesday 1st April** so that we can prepare the lists and double check the system and appointments.
- Parents/Carers should make their booking online via Parents Portal.
- Click [HERE](#) to find out how to sign up for Parents Portal.

Our office staff will send out reminders to those who have not already signed up for Parents Portal.

Please remember that, without Parents Portal, you will not receive your child's End of Year Report as they are sent out via Parents Portal.



The Book Fair will be arriving in school in the run up to Parents' Night. We will make this available to the children throughout the week.

Alternatively, it will be available during Parents' Night and you may wish to make a purchase then.

For every book bought, we gain a little commission and we can then put this towards buying books for our school library. We thank you in advance for your support.



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

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

parentsportal.scot

APPLY FOR FREE
BUS TRAVEL



BOOK PARENTS'
EVENINGS



REPORT
ABSENCES



SEE REPORT
CARDS



GET PERMISSION
SLIPS



MAKE SCHOOL
PAYMENTS



SAY GOODBYE TO THE SCHOOL BAG RUN WITH PARENTSPORTAL.SCOT

From school payments to report cards,
parents evenings to permission slips —
do it all in one place at parentsportal.scot

Want to know more? Visit

parentsportal.scot

If you need help or support, please contact our office staff. They can help get you signed up and connected. You need this to receive your child's report.

'Understanding your child' group for parents

for all parents and carers of children aged 1 to 19 years old

What is the group about?

It's a great time and space for parents to think and learn more about:

- Understanding what your child might be communicating through their behaviour
- Thinking about how to respond to your child's behaviour
- Tuning into your child's development and what they need to learn and play
- Helping your child to manage strong feelings in a safe way
- Building strong healthy relationships

What have parents who have attended the group said about it?



"I have a better understanding of my child's needs and how they expect me to react"



"I've become more reflective, calmer and more organised, this has helped my family, we are happier"



"I have greater insight and understanding of my child's behaviour and how to manage it"



To find out more information,
contact your health professional or:

Lynsey Hughes, CLD Worker (schools) 07812501821
or
Carolanne Waddell, Homelink Worker 07812501894

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2024-2025

We continue to work on our annual Improvement Priorities for 2024—2025 and will soon be embarking upon our Self Evaluation processes, which our Parents/Carers, children and staff will all be invited to participate in.

I give a regular update on priorities to the Parent Council, so if you are interested in this part of school life, feel free to come along to the next Parent Council meeting on 29th April at 6pm.

PRIORITY ONE: Raising Attainment in Writing through our Talk for Writing Approaches

We continue to develop the skills and knowledge of staff through training and learning community approach. Staff have worked recently with Yvonne from Talk for Writing to ensure approaches are consistent and planning is supportive. Mr Thomas and Mrs Martin are carrying our Learning Visits in classes.

PRIORITY TWO: Review and evaluate our Curriculum and create a new Curriculum Rationale

Staff have reviewed our current curricular offering and have completed a draft version of our Curriculum Rationale, which sets out our priorities and our approaches to all curricular areas.

CLUSTER PRIORITY: Increased engagement with The Promise Scotland's promise to care experienced children and young people

All staff have taken part and complete the 'Keeping The Promise' training as we work towards achieving the Promise Award.

CLUSTER PRIORITY 2: Improving School Attendance You can read about this in our Newsletter.

MINI VINNIES

Our Mini Vinnies area group of young people from our school who have joined a large movement of young people from all around the world. They are part of the larger St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP). Mini Vinnies are SSVP groups based in primary schools and are the youngest branch of our Vincentian family tree. They are from P5 in St. John Paul II and meet together with Miss Williamson and Miss Millar.

The main purpose is to help anyone one need by following the SSVP "See Think, Do" plan.

SEE: Look around your school and local community to see who needs help.

THINK: Plan how you could help.

...and **DO** it!

FAITH IN ACTION



It also provides wonderful opportunities for our young people to share ideas and concerns, to have fun, learn ,pray and support each other. The SSVP model of faith in action is a great way to assist young people with thinking and talking about their spirituality – connecting their beliefs and values with service activities and issues in their community can help to make their faith real, meaningful and relevant.

As part of our Jubilee 2025 events, as pilgrims of hope, they are **connecting with the sick in our community** by visiting a local care home. They will also be planning a Celebration with Grandparents as part of the Jubilee Calendar.

ICT PURCHASE

Our charging trolleys have arrived! We bought two of these, which gives us a capacity to charge around 60 devices at a time.

Thank you to Miss Agnew (and her merry helpers) who have been conducting an audit of our ICT suite and setting up all of the new devices. As part of the North Lanarkshire Digital Learning Strategy, they advise that we no longer have a dedicated suite and that devices should be accessible in all classes. For us, this means we need to timetable the devices whilst we continue to invest in more to increase the amount of devices we have available to use. This is the ideal way to operate and we are working towards it. We already have a similar system in place for our iPads, however, these are also in dire need of replacement... one thing at a time though!



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO PARENTS' PORTAL?

This is a one stop shop for all the things you need to make your life a little easier when dealing with certain school-related tasks...

- Update your contact details
- Report an absence
- Complete a permission slip
- Annual Data Check return
- Book Parents' Night appointments
- See the menu and make orders for your child up to two weeks in advance
- View your child's End of Year Reports

To find out more and to sign up, please click [HERE](#).

We currently have a very low uptake in our P1 year group, but all year groups have parents/carers who are still to sign up.

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 *Update*

We have been 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.

The children enjoyed their visit to the Science Department! We have also had visits from staff to our own classes, with teachers working together to share information and support the transition work.



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

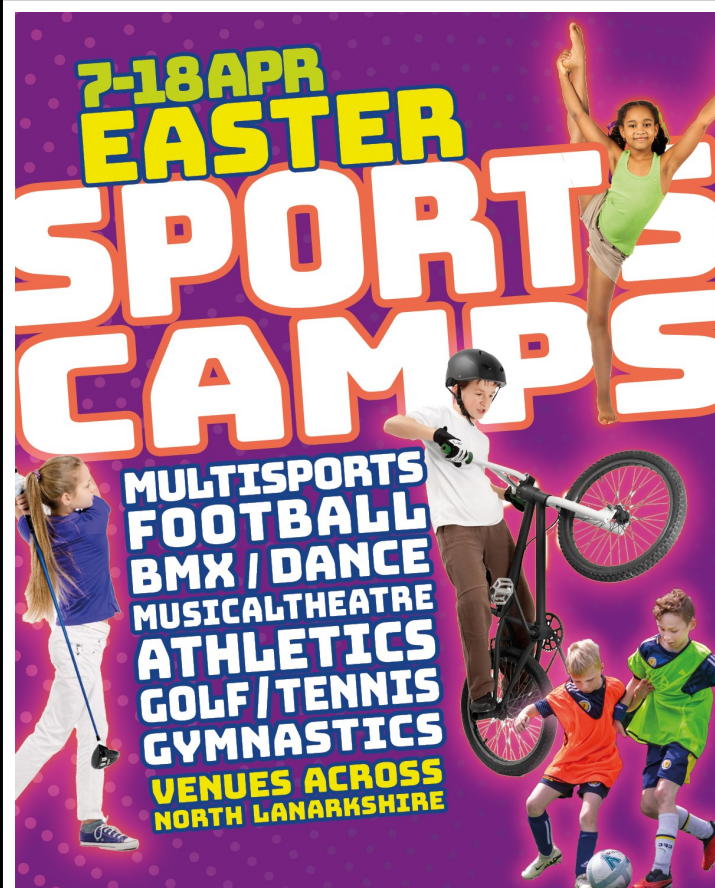
28th and 29th May: 2 Day Visit including a full timetable for children during the day. Children will be required to make their own way to and from Cardinal Newman on these days and they should wear St. John Paul II full school uniform. ***More information will be circulated about this nearer the time.***

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE TO THE 2 DAY VISIT ARRANGEMENTS:

Instead of a disco, there will be an event from 6pm to 7:30pm. Children will be able to sign up to various activities. Importantly, there will be a presentation for parents/carers in the Theatre followed by Tea/Coffee. You are all encouraged and invited to attend.

During this time, you will also be able to have your child measured for their blazer as part of their school uniform. The suppliers will also be available at this event.

Please take note of these dates!



Bookings are now live for our April Sport Camps across multiple venues in North Lanarkshire including Broadwood, Ravenscraig, Sir Matt Busby SC, Wishaw, Airdrie SC, Time Capsule and Keir Hardie.

We're offering a wide variety of sports including football, gymnastics, dance, athletics, tennis and Multi Sport. As always spaces are in high demand and can fill up fast, so please contact us as soon as possible to secure your space at preferred venue and sport.

Please see link to the website [Easter Sports Camps](#) for further details including video of programmes on offer along with terms & conditions and information on how to book.

Should you have any questions please contact Clarkd@northlan.gov.uk



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 (21st 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

17th 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

PRIMARY 3 - RECONCILIATION:

Conratulations to the children of Primary 3 who made their First Reconciliation on Tuesday 11th March. In school, Father Morris met with the children of St. Gabriel's for a short service and then their individual confessions. He said they were amazing! In St. Columba's, the church was the setting and families came in quietly and prayerfully, as children met with Fr Bogan in the St. Nicholas Room. There was a beautiful atmosphere in the church. Despite some nerves the children were all very pleased to have made their First Confession! I wish to Thank both of our Chaplains, the Class Teachers and all of you at home for playing your part in the preparation. Thank you to the children too!



PRIMARY 4 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

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

Information will be circulated nearer the time, but please do try and ensure that you are completing your child's workbook as this is a really important part of their preparation.

AFTER SCHOOL & LUNCHTIME CLUBS

We have lots on offer for our children this term and there will be more to come after the Easter Holidays. Obviously, for health and safety reasons, some clubs need to be limited in numbers and so we have split them into smaller groups for allocated weeks so that more children can be involved. These clubs are being run by our own Teaching Staff who are giving up their marking and preparation time to run them.

MONDAY: Netball for P6/7
TUESDAY: Minnie Vinnies for P5
Easter Crafts for P4
Basketball for P6/7
WEDNESDAY: Drama Club for P4-7
Drama Club for P2
THURSDAY: Football for P6 & P7



We are working to increase the number of clubs for our P1-3 children and new clubs will be offered in the new term. We are also seeking coaches to come in and work with the children.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS:

P6/7 Reading Club on a Wednesday and P5 Mindfulness Club on a Wednesday.

MUSIC FESTIVAL & NETBALL QUALIFIERS

We are always so proud of our children and never more so than when they go out and represent our school! Recently a team of P6 and P7 children attended the NLC Netball Qualifiers. Not only did they play excellent netball (led by Miss Agnew) but they were commended for their behaviour, attitude, teamwork and the way in which they played their games.

This week, our P5 and P6 choir members were attending the Glasgow Music Festival. They had to learn a set piece which was assessed by an panel of adjudicators and they performed a piece of their own choice. Our P7s were unable to attend due to their outdoor week and we missed them! However the children were, again, outstanding both in their performances and their behaviour! **Thank you to all of our children for being amazing ambassadors for St. John Paul II. We are proud of you all!**

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>





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

CREATING YOUNG ENGINEERS

Our Primary 6 children are currently 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!

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH: Initiative

META SKILLS:

Never has it been more important for us to support our children in developing through a skills-based curriculum. Meta Skills are timeless, higher-order skills that create adaptive learners and promote success in various contexts. Over the next weeks and months, we will be developing the use of Meta Skills within Learning and Teaching. Meta skills are Divided into the following...

SELF MANAGEMENT:

Focusing 	Integrity 
Adapting 	Initiative 

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Communicating 	Feeling 
Collaborating 	Leading 

INNOVATION:

Curiosity 	Creativity 
Sense-making 	Critical thinking 

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS & BEHAVIOUR

I am hoping to start the process of reviewing our current Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy and Approaches. The Scottish Government has recently published new guidance on this very issue and it seems like a good time to think about it. We can then look to implement our new policy in the new school year. Of course, we want to involve as many people as possible in the process, not least our children!

This policy should seek to draw upon the most recent research and guidance, but it should also take account of the strengths and qualities of our school, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the latest legislation. This all has to be presented in a way that we can all relate to and that makes sense to everyone.

Please do take any opportunities to get involved when they are offered as your voice is important in our school improvement approaches.

READING SCHOOLS AWARD UPDATE

Calling all P6 and P7s! Our Lunchtime Reading Club is underway. Why not settle down with a good book, a cup of juice and a biscuit and enjoy the peace and quiet as you join like-minded readers?!

This started on 5th March during lunchtime in the Library.

Look out for further updates on other reading clubs for our younger children.

PARENTS/CARERS - Would you like to share your reading experience at one of our assemblies? Please contact the office for more information.



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:
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 All welcome.
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
Thursday 24th April	P1 Trip to Almond Valley	
Tuesday 29th April	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the Dining Hall
Monday 5th May	HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 6th May	INSET DAY	
Wednesday 7th May	P7 Wear Yellow Walk for St. Andrew's Hospice	Strathclyde Park
Friday 9th May	Eucharistic Adoration	
Tuesday 13th May	P5 Trip to New Lanark	
Wednesday 14th May	P6 Trip to Stirling Castle	
Thursday 22nd May	Greg from the Mark 10 Mission to visit	All day in school
Friday 23rd May	HOLIDAY	
Monday 26th May	HOLIDAY	
Thursday 29th May	Ascension Thursday Mass	10am in St. Columba's. All welcome!
Friday 30th May	Nursery Trip to Almond Valley	
Saturday 31st May	P4 First Holy Communion	11am in St. Columba's 1pm in St. Gabriel's
17th June	P4 trip to the Forth Bridges	



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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