



# ST. JOHN PAUL II

## Primary School & Nursery Class



# DECEMBER 2025



## From Mr Thomas...

Christmas is fast approaching and it has certainly landed in school! Amidst all of the excitement and anticipation, we continue to work with the children to remind them that we are very much in the Season of Advent.

Advent is a season of preparation and hope. It is a time of waiting for the coming of Jesus in the Manger. At assembly this week, the children watched an episode of The Mark 10 Mission. This is an online resource we use regularly both in class and in assembly. You may remember that we had a visit from Greg Finn, the creator of The Mark 10 Mission last session. He was a bit of a celebrity at St. John Paul II! The episode really helped us focus on Advent and the meaning of this time as we approach Christmas. We encouraged the children to consider going to Mass on a Saturday/Sunday during Advent. This is a great time to go if you've not managed along for a while.

This Newsletter gives you all of the relevant information in the run up to the end of term. I look forward to welcoming you to school over the next week! If you have any questions or need some support, please do contact me.

## 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





# Celebrating Christmas at

## ST. JOHN PAUL II

### Primary School & Nursery Class

#### **Trips to the Pantomime**

Primary 4-7 had a very enjoyable trip to the Pantomime on 26th November. The reports from them were glowing! They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Airdrie Town Hall.

P1-3 then travelled last Friday to see the same Pantomime. Again, they thoroughly enjoyed it and there was much laughter, dancing, clapping and "Oh no you're nots!"

***If you have not managed to pay for your child's Panto Ticket yet, there is still time to do so. This can be done online or via the school office. Payments can be made in January, if this is helpful to you. You can also send money into the office, if that is easier.***

If you have more than one child attending the panto, or if you are unable to pay for your child, please contact Mr Thomas. There is no problem and all children will be able to attend. We never allow finance to get in the way of our children having the best experiences.

I want to thank Mrs Cummings in particular, for the excellent effort she put into organising everything, so that it all went smoothly. Thanks to all of the adults who supported the children too... it is no easy task to transport so many children on so many buses... but everything went very well.

#### **Christmas Support for Families**

Over the last few weeks, we have been bowled over by the generosity of people in our local community. It is a real sign that community spirit is very much alive!

The local G71 Action Group has (as I'm sure you might already know) sent us well over £2,500 worth of items from an Amazon Wish List. Local people have responded to this call!

We have circulated what we could to families we thought would need the items. However, we may have missed a family. We don't always know when support is required. If you or anyone you know needs some Christmas support, please do contact the school. Your request will be **confidential**.

Please remember that we can support throughout the year. We work closely with partners in the community and they regularly offer us support both materially and financially.

The recent Food and Household Goods bags which we left outside the school were donated by the same G71 group.

We also received a donation of £500 from the Jimmy Johnstone Celtic Supporters Bus for us to put towards supporting families who may find school trips a financial burden. We will use this for some of our families as we prepare for the P7 Residential Trip and the P6 Outdoor Education Week, as well as the Panto Trip. We offered them sincere thanks on behalf of all who this will help!



Many congratulations to all of our children in P1-3 for their amazing performances!

**Snowman at Sunset** is a classic at St. John Paul II and it was great to see this latest rendition.

**Toby's Christmas Drum** was performed by our Primary 1s and 2s. They did a wonderful job!

Thank you to our amazing staff team for working so hard together to make it an enjoyable event.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the performance.

Our children were the real stars of the show and we thank them for all of their hard work and entertainment!

## P1-3 Christmas Show

took place on

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

at 1:45pm

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at

9:40am

*You donated £317 to our bucket collection. Thank you!*



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre! Once again, we are astounded by your generosity and kindness. Thank you to all of the staff team who worked so hard to make things go so smoothly, and to our children for making their wonderful products! Thank you to everyone who donated items and to our Parent Council members who attended and ran their stall. Well done to our Primary 7 children, who were outstanding in their contribution to the day helping to keep everything running so smoothly. The Christmas Spirit was flowing!



We look forward to celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of our wonderful school. We officially opened in May 2006. Look out for details in coming Newsletters!

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Christmas Lunch Day & National Christmas Jumper Day**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Last day of term**

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





*Christmas Lunch at*  
*St. John Paul I*  
**Thursday 11th**  
**DECEMBER 2025**

**Free for P1-P5 &  
£3.40 for those in P6 & P7 who are not  
entitled to a free school meal.**

*No other menu options will be available  
and lunches must be pre-ordered.*



IT'S TIME FOR OUR

# CHRISTMAS PARTIES

P6/7 ON FRIDAY 12TH

P4/5 ON MONDAY 15TH

P3/2 ON TUESDAY 16TH

P1 ON WEDNESDAY 17TH

ON THE DAY OF THEIR PARTY, CHILDREN CAN BE  
COLLECTED AT 12:15PM FROM THE SCHOOL GATE OR THEY  
CAN GET CHANGED IN SCHOOL

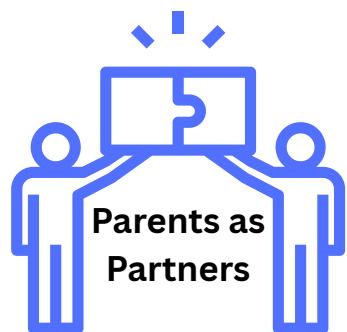


ST. JOHN PAUL II PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Christmas*  
*Carol Service &*  
*Sing Along*

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER  
11AM IN THE SCHOOL HALL  
PLEASE JOIN US! ALL WELCOME



We **loved** welcoming so many of you to our recent Parents as Partners Events for the P4-7 dates. Thank you so much to those who managed along on the day and for the wonderful feedback you gave.

If you did not manage to leave feedback, please click [HERE](#) so that you can give us some. We really appreciate it!

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

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

We are now looking forward to welcoming all of our P1-3 parents and carers in the New Year! If this is your first time attending an event like this, you will NOT be disappointed.

### 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



## Attendance Update

During the month of November, our average attendance dropped significantly to **88%**. In August, it was 94%! This is a concerning drop. Our school target for this year is 92.5%. You'll notice that only 4 out of our 15 classes are green, i.e. they are on track with their overall attendance.



School success starts  
with attendance

<b>P1A 87%</b>	<b>P4A 89%</b>
<b>P1B 94%</b>	<b>P4B 87%</b>
<b>P1C 89%</b>	<b>P5A 90%</b>
<b>P2A 83%</b>	<b>P5B 87%</b>
<b>P2B 86%</b>	<b>P6A 92%</b>
<b>P3A 96%</b>	<b>P6B 83%</b>
<b>P3B 95%</b>	<b>P7A 89%</b>
	<b>P7B 84%</b>

With lots of winter flu and bugs around, we know that more children will be absent from school. That makes it more important that children attend on all other days. **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.*





Opportunities  
Teamwork  
Life-skills  
Achievements

**EVERY  
MOMENT  
MATTERS**

It all starts with  
showing up at school



**LEARN HERE**



## Car Park Safety



We continue to be concerned about the parking issues in school grounds. We need your help and support with this. Please do consider your own parking behaviours and make sure that you are playing your own part in our Car Park Safety. If everyone co-operates... nobody gets hurt!

### Please do not park in Heather Gardens!

I have been contacted by residents of Heather Gardens, rightfully complaining about people parking across driveways, parking in allocated spaces, blocking people into their driveways and mounting pavements, which obstruct for pedestrians.

I know that the parking situation is difficult, but please try to park elsewhere. I have suggested the Church Car Park (a minute's walk from the school) or over at The Laughing Buddha, which is about the same.

Please respect our neighbours. Heather Garden's is Private Property!

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm

**Contact:** [stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com)



## Rights Respecting Schools

I shared at our recent Parents as Partners that we would be beginning our work towards gaining our SILVER award as a Rights Respecting School. We have registered with UNICEF and Miss Ellis has attended a recent course all about the award. We look forward sharing our progress with you in the coming months!



# 1

### FOOD BANK FRIDAY IS BACK!

See the information below. Please help if you can.

# 2

### DESIGN A MASCOT COMPETITION

See below for the winning entry!

# 3

### RIGHT OF THE MONTH

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

HELLO  
december

## RIGHT OF THE MONTH

# 14

### FREEDOM OF THOUGHT & RELIGION

Congratulations to Mirren Burns who won the RRS Mascot Competition!



## FOOD BANK

We have recently collected for the Food Bank on two occasions. The most recent was during our Christmas Fayre. Once again, you have been very generous in your offerings.

We are delighted to work in partnership with the ViewCare Foodbank at Viewpark Parish Church.

We will continue our collections on the first Friday of each month we can possibly collect.



We look forward introducing a real life version of Bobby to the children in the coming new term!

Bobby the Rights Respecting Bear will help us as we work towards SILVER!



## Getting our active lifestyle started

### Do you have concerns about your child being over a healthy weight?

If you are looking for support, NHS Lanarkshire's GOALS programme can help your family to include simple and enjoyable healthy changes into your everyday lifestyle.

We can provide support with the following:

- Healthy snacking habits
- Understanding portion sizes
- Reading food labels
- Budget friendly hints and tips for healthy eating
- Managing screen time

### What is GOALS?

GOALS is a free, fun and healthy lifestyle 10-week programme. It's designed for families with children in primary and secondary school who are keen to increase their movement and learn more about lifelong healthy habits.

Classes are run after school hours and last about an hour. They are group based and include some fun physical activity alongside some practical advice that can make a positive difference to your health and wellbeing.

### Join the fun!

Join us at a venue near you in North or South Lanarkshire!

#### Visit:

[www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/GOALS](http://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/GOALS)  
or scan the QR code, below:



Click [HERE](#) to access the link from the Goals information

## Stop flu spreading...



### CATCH IT

Always cough or sneeze into a tissue



### BIN IT

Dispose of the tissue as soon as possible



### KILL IT

Clean your hands as soon as you can



### AVOID

contact with others until you feel better



### CLEAN

hard surfaces

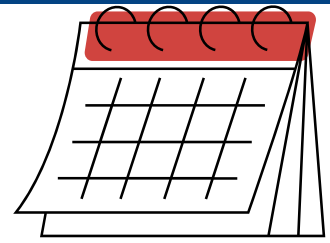


# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:	Details
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	P1-3 Visit to the Panto	10am in Airdrie Town Hall
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Visit to Panto	10am in Airdrie Town Hall
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	P1-3 Christmas Show - Afternoon Performance	1:45pm in the Assembly hall
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	P1-3 Christmas Show - Morning Performance	9:30am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch - no other menu items today	Wear Christmas Jumper or add something Christmassy to uniform
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P6/7 Christmas Party	Children can be collected from the gate at 12:15pm if they are going home to changeMond
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P4/5 Christmas Party	As above
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P2/3 Christmas Party	As above
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Christmas Party	As above
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term Carol Service and Christmas Sing Along	Wear Christmas Jumper or add something Christmassy to uniform
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closes Early	2:30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Junary	School Re-opens	8:15am for Breakfast Club 9am for everyone else
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the Dining Hall. All Welcome!

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:	Details
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	P3 to attend Mass	10am in St. Columba's. All welcome to attend.
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	P3A and P3B Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	P2A and P2B Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	P1B and P1C Parents as Partners	From 9am in the Assembly Hall
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Confirmation Mass	7pm in St. Gabriel's Church