



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class



NOVEMBER 2025

From Mr Thomas...

We are well and truly into Autumn (and increasingly Winter!) Things have been very busy in our school community since I last wrote to you all and, as you know, they are about to get a little busier!

I have outlined a lot of information for you, with some key dates which will help you plan ahead for November/December and beyond. Please take a careful note of events that are upcoming. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks.

As well as the events for Christmas, we have our first round of Parents as Partners coming up. These are always well attended and I hope that you will all come in great numbers as you normally do.

Some of our Parents/Carers are saying they no longer, or have never received any texts from us. **We have a possible fix! These texts will come from 07860030805. If you add this number to your contacts, it should solve the problem. Save us as St. JPII TEXTS or something similar.** As always, if I can be of any help with anything at all, please to get in touch.

Our Mission, Vision & Values



MISSION

Inspired by the person of Jesus Christ and our Patron, St. John Paul II, our vision is to be a school community where everyone is included, listened to and valued. Our children will be at the heart of everything we do, as we support them to be the best version of themselves as Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.



VISION

To nurture the faith, strengths, and talents of every child through high quality learning experiences in an inclusive environment, which prepares and equips them for learning, life and work. Through excellence and equity, we strive to meet the needs of everyone in our school community. Our Catholic faith will be nurtured, lived and celebrated.

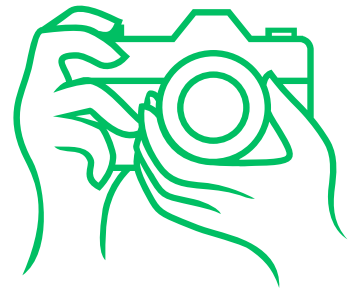


VALUES

Faith | Respect | Inclusion | Achievement | Trust | Friendship

School Photographer

All children have been issued with their QR code and information to help you order your child's photographs. If you have any issues with this, please get in touch with the school office and we will try to help fix the problem. The slips were issued to you all once the processing had taken place. As you can imagine, processing literally hundreds of photographs takes time and so there was no point in issuing you with a link which didn't work!



Sacramental Preparation

Many thanks to those who attended the Enrolment Meetings in September. The new format, with one meeting for all Sacraments in each church worked well.

Primary 3 - First Confession (Reconciliation)
Tuesday 10th March 2026. 11am in School for St. Gabriel's and evening time slots issued for St. Columba's.

Primary 4 - First Holy Communion
Saturday 16th May at 11am in St. Columba's and 1pm in St. Gabriel's

Primary 7 - Confirmation
Thursday 5th February 2026 at 7pm in St. Gabriel's Church with Bishop Toal.

If you have not attended one of the meetings and you have not let your Parish Priest know that you wish to enrol your child for one of the above Sacraments, then please do so as soon as possible. It would be helpful if you let the school know too.

If you are intending on requesting baptism for your child, you should do this sooner rather than later. Without Baptism, your child cannot make their First Confession.

DON'T FORGET! Monday 17th November is an INSET DAY and children should not attend school. We re-open on Tuesday 18th November 2025

New Government Guidance for Volunteers in schools

I wrote to you in the last newsletter about the changes to legislation and the rules around PVG applications. Some of the information we are receiving is conflicting and so we want to ensure that all appropriate guidance and clearances are sought.

We do not need PVGs for those who volunteer in school for an activity that is supervised by a member of school staff.

However, we think we DO need PVGs for those who are accompanying children on a school trip.

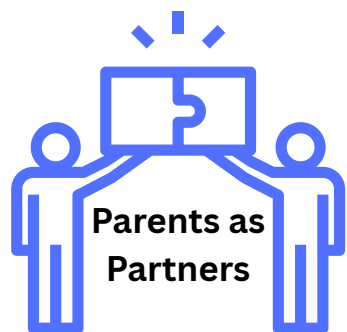
THE PARENT COUNCIL APPROACH TO PVG is managed separately and I know that they are already looking into this.

NOVEMBER MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Thursday 27th November 2025
at 11am in the School
Assembly Hall

*Come and help us
pray for all those
in our November
Remembrance
List.*





We are looking forward to welcoming you all to our upcoming Parents as Partners events. This is a great opportunity for the children to showcase an aspect of their learning and for you to see their written work. It is also a great opportunity for you to give a little feedback to your child and to help them set themselves some targets to work on.

Wednesday 19th November

Primary 4A (Mr Cooney)
Primary 4B (Miss Ellis)
Primary 5A (Mrs McKay)

Thursday 20th November

Primary 5B (Mrs Bell)
Primary 6A (Miss Gavin)

Friday 21st November

Primary 6B (Mr McLaughlin)
Primary 7A (Miss Agnew)
Primary 7B (Mrs McCluskey)

Tuesday 27th January

Primary 3A (Miss Williamson)
Primary 3B (Miss Byrne)

Wednesday 28th January

Primary 2A (Mrs McDade)
Primary 2B (Mrs Mulgrew)

Thursday 29th January

Primary 1B (Miss Millar)
Primary 1C (Miss Savage)

The programme is the same each day:

9am Tea/Coffee/Biscuits served in the hall

9:10am Introduction from Mr Thomas

9:30am Children arrive to showcase their work

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Attendance Update

In the next week, I will be contacting Parents/Carers if we have a concern about attendance levels. Our current overall attendance level for the school is **92%**. Each class' average attendance is noted below. Only 7 out of 15 classes are indicated in green (as in, they are hitting or exceeding the target). Those in red are below the target, some are significantly low.

P1A 93%	P4A 91%
P1B 91%	P4B 89%
P1C 94%	P5A 92%
P2A 88%	P5B 90%
P2B 92%	P6A 92%
P3A 95%	P6B 90%
P3B 96%	P7A 89%
	P7B 90%

At this stage in the school year, many children will have already been on term time holidays. As long as other absences are kept to a minimum, a child's percentage of attendance can recover and still be good by June. ***Let's work together to keep attendance high and late coming/early collection low!***

If you need any help or support, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Every day
COUNTS!



School success starts
with attendance

Lost Property - Have you labelled all of your child's belongings?



Thank you

At our recent Fun Day before the October Holiday, we raised £1700. This is an AMAZING amount and we thank you for your wonderful support!

Our Playgrounds get very muddy at this time of year!

We try so very hard to keep the children off the grassy areas in school during the winter months, but it can feel like an impossible task, as the children run about having fun. We apologise that accidents happen and that, sometimes, they will get muddy... VERY muddy. Sensible footwear is really essential as well as a waterproof.



Primary 7 Residential Excursion to Dalguise in Perthshire

We continue to work with our hosts in Perthshire to ensure our preparations are well under way for the P7 Residential in February 2026.

Here are some reminders for you all:

- **ONLINE PAYMENTS** are already open with many making either part or full payments. You can pay in as many instalments as you like.
- **WE HAVE SET UP A SPECIAL TEAM** which your child can access with you. There are some of the links and videos available in there, along with the kit lists. Please take a look!

P6 Outdoor Education Week at Palacerigg Country Park

Following the overwhelming majority of votes in favour of P6 being given the option to participate in the Outdoor Education Week, we have secured a booking for this. The trip will last 4 days, from Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th May 2026.

The children travel by bus each day from school and return for the end of the school day.

Further information will be issued in due course, but please save the date!

Car Park Safety - Things can only get better... (cue for a song!)

Since the last newsletter, we have lost half of the spaces in the overflow car park due to the building works taking place. These works will last about a year and a half and so things are not going to improve any time soon!

We have been generously given a number of traffic cones which we are using to stop drivers from parking on pavements and grass areas.



We now have irresponsible parking at the Give Way junction within the car park. These cars are being parked right in front of the gate and they are causing a major obstruction. This week, we had cars blocked as they tried to exit the car park and also cars struggling to enter the car park.

Despite encouraging drivers to park elsewhere it seems we have MORE cars in the car park.

We need your help! We need your patience! We need your sensible decision making.



- *Park in a designated space*
- *Only use a disabled space if you have a blue badge*
- *Keep the one way system clear*
- *Don't park on double yellows*
- *Don't mount pavements*
- *Don't let your child out of the car and onto moving traffic*
- *Observe 10mph*
- *Be kind and patient!*

We are working to become a



We continue to work towards our Reading Schools Award with our new Reading Champions starting in their roles. We look forward to more exciting initiatives and reading opportunities, led by these Champions and supported by Mr McLaughlin and Mrs Dickson. We will publish more about this initiative when we can.

Would you like to support us in any way?
Please let us know!

Could you support our Parent Council?

The Parent Council are always looking for new members and people to come along to their meetings and events. Please consider offering a little of your time to support the Parent Council who work so hard to support our children and our school.

The time commitment is minimum but the impact is huge!

Next Event: Running a raffle at the Christmas Shows

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th January at 6pm

Contact: stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com

Rights Respecting Schools

We previously achieved our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award, however, this award does not last forever. We have started re-evaluating our current status and both Miss Ellis and Miss Gavin are supporting our Rights Ambassadors in this very important part of our curriculum. We will keep you posted on our efforts! There are three things we are currently working on in school...



1

FOOD BANK FRIDAY IS BACK!

See the information below. Please help if you can.

2

DESIGN A MASCOT COMPETITION

All children are invited to design a new Mascot which we will have made.

3

RIGHT OF THE MONTH

We will focus on a specific right to learn about each month.

November

RIGHT OF THE MONTH

19

The right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

The right to be protection from exploitation.

36

FOOD BANK FRIDAY Friday 7th November 2025

Please support our monthly Food Bank Friday collection. Any donations (large or small) are gratefully received.

- Tins
- Jars of Sauce
- Rice and Pasta
- UHT Milk
- Jams
- Table Sauces
- Toiletries
- Cleaning Products
- Instant Noodles
- Tea/Coffee
- Breakfast Cereals
- Biscuits
- Sweets



Primary 6 & 7 Breakfast Club and School Meal Payments

Please remember that children in Primary 6 and 7 are not automatically entitled to a free school meal. This is only available up until Primary 5.

We already have a lot of P6/7 children with overspends on their accounts and we are being asked to bring this to your attention. Please ensure you add money to your child's account. Remember that payments must also be made for Breakfast Club.

Only children whose parents/carers have applied for Free School Meals will receive one. Please click on the NLC logo if you wish to apply. You can do this at any time.

You can also apply for a clothing grant at this link.



Smart School Council *Countdown to our Christmas Fayre*

The Smart School Council are organising some events to prepare for our School Christmas Fayre and, as always, we would appreciate your support!



Friday 14th November Non-uniform Day

Instead of a £1 donation, send us in some lovely chocolate bars, selection boxes, chocolate treats for our Chocolate Tombola Stall.



Friday 21st November - Primary 1-3 ONLY

We are looking for donations of pre-loved toys that are in great condition so that we can sell them on our Toy Stall. Toys and games must not have any parts missing.



Friday 21st November - Primary 4-7 ONLY

We ask our children in P4-7 to bring in all types of bottles for a bottle tombola. These can be things like ketchup, water, alcohol, shampoo, shower gel, handwash, fragrances, basically... ***if it comes in a bottle, we'll take it!*** Adults can hand alcohol into the office on behalf of the children.

Are you signed up to Parents Portal?

Parents Portal is the best way for us to communicate with you all. We can send you emails, permission slips and other information.

You can report an absence, update your personal information and emergency contacts, respond to an absence text, pay for items and view your child's Pupil Report.

Parents Portal is a One Stop Shop!

Click on the Parents Portal image below for more information and to sign up.

parentsportal.scot

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Call us if you need any support with this!

Early Collection at the end of the day

Early collections at the end of the school day are **slightly improving!** Last year, I asked Parents/Carers to work with us to keep this to a minimum. It worked to an extent!

I understand that, from time to time, you may need to collect your child. However, the endless tannoy calls for children to come to the office before the bell is a huge problem for us. A few children, now and then, for genuine reasons is manageable. The current situation is not.

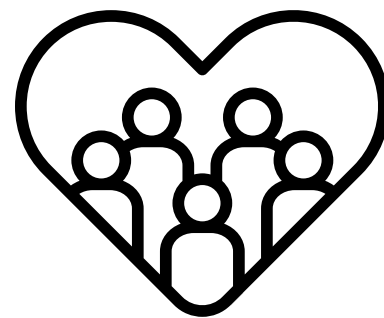
Late Arrival at School

Is your child late on a regular basis? Every minute of every day is important at school. The beginning of the day is so important as the children settle and talk through what to expect that day. It sets the tone for the day and prepares our children for success! Please try to get your children to school on time. It makes such a difference to them and to everyone in the class, including the Teacher.

P7s visit Rosepark Nursing Home

Some of our Primary 7 children visited Rosepark Nursing Home this week as part of our partnership work with them. They were so good that the staff at the home were keen to pass on their congratulations and thanks for their excellent manners, their kindness and their enthusiasm! We are very proud of them. This week they were there to introduce themselves, but they managed to sneak some dancing into the mix too! The current group will attend for three weeks and then this will rotate to another group. Many thanks to Mrs McGhee for supporting the children and to Mrs MacFadyen for organising such a worthwhile activity!

BREAKING NEWS



Snow White Panto

Airdrie Town Hall

P4-7 on 26th November

P1-3 on 5th December

Nursery Class on 9th December

Tickets cost £12 and the school is subsidising some of the cost of tickets and buses using school funds and funding from the Parent Council.

If you haven't managed to pay yet, please do so ASAP. If you need help with this, please let Mr Thomas know. No child should be left out due to cost.



P1-3 Christmas Show

Tuesday 9th December
at 1:30pm

Wednesday 10th December at
9:40am

Tickets available soon!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER COLLECTION

We are looking for donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers and cardigans. As many of you will know, we have a number Christmas Jumper Days in the run up to Christmas, when the children are invited to wear a jumper/cardigan or add something Christmassy to their uniform. *Uniform should always be worn as well!*

Often, children forget. However, we also recognise that these garments are maybe only fitting for one year and then children grow out of them. Why not use a pre-loved one instead of buying a new one each year?

We can make good use of any garments you send in... no matter what size.



Christmas Jumper Days will take place on the following dates...

Thursday 4th December 2025

Christmas Fayre Day

Thursday 11th December 2025

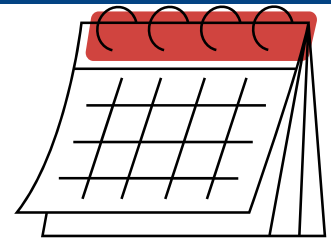
Christmas Lunch Day & National Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 18th December 2025

Last day of term

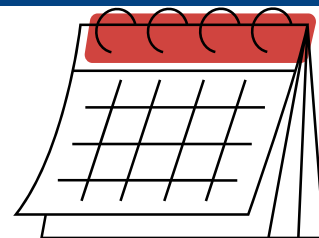
Children should wear full school uniform on their Panto Day to make them easily identifiable in a crowd!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:	Details
10 th - 14 th November	Anti-Bullying Week	
Monday 17 th November	INSET DAY	Children should not attend school
Wednesday 19 th November	P4A/P4B/P5A Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 20 th November	P5B/P6A Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Friday 21 st November	P6B/P7A/P7B Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
24 th - 28 th November	Catholic Education Week	
Wednesday 26 th November	P4-7 Visit to the Panto	10am in Airdrie Town Hall
Thursday 27 th November	Mass for the Holy Souls	11am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 4 th December	Christmas Fayre	9:30am - 12noon in the Assembly Hall Wear Christmas Jumpers or add something Christmassy to School Uniform
Friday 5 th December	P1-3 Visit to the Panto	10am in Airdrie Town Hall
Tuesday 9 th December	Nursery Visit to Panto	10am in Airdrie Town Hall
Tuesday 9 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show - Afternoon Performance	1:45pm in the Assembly hall
Wednesday 10 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show - Morning Performance	9:30am in the Assembly Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:	Details
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Lunch	Wear Christmas Jumpers or add something Christmassy to school uniform
Friday 12 th December	P6/7 Christmas Party	Children can be collected from 12:15pm at the gate if going home to change
Monday 15 th December	P4/5 Christmas Party	As above
Tuesday 16 th December	P2/3 Christmas Party	As above
Wednesday 17 th December	P1 Christmas Party	As above
Thursday 18 th December	End of Term Carol Service	11am in the Assembly Hall Wear Christmas Jumpers or add something Christmassy to school uniform
Thursday 18 th December	School Closes	2:30pm
Monday 5 th January	School Opens	Breakfast Club at 8:15am
Tuesday 12 th January	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the Dining Hall. All Welcome!
Tuesday 27 th January	P3A and P3B Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Wednesday 28 th January	P2A and P2B Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 29 th January	P1B and P1C Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall