



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

August
2025

NEWSLETTER

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

A very warm welcome back to everyone; children and families and of course to all the staff team!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone tomorrow after two very busy INSET Days. The staff have undertaken some training with the Educational Psychologist, all about creating inclusive classroom environments. We also did all of our Child Protection Training, as well as meeting together to discuss and plan for the year ahead.

In May 2026, we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary, and so we are looking forward to planning some events which we hope will be a fitting celebration for us all.

In this newsletter, I am outlining some initial information. Please do take a minute to read what is relevant. You will find information on:

- Start and finish times.
- Gates for collection
- School Uniform and PE Uniform
- P6/7 school meal payments
- Plus more!

Please note that the (with the exception of P1A) the whole school will attend Mass in St. Columba's Church at 10am on Friday 15th August, for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. All are welcome to join us.

I want to thank our entire staff team, including our teachers, support staff, cleaners, catering and janitorial staff for all that they have done to prepare the school building to welcome the children back. We can't wait to see them!

As always, if there is anything I can help with, please do get in touch.

With renewed prayers and good wishes,

Mr Thomas

Head Teacher



INFORMATION FOR P1A (Miss Wright)

The arrangements for P1A are slightly different to accommodate their arrival in Taxis and also to support a calm transition into school.

P1A

DAY 1 - THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST - P1A children start at 9:10am approx.

- Please enter the playground just before 9:10am. **Staff will be in the playground to collect Lunch orders (Chicken Curry, Pizza Slices or a Tuna or Cheese Roll).**
- Members of the Leadership Team will be at the gate to guide Parents/Carers and Escorts. Staff will also be outside the entrance to the classroom.
- Support staff will be available to come to greet the taxis where more than one adult is required.
- There is the opportunity for photographs at the classroom, but we want to encourage a swift drop off so that we can work to settle the children in the morning.
- **Children will finish school at 3:10pm.** They will be dismissed out of their own classroom and through the playground with Parents/Carers or escorts. Whilst the other children are leaving from 2pm, we wanted to make things as smooth as possible with transport arrangements and so we have left the finish time at 3:10pm.

FROM FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST – Similar arrangements will be in place at the same times.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

We are disappointed that some of the building modifications have not been completed during the summer holidays. This is completely outwith our control and we have worked hard to prepare the environment for the children. Mr Thomas is in constant contact with North Lanarkshire regarding the outstanding works and even today, some of this has been progressed. North Lanarkshire are working hard with us to rectify things and wish to reassure our parents and carers. Mr Thomas will keep you all informed. If there is anything you want to clarify, please contact him.

INFORMATION FOR P1B (Miss Millar) & P1C (Miss Savage)

We are delighted to welcome all of our P1 children and their families. The first day of school is a huge step for the children and a momentous occasion for their families!

**P1B &
1C**

DAY 1 - THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST - P1 children start at 10am

- If it is not raining, please gather in the playground just before 10am. If it is raining, you will be invited to gather in the Assembly Hall. **Please note that parents/carers are not normally permitted into the playground and this is the only for the first day. Staff will be in the playground to collect Lunch orders (Chicken Curry or a Tuna or Cheese Roll).**
- Children will line up in their class lines and their buddies will join them.
- Buddies will support the children throughout the day.
- Parents/Carers will not be permitted into the building in the morning, however, you are welcome to come along to the school **from 2pm** on Thursday 14th August to collect your child and see them in their new classroom and children can be collected from that time. Siblings can also be collected at this time.

FROM FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST – Children will all start school at 9am and enter through the main gate. Buddies will support this. You should then collect your child at **2:30pm** from the exit at the side of the pitch. This area will be coned off for safety reasons and so no vehicles should be in this area during the dismissal of children. Older siblings will also exit through this door.

FROM MONDAY 22ND - DROP OFF IS 9AM AND DISMISSAL IS 3PM. P7 Buddies will be at the gate from about 8:50am to support their P1 friends.

INFORMATION FOR P2 - P7 CHILDREN

- Children should arrive at school for a 9am start and all children should enter through the main gate.
- Breakfast Club is available from 8:15am.
- Children will be dismissed at 3pm.
- All children from P2—P7 will exit through the main gate. No classes will be dismissed through the pitch gate this year.

All children in P2-7 will be dismissed from the main gates this year, unless they have a sibling in P1.

Can I please appeal to all Parents/Carers? School finishes at 3pm and, as such, children should not be collected earlier than this unless for an appointment. All too often we have multiple children called to the office on a daily basis and this is very disruptive. Thank you!

UNIFORM & PE KIT

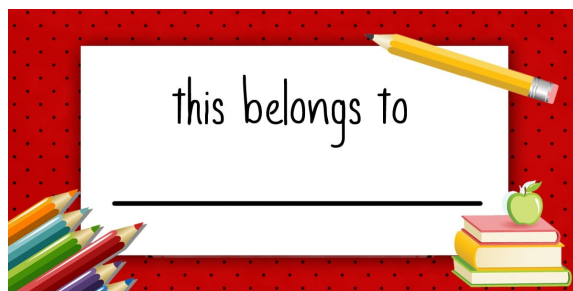
- Children should come to school in full school uniform. The main elements of our uniform are Shirt and Tie, black trousers/skirt/pinafore.
- Royal Blue sweatshirts/cardigan/vest tops/knitted garments - these do not need to have the school badge embroidered. That is your own choice.
- **BLACK SHOES** should be worn to school.
- ALL P7 children should wear their P7 ties which were presented to them on the last day of term in June.
- A PE timetable will be put together and you will be informed of your child's PE Day. On this day, children will be permitted to come to school in their **PE Uniform**.
- **PE Uniform** is something which has been very successful since we made an effort last year. It means that the children are still coming dressed for school and that PE day is not a 'dress down' or 'non-uniform' day.
- **PE Uniform** is black tracksuit bottoms/shorts, school polo shirt (light blue) and school sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan. Again, no need for the badge unless it is your preference.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR CHILD!

- All personal belongings your child brings to school should be clearly labelled—try to use a permanent marker for this!
- This includes bags, packed lunch boxes, pencil cases and all garments!
- Children should not bring personal toys to school unless this has been a request from the Teacher or if it is agreed as part of an individual's learning plan.

NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO GET ON BOARD WITH THIS. AS NEW THINGS ARE PURCHASED, PLEASE LABEL THEM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

The amount of un-named and unclaimed garments we gather throughout the year is flabbergasting! At different points of the year, we will return labelled lost property and also distribute garments with no owners.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR P6 & P7

Once your child is in P6 and P7, they are no longer automatically entitled to a Free School Meal (including Breakfast Club).

If you think your child qualifies for Free School Meals because of low income, then you should apply by completing the form. If you do not apply, then you will be required to pay **£3.40** per day and there will also be a charge for the Breakfast Club.

Further information about Clothing Grants and Free School Meals can be found at the link below...

[Free school meals and clothing grants | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

If you have any problems with applying, please do get in touch with the school office.



We are continuing our tradition of having our annual Meet the Teacher event. We invite all parents/carers to come along to 'Meet the Teacher' this coming Wednesday 20th August 2025. The procedure is as follows:

- ♦ **A maximum of TWO ADULTS PER FAMILY** can attend this event.
- ♦ If a parent/carers cannot attend, then grandparent, older sibling aunt/uncle is welcome to represent the family!
- ♦ All children will be dismissed as normal and should be collected from their gate. This will allow those who are not able to attend to be collected safely.
- ♦ Those wishing to come along to 'Meet the Teacher' can enter the building, after collecting their child(ren), through the main doors at Reception.

♦

WHEN YOU ARE EXITING THE BUILDING:

- ♦ For safety reasons and to ease congestion, you should exit the building through the infant or senior doors to the playground and then through the main gates to the car park.
- ♦ This is **not** an opportunity to ask individual questions about your child's progress. It is simply an informal chance to see your child's new class and meet their teacher. **All welcome!**
- ♦ ***IT CAN BE VERY BUSY –so perhaps you would like to wait outside for 5-10mins before coming into the building? You can avoid the rush and congestion!***

MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

The school will attend 10am Mass in St. Columba's Church for the Feast of the Assumption. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Parents and Carers are very welcome to attend. Please come and join us. It is a lovely way to start our school year.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

As previously mentioned, attendance and punctuality will be a real focus for us during this coming year. Please try to:

- Make the most of your child's time at school - try not to take unnecessary days off school!
- Try to keep appointments to times outwith the school day and if this is not possible, keep these to a minimum.
- Ensure your child arrives on time for school. School starts at 9am!
- Collect your child at 3pm and not before.
- Talk to school staff if you have a concern or worry about your child's attendance.



REMEMBER WE ARE HERE TO HELP...

We are very aware of the pressures our families face these days.

We are a school which prides itself on the positive relationship we have with our families and the wider community. We are here for you, whatever you need support with.

Please do contact us if there is anything we can help with, be it education, financial, health and wellbeing... anything! Discretion is always guaranteed.



DATES TO REMEMBER

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 14th August	New Term Begins	Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am Nursery opens at 8:40am School starts for P2 - P7 at 9am P1A children start at 9:10am P1B & C children will start later at 10am.
Wednesday 20th August	Meet the Teacher	3pm—3:30pm Children should be collected at 3pm in the usual way and anyone wishing to Meet the Teacher should enter through the main door. All exit through the playground gates.
Tuesday 2nd September	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the school dining hall
Thursday 25th September	Non Uniform Day	Children can dress down. Donations welcomed.
Friday 26th & Monday 29th September	September Holiday Weekend	



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery Class

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Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Achievement | Inclusion