



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

May
2025

NEWSLETTER

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

Our school has been abuzz with lots of events, excursions, visitors and learning opportunities! We have been very busy since the last edition of our Newsletter. We have a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks and also as we move towards the end of the school year in June. There is still much to be achieved!

Staff are beginning to prepare End of Year Reports for our children, which will come to you via Parents' Portal again. Have you signed up for this? Check out the information with the Newsletter to help you if now.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events happening in the next few weeks.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

Friday 23rd May:

Holiday

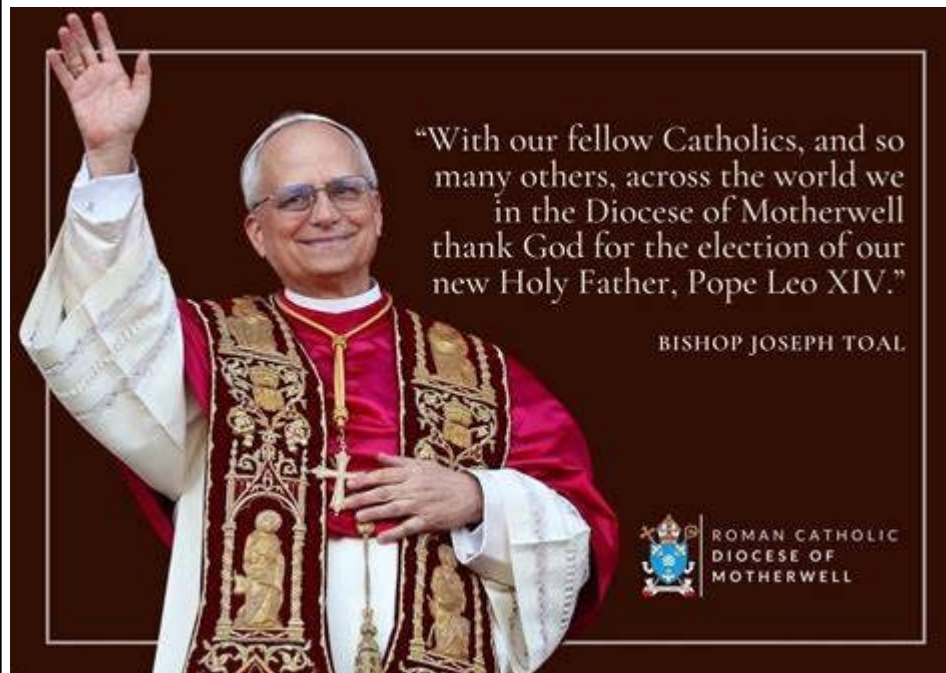
Monday 26th May:

Holiday

Tuesday 27th May:

School re-opens

Habemus Papam! We have a Pope!



"With our fellow Catholics, and so many others, across the world we in the Diocese of Motherwell thank God for the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV."

BISHOP JOSEPH TOAL



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
MOTHERWELL

There has been a lot of excitement in the school, both since the start of the Conclave and then with the announcement of the new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

The children have shown a great deal of interest in the whole process and they have been praying for and finding out about our new Pope.

We continue to keep Pope Leo in our prayers as he begins his ministry to the Church throughout the world.

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.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE TACKLING POVERTY TEAM:

Email: TPteam@northlan.gov.uk

Tel: 01698 322551

*For support to **maximise** your income and ensure that you are receiving the correct benefits and support. You can also click on the link below.*

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



ARRIVAL AT BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club opens from 8:15am. We have an increasing number of children who are arriving at school from as early as 7:50am. If there is a Parent/Carer with them, that is no problem. However, if they are unsupervised, this is a big problem. We cannot guarantee supervision and Parents/Carers should not

expect this. We make members of the Senior Leadership Team available to supervise from 8:45am.

Children have been riding bikes and scooters on the pavements at the entrance and this is a hazard whilst there are pedestrians moving around and also whilst there is traffic in the car park.

BRINGING TOYS TO SCHOOL

Every now and then, we need to send a reminder that children are asked not to bring their personal toys to school. This can cause distress if they go missing, get damaged or someone uses them without permission. It can also be an unwelcomed distraction in class! The only reasons children would bring a toy are if it is part of their learning (requested by a Teacher) or if it is part of their personal plan (for example a transition object to help get them to school). However, these would be agreed beforehand.

LATE ARRIVAL & LUNCH ORDERING

We encounter some difficulty when children arrive late at school and forget to order lunch. They should always report to the school office if they are late and they can order lunch there too. Of course, all Parents/Carers have access to the Fusion App which lets you see the menu and you can order your child's lunch from there up to two weeks in advance! Why not make use of the app. This will allow you to monitor your child's lunch choices.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK WITH SCHOOL AND P.E. UNIFORM!

We continue to appeal to you all to support our approach to uniform. Even in the summer months and warmer weather, wearing uniform is important. However, there can be some variations to uniform during the summer. Some girls will wear light blue gingham summer dresses. All children may be more comfortable on really hot days in a school polo shirt.

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.

SOME CHILDREN ARE COMING TO SCHOOL WITH VARIOUS BRANDED ITEMS OF CLOTHING INSTEAD OF UNIFORM

We tend not to call out children for not wearing uniform. Sometimes we may have a kind word with our senior pupils who are nearing the transition to high school. However our P7s have been very good!

We have some children in Primaries 4, 5 and 6 who are not wearing uniform at all. ***Please try to make a change and work with us on this.***

We will keep a bank of things in school to assist children to wear school uniform.

LOST PROPERTY

After our efforts in the week running up to Parents' Night, we now have a lot of unclaimed garments again. I will place these outside the school entrance to encourage you to take anything that belongs to your child.

There will also be items which have not been claimed and have no names. We would rather these were put to good use!



PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE & DISCO

At the most recent Parent Council meeting, we had our Annual General Meeting during which the office bearers were elected.

Chairperson: Kelly-Anne Burns

Vice-chairperson: Catherine Geoghans

Treasurer: Jennifer Travers

Thank you to all those who give up their time, especially our office bearers. We had a couple new people attend this meeting, but there is always space for a few more!

Parent Council Beach Party Thursday 12th June 2025 Volunteers Required!

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

Tickets on sale from 27th May Priced £1

HEALTH & WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

This year, we made the decision not to focus Health and Wellbeing on one week. At this time of year, with so many holiday weekends and other interruptions, we thought we would spread those activities across the year. During the week beginning 19th May, children had taster sessions in the following:

P1 & P2 = Tae Kwon Do
P3 - P7 = Wadokai Karakoe

Sports Day 2025

Our annual Sports Day will take place on Friday 13th June 2025. The children will take part in:

- House Teams Quiz
- Annual Staff V Pupils Netball Tournament (for pupils only)
- Sports Day Races - outdoors (weather permitting) from 2pm. Parents/carers **welcome!**

ATTENDANCE, LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY COLLECTION *MAY UPDATE*

Attendance has improved in almost all stages across the school. The average attendance is has also improved. Thank you! Our average attendance is now 91.7%.

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).

HABITUAL LATE ARRIVAL:

PRIMARY:	AUGUST:	SEPTEMBER:	OCTOBER:	NOVEMBER:	DECEMBER:	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	APRIL
P1	96%	90%	92%	90% ↓	84% ↓	92%	88%	90% ↑
P2	94%	91%	91%	92% ↑	83% ↓	94%	96%	96%
P3	93%	92%	90%	89% ↓	86% ↓	90%	89%	90% ↑
P4	96%	92%	95%	96% ↑	86% ↓	92%	94%	93%
P5	95%	90%	89%	90% ↑	79% ↓	91%	91%	94% ↑
P6	90%	94%	92%	95% ↑	85% ↓	93%	92%	90% ↓
P7	90%	86%	85%	82% ↓	72% ↓	85%	85%	81% ↓

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 12th—16th May

Late Arrivals:

88

Early Collections:

91

Late arrivals are also down this month, but we need to keep working at this. Early collections have also reduced, but this is still something we need your support with to reduce even more.

**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

This year's trips are proving to be very successful! With only two more trips to happen, it has been a great achievement on everyone's part to support these.

Sincere thanks to all parents, carers, grandparents and friends of the school who have given up their time to support the children and ensure we keep them all safe whilst they're out on their adventures!

Without these supporters, we would not be able to run our trips and this would be a huge loss for all of our children.



**NO DOGS
ALLOWED ON
SCHOOL
GROUNDS**

PUPIL REPORTS FOR JUNE 2025

As with last year, all Pupil Reports will be issued via Parents' Portal.

Have you signed up for this yet? If you have not, then please follow the link by clicking [HERE](#).

You will find some useful information on the next page regarding Parents' Portal and everything it can offer.

We know that signing up to something like this can be daunting, but we are here to help. So... just ask!

**THE COUNTDOWN TO
RECEIVING PUPIL
REPORTS FOR JUNE
2025 THROUGH
PARENTS' PORTAL IS ON!**

**Please don't leave it
until the last minute to
get in touch if you need
help.**



READING SCHOOLS AWARD

Another huge thank you to everyone who was able to support our Book Fair around Parents' Night. We now have two sets of commission which we can add

together and purchase some more books for our school. We have a total of £841 to spend. **This will assist us in some of the things we are doing as we work towards our Reading Schools Award.**

We continue to 'Drop Everything and Read' after lunchtime on a daily basis.

READING ON THE GO

We recently purchased some trolleys which will be filled with a selection of books. These trolleys will be made available in various areas of the school to encourage reading for enjoyment. We will have one in the infant playground, one in the senior playground and one in the Breakfast Club. This will be particularly good in the better weather!

We are also looking at improvements to the senior playground, whereby we will create a quiet zone with some improved planting, some seating and a space for children to sit and read, away from the busy-ness of the rest of the playground. Our children will contribute to these plans.



We are working towards being a **Reading School**



parentsportal.scot

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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.

ENHANCE PROVISION CLASS

You will see a letter on the next page from James McParland, Chief Officer for Education and Families (South) which is addressed to our Parents and Carers.

This is to announce that St. John Paul II has been selected to host a new P1 Enhanced Provision Class. Children who will attend this class have been selected by North Lanarkshire through the Transition Pathway Review Process (via referral from Nursery). We had nothing to do with the selection process.

The new class will be very much an integral part of our school and we are looking forward to this new chapter.

This is currently for a pilot which will run for one year. Throughout the year, NLC will evaluate the programme and whether or not it is something they would like to roll out to other schools.

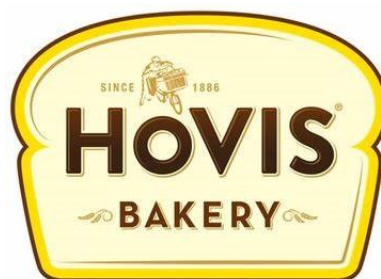
If you have any questions about this, please do get in touch with Mr Thomas.

DELIVERY FROM HOVIS

We were delighted to be approached by one of our Parents who works for Hovis. They run a programme whereby they gift a loaf of bread to each child in the school for them to take home.

This is a lovely gesture by Hovis and we look forward to receiving our delivery on the morning of 21st May 2025. SO... if your children returns home with a loaf of bread that day, you now know why!

Many thanks to Mr Grant for organizing this for us. We will also share these loaves with our own Nursery Class as well as children in Laburnum Family Learning Centre.



CAR PARK ISSUES

I am, yet again, appealing to all users of the car park to ensure that they are playing their part in making the car park safe for all users. I have had a number of people contact me about incidents in the car park.

One parent contacted me after being verbally abused and sworn at, simply for asking a driver who was not in a parking space to move and let them out of their space.

We had another incident where a car was parked and was hit by another car it was parked along side.

Staff cars are regularly dented by other users who clearly do not take care when opening their doors.

All of this, along with the continual double/triple parking as well as children being emptied out of cars onto the oncoming traffic, as well as others abandoning their cars continues to cause huge concern.

We are now experiencing damage to the grounds where people are parking up on pavements and on the grass and landscaping.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES PEOPLE ACT IN SUCH AN UNSAFE AND IRRESPONSIBLE WAY!

Of course many people use the car park in a perfectly safe and courteous way and this is appreciated. However, we need ALL USERS to take heed and play their part. We recently asked you not to use the Car Park when we had buses in it for our Carfin Pilgrimage. Everyone was amazing that day and we had the safest Car Park in North Lanarkshire! Please, seriously consider parking elsewhere and walking the last few minutes to the school... especially in good weather. You could park in the church, at Laughing Buddha or somewhere else. For the sake of a few minutes, it would be worth it and much appreciated!

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact:
E-mail:
Date: 14/5/25



Education & Families

James McParland
Chief Officer - South
Civic Centre
Windmillhill Street
Motherwell ML1 1AB
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carers

I am delighted to make you aware of a pilot programme being introduced within St John Paul II Primary School starting in August 2025.

This programme consists of an enhanced mainstream Primary One class of up to 10 P1 children, who have been identified following a rigorous process, across 5 primary schools in North Lanarkshire.

This is an opportunity for these children to be part of an enhanced support offer, and will include additional staffing, opportunities for smaller class sizes and access to targeted resources and facilities.

This pilot programme will provide opportunities for these children to join their peers in activities such as PE, purposeful play, outdoor learning, assembly, extracurricular events, lunch breaks and other experiences.

I know that your Head Teacher is very excited about this pilot programme and is looking forward to welcoming the children to St John Paul II Primary School.

I hope this update is of interest.

Kind regards

James McParland
Chief Officer
Education and Families (South)



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Until 2021

**LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT**

P7 TRANSITION *Update*

We have had a number of further meetings with the staff of Cardinal Newman High School. We also recently sent out a letter on their behalf. The letter included information about:

1. The two day visit—all you need to know
2. An event for Parents/Carers/Children on the evening of Wednesday 28th May 2025 from 6pm—7:30pm.
3. All details you will need for the children to have a successful visit.



Please note that there will be no transport provided for the 2 day visit.

The children will attend Cardinal Newman Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th May 2025.

Click [HERE](#) for to access the letter from Cardinal Newman High School.

P1 TRANSITION INFORMATION

As always, we have a programme of transition events planned for our new P1 intake this year. Next year's P1 Teachers will be Miss Millar and Miss Savage. They have already started to visit our partner nurseries to meet some of the children. Those children attending St. John Paul II or Laburnum FLC are making visits to the school and their buddies are regularly coming to meet them in their settings.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children and their parents on:

Wednesday 21st May at 9:30am (Meet the Teacher)

Tuesday 27th May at 9:30am (P6 Sports Leaders Session)

Thursday 5th June at 11am (Meeting and Lunch)

EXIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR'S P1

For children in Miss Millar, Miss Savage or Mrs Cooney's classes, **from Monday 2nd June**, these classes will be dismissed through the main gate and not through the Dining Hall. Staff will still escort the children to the gate. We do this so that the children are not too overwhelmed in August when they return. The Class Teachers will discuss this with the children and prepare them for this change. If you could do the same, we would appreciate it. We will send out a text to remind you nearer the time.

GENERAL TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Each year, we plan some transition events and opportunities for all children as they move to a new class and (for the most part) a new Teacher. This has become something that we have improved and refined over recent years.



UNIVERSAL OFFER:

All children will be offered some 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on two occasions. Tuesday 10th June at 9:45am and Friday 20th June at 2pm.

ENHANCED OFFER:

We realise that some of our children will require a more individualised or small group approach and so Teachers will be given the opportunity to meet with those children.

As part of our Transition Planning, we ensure that Teachers meet together to discuss specific support needs as well as planning ahead. This assists the receiving teacher when considering the start of the new school year and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please do get in touch with a member of the Leadership Team and we will be very happy to help.

PRIMARY 4 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

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

Please continue to ensure workbooks are completed at home and they are returned to school for use in class.

A letter will be sent out in the coming weeks with reminders of the information shared at the meeting.



ST. JOHN PAUL II DRAMA CLUB SUMMER PRODUCTION

**Thursday 5th June 2025
at 7pm
in St. John Paul II
Primary School**

TICKET INFORMATION

Individual letters will be sent out to those children in the Drama Club with initial ticket allocations for purchase per family. Once everyone has their initial allocation, we will go to general sale. Then anyone can buy as many as they like.

Children in the school will see the performance during the school day, however once on general sale, children can also purchase a ticket with an adult to come along.

The children of the Drama Club have been working very hard and they cannot wait to share their performance with our school community!

M&M THEATRE PRODUCTIONS - PINOCCHIO

On Friday 30th May, the children will be treated to a production of Pinocchio, presented by M&M Theatre Productions. The performance will start at 9:15am, so please ensure that your child arrives at school for 9am sharp that day, as lunches and registers will need to be taken quickly! As this is first thing in the morning, children do not need to bring a snack for the performance. It will be finished in time for morning interval.



Our Drama Club will also have the chance to meet the cast and take part in a workshop with them, following the show.

Others Ourselves Property

All About RESPECT

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Achievement | Inclusion

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS & BEHAVIOUR

We recently had a whole school workshop on various aspects of our Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy.

All children took part, along with members of staff. We want to eventually present our findings to you as Parents and Carers for your input and approval. This involves all members of our school community and we all need to be aware of the messages we are giving our children in terms of their own behaviour and how we support others in this too.

There were four parts to our work...

PART 1: Good and positive relationships are really important in St. John Paul II!

What ways can we build positive relationships with other children?

In what ways can we build positive relationships with adults?

PART 2: We want behaviour to be of a very high standard in St. John Paul II

What can adults do to support all children to behave well?

What are OUR (children's) responsibilities to make sure standards of behaviour remain high in our school?

PART 3: In our school community we are all about RESPECT!

Why is it important to respect yourself, others and property?

PART 4: Sometimes things go wrong...

We know that not all behaviours are intentional and we need to understand why things have happened.

Every action has a consequence. These can be positive or negative.

What consequences would be right for small things?

What consequences would be right for more serious things?

If behaviours keep happening, what could we do to support that person to make a change?

If things go wrong with our friends, how can we repair things?

The children's responses were very insightful! They have a good understanding of everything we discussed. We are now working on taking their suggestions and forming them into a document that helps us maintain high standards of behaviour.

PART 4: Sometimes things go wrong...

- ⇒ Review suggested consequences and how these escalate depending on the situation.
- ⇒ Review our in class and whole school rewards systems.
- ⇒ Review the House System.
- ⇒ Review the arrangements for Golden Time.

You will see the graphic at the top of this page, which is displayed throughout the school building. We regularly discuss this at assembly. We do not think that there is any need to review our ALL ABOUT RESPECT approach. If everyone operates in a spirit of respect for themselves, others and property (including the environment), then our school will be a happy place to learn and thrive.

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:
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	
Friday 30th May	M&M Productions in School: Performance of Pinocchio	9:15am in the hall
Saturday 31st May	P4 First Holy Communion	11am in St. Columba's 1pm in St. Gabriel's
Monday 2nd June	Mini Vinnies to Carfin	All Day
Thursday 5th June	P1 Transition Event 2	11am with lunch provided for new P1s and 1 parent.
Thursday 5th June	Drama Club Performance	7pm in the school hall
Monday 9th June	Primary 4 to Mass	St. Columba's at 10am
Thursday 12th June	Parent Council Beach Party	P1-3 6pm - 7:15pm P4-7 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Friday 13th June	Sports Day	Parents/Carers welcome to attend Traditional Races at 2pm (weather permitting!)
Monday 16th June	Greg from the Mark 10 Mission to visit	
Tuesday 17th June	P4 trip to the Forth Bridges	
Monday 23rd June 2025	P7 Graduation Mass, Ceremony & Party	6pm Mass 6:45pm Ceremony 7:30pm - 9pm Party
Wednesday 25th June	End of Term Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 are awarded their new P7 School Ties Pope Francis Faith Awards given out 	10am in St. Columba's All very welcome to attend
Wednesday 25th June	School closes for Summer Holidays	1pm Please note the early closure
Tues 12th & Wed 13th August	INSET DAY	
Thursday 14th August	School Returns	



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas

