



ST. JOHN PAUL II
Primary School & Nursery Class



LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT

MARCH 2026

From Mr Thomas...

As we enter into these last days of the current term, I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to what has certainly been a busy, but successful term!

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to Parents' Night. There is always a lovely buzz about the school when this event happens. In the newsletter, you will see that we have the Book Fair in school this week for Parents' Night. There is no pressure to be buying books, but if you would like to make a purchase, the school gets commission from each sale. We will then put this to new books for our school library.

We welcomed a new family to our school this week. We hope that they quickly feel settled and valued in our school community! Welcome to our St. JPII family!

Please take some time to look over the details of various workshops and support groups that are on offer in the local area. These are worthwhile and valuable opportunities for you and for your children.

The Newsletter is packed with information and dates, so please take note of what is coming up!

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

Right of the Month

MARCH

The right to an education

28

Children around the world have the right to free primary education, and secondary education must be available to every child. The education that children receive must be good quality and they should be treated with dignity and respect at school. Richer countries also have a responsibility to help poorer countries so that all children can access education.

School Trips for Terms 3 & 4

Class:	Where:	When:
Nursery	Almond Valley Heritage Centre	21 st May 2026
P1A	Cloybank Farm, Falkirk	20th May 2026
P1B & 1C	Almon Valley Heritage Centre	24 th April 2026
P2	Five Sisters Zoo	25 th March 2026
P3	Glasgow Science Centre	1 st April 2026
P4	Forth Bridges Experience	9 th June 2026
P5	Sky Up Academy, Livingston	5 th February 2026

Primary 7 had a very enjoyable residential trip to Dalguise in Perth and Kinross. This was our first residential since the closure of Kilbowie. We are extremely proud of the children and how they conducted themselves whilst away. Sincere thanks to the staff or both organised and attended the trip. P5 have also already had their trip to the Sky Up Academy (Sky TV) and this was a huge success, with the children coming back to school enthused about all things TV/Film Production! P2 are at the Five Sisters Zoo as we speak and we are hoping the weather will be kind to them!

As you can see, and will no doubt know, we still have quite a few trips to take place in the coming weeks. There's a lot to look forward to! Please try to pay for your child's trip online if possible.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR P7 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES!

We congratulate all of the children in Primary 7 who made their Confirmation recently. It was a pleasure to be part of this special celebration with them and their sponsors and families. They were a perfect example of prayerfulness. They now have the challenge of using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Thank you to everyone who contributed to their preparation and to our school team who supported both practically and spiritually.



PRIMARY 3 FIRST RECONCILIATION



Congratulations to all of the children in Primary 3 who made their First Reconciliation recently. Whether they were part of the St. Gabriel's group who made theirs in school, or they attended St. Columba's in the evening, they all did very well. It can be a wee bit nerve wracking, but they have been well supported by their families and, of course, our school staff. Thank you to everyone who worked with the children during their preparation.

PRIMARY 4 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Children in Primary 4 will be presented for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 16th May. For those in St. Columba's, this will take place at 11am. For those in St. Gabriel's, this will take place at 1pm.

We will send out more information nearer the time so that you know exactly what to expect on the day.

Planning for our 20th Anniversary Celebrations

On **Wednesday 6th May 2026**, Bishop Toal will join us to celebrate a special 20th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving. Mass will take place at 1:45pm in the Assembly Hall. We are looking forward welcoming former Head Teachers, Teachers, Support Staff, former pupils and other guests. However, it would not be the same without a great turn out from our Parents/Carers and other members of our school community! Please save the date!



20th Birthday Bash!



On **Friday 8th May 2026**, we are planning some fun celebrations for the children to participate in. We have already booked a Silent Disco, which all children will be able to take part in... a first for St. John Paul II! This will be a non uniform day. We are still planning more fun activities and will keep you posted on any further developments.

Lenten Charity Fun Day

Monday 30th March 2026

This coming Monday, we will have our annual Lenten Fun day, with lots of activities for the children to participate in! There will be something for everyone to enjoy!

EVERYONE IS INCLUDED:

Regardless of whether children are able to bring money or make donations, they will all be included. Please do not worry about what you donate.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for donations of shop bought, individually wrapped sweets, cakes, biscuits, multi pack crisps for our Tuck Shop.
Remember **NO NUTS!**

We thank you for your continued support and thank you in advance for your donations.

Part of our effort during Lent is to **SHARE** what we have with others who are less fortunate. The proceeds of this event will go to some of our chosen charities. Again, we thank you in advance for your continued generosity. We are sure that the children will have a wonderful day.



We will have the following fun activities...

NON UNIFORM DAY

Voluntary donation of £1 (or a maximum of £2 per family).

TUCK SHOP

£1 for 2 items

We are looking for donations of shop bought, individually wrapped sweets, cakes, biscuits & crisps.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

£1 for 2 tickets.

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

£1 for 2 tickets

GUESS HOW MANY EGGS IN THE JAR

£1 for 2 guesses

P4-7 TOMBOLA

£2 for 3 Tickets

P1 - 3 LUCKY DIP

£2 per ticket

BEAT THE GOALIE (Weather Permitting)

£1 for 3 tries





Join us for Mass during Lent

Pray · Fast · Share

Mass is celebrated by Father Morris in school each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at **8:20am**. Please join us!

Mass lasts about 20 minutes and we have had a wonderful turnout this Lent! **HOWEVER**, we always have room for more!

Please come along and join us and encourage your children to join us too!

Breakfast Club is still available after Mass.

THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE

on Holy Thursday 2nd April at 9:30am

Join us on Holy Thursday as our Pope Francis Faith Award candidates lead us in a journey with the Lord as the story of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) unfolds through reflections, prayers and beautiful hymns.

ALL WELCOME!

Annual Book Fair in School

AS HAS BECOME OUR TRADITION, THE BOOK FAIR WILL BE IN SCHOOL FOR PARENTS' NIGHT. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A PURCHASE, IF YOU WISH. CARD AND CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.





Thank you, once again, to everyone who came along to our Parents as Partners events before and after Christmas!



We always ask for your comments and suggestions and I am pleased to report **100%** of those who responded to our short survey said they thought Parents as Partners was worthwhile and they wanted it to continue!

There were a few suggestions made around some other things people would like to see happen. Obviously, having asked for your suggestions, we would like to act upon as many of them as possible. Some of them will be fairly simple, others will need some thought and planning and not all of them will be achievable but we will do our best!



P7B Social Enterprise Initiative

We were given an opportunity for some of our P7s to participate in a Social Enterprise. This is being organised by the Social Enterprise Academy and involves lots of children from around the country. Primary 7B and Mrs McCluskey have been working on this. They attended an event recently where they had to present their business models to a panel and to peers. As a result, they have gained an **Enterprise in Education Award** which will be presented at a ceremony at the Edinburgh international Conference Centre on Monday 8th June.

“ I thought it was fun. I was scared to speak, but once I went up it wasn't as scary as I thought it would be.
Millie ”

“ I was nervous about the presentation
James ”

As part of their work, the children have chosen their idea, created an advert, conducted market research and worked out costs and profits.

Well done to everyone in Primary 7B for their achievement and for embracing this opportunity with such enthusiasm!

“ **When asked what skills she had used, Leah said:**
Team work, focus, communication, listening to each others so we could share ideas. ”

The children will be in touch soon with more details about their various social enterprises. They presented to all of the children at Assembly and we are looking forward to supporting their ideas of a Pupil Newsletter, Kindness Kits and a Lunchtime Fitness Club.

As this is a business enterprise, they will be making a small charge for their services and all profit will go to their chosen charities.

Drama Club Show - Dare to Dream

The Drama Club have been rehearsing their show for this year. Dare to Dream is a story of a group of Imagineers who are being trained to work for Disney. It is a wonderful musical with lots of well known songs from Disney throughout the years as well as so brand new and original songs too. It was written to celebrate 100 years of Disney!



Please note that, after the Easter Holidays, Drama Club will run from 3pm - 4:30pm. Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday 23rd April.

Thursday 18th June 2026 at 7pm

NLC Community Priorities Consultation

On Friday 20th March, North Lanarkshire Council and partners launched the Community Priorities Consultation, giving residents across the authority the opportunity to identify the issues that matter most to them. The feedback gathered will help them develop a clearer understanding of the challenges affecting our communities and inform future activity to improve health and wellbeing, create safer neighbourhoods, and tackle poverty. To support this process, you are invited to complete the survey using the link below:

[Community Priorities Survey](#)

The survey is now live for all residents and will remain open until 1st October 2026. As noted in Friday's bulletin, all young people from S1 to S6 will also take part in the consultation from August 2026.



Update from our Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders recently interviewed the children who represented our school at the local Athletics Competition. The children who attended, did very well and we thank them for being great ambassadors for our school!

Well done, also, to the Sports Leaders for their excellent interviewing skills! There are some budding sports commentators among them!

Handball Finals

Mr Cooney will be taking two teams along to the Handball Finals which are taking place next week. We wish them all the best of luck!

We continue to work towards our Silver School Sport Award and will keep you up to date with our progress!

Thank you to Mr Cooney and the Sports Leaders for all of their work.



OUR PARENT COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

The Parent Council met on Monday 13th January. They are currently a **very** small group and they are appealing for more members! People may think that there is a huge commitment involved, but there is not!



St. John Paul II

Parent Council

The more people we have working together, the lighter the load. The next meeting is not until Tuesday 28th April. Please save this date. Meetings start at 6pm and they are generally an hour long.

Could you consider giving some of your time to assist the Parent Council?



stjohnpauliipc@gmail.com

Please email the Parent Council if you would like to get in touch to offer your help in any way. If you have ideas of what we could be doing together with the Parent Council, let us know!

PARENT COUNCIL DISCO

Thank you to our Parent Council for organising the recent Mid Term Disco. The children who attended this had a fantastic time. Sincere thanks to all of our volunteers and to the staff who have up their time to support the event. These could not take place without the help of our staff and, of course, the Parent Council

Again, I would encourage you to consider joining the Parent Council. It is a very important and worthwhile part of school life to be involved in and the commitment is minimal!

THANK
YOU

WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

Our Reading Champions, along with Mrs Dickson and Mr McLaughlin planned some wonderful activities to mark World Book Day 2026 on 5th March.

As well as our usual **Drop Everything and Read** time we enjoyed...

- **The Masked Reader** - some staff read excerpts from their favourite book to camera. They wore digital masks and some even disguised their voices! The children had great fun guessing who each person was.
- **P7 Paired Reading** - our P7s returned to their P1 Buddies and took part in some Paired Reading. This is always a worthwhile activity!
- **Quiz** - P1-3 had a quiz in their classes, and P4-7 had Mr McLaughlin as a Quiz Master!
- **P1-3 Colouring Competition**
- **P4-7 Design a Book Cover Competition**
- **£1 book tokens were issued**

We thoroughly enjoyed our World Book Day activities! Thanks to everyone who organised it!

DROP OFF FOR BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am. We have an increasing number of children who are arriving way before this time. Children are being dropped off and left unsupervised **before 8am**. There are no adults to supervise children before the start of Breakfast Club and we have some concerns regarding children running around outside in the car park area and in and out of the reception area.

If your child arrives before 8:15am, you must ensure that you can supervise them until Breakfast Club opens. ***Otherwise, please do not drop your child off before 8:15am.***

I am sure that you will understand that staff are contracted for particular working hours and so supervision cannot be provided or guaranteed out with our official school hours. If you would like to discuss this matter, please do contact me at the school. Thank you. Mr Thomas.

Breakfast Club Changes

We were recently granted some government funding in order to promote our breakfast club and encourage more footfall. This has come to us in two forms:

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Our school was one of 9 schools selected in North Lanarkshire to receive around £6300 in order to promote the Breakfast Club and encourage children to attend. The money can be used for resources and activities as well as additional adult support.

We have partnered with the local VIP organisation who are coming into school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to do various activities with the children. They are loving this! We have also purchased some resources and games, etc., following feedback from the children.

The Scottish Government also announced in the recent Budget that every school should have a Breakfast Club. We await more information on this and whether it will impact on P6/7 being free or not.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

NLC were already reviewing their current Breakfast Club arrangements, especially for the busier clubs. Any club who has an average of 50 or more children a day will now have another member of staff to assist with the running of the club. This is a fantastic addition to our provision and we look forward to appointing someone in the near future. This is only funded until June 2026, by which time, we should know what the Government plan to do in response to their budget announcement.

- The opening times are from 8.15am until 8.50am each school day.
- The breakfast consists of cereal, milk and toast.
- This is free to pupils who are in Primary 1 to 5 and for pupils in Primary 6 to 7 who receive free school meals.
- For all other pupils the cost is £1.05 per day with a sliding scale for families of two at £1.55 per day and families of three at £1.90 per day.

Breakfast





HOPE FOR AUTISM

School Transition Group

For Autistic Pupils Moving from P7 to S1
Early support and connection before high school

High school can feel overwhelming for autistic young people. The School Transition Group helps your child build friendships and support before starting S1. Small, supportive programme where children meet peers and parents build connections.

Fully funded and free to attend

Who this is for

P7 autistic pupils moving to Cardinal Newman High.
Formal diagnosis not required.

What to expect

.Small group, low pressure activities, supported local trips.

Locations & Sessions

Sessions start at Cardinal Newman High School, with some supported trips to local places such as McDonalds.

Thursdays 3.30–4.30 pm
14 May, 21 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June 2026
End of programme day out
Saturday 20 June – 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

To Book a Place - Contact

Diane Wyse
Diane.Wyse@hopeforautism.org.uk



-CONNECT

**FREE OF CHARGE
ASN SENSORY & PLAY SESSIONS**

**FREE PLAY SESSIONS
FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS
(DIAGNOSED OR UNDIAGNOSED)**



"We have enjoyed
our sessions"

"The group is amazing, it is
so lovely to see my child
enjoy it"



"Our little one thoroughly enjoys
coming to these sessions"

YMCA

294 MAIN STREET
BELLSHILL
ML4 1AB



-CONNECT

WHO CAN ATTEND?

PARENTS, CARERS AND CHILDREN WITH
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (DIAGNOSED OR
UNDIAGNOSED) WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

WHY ATTEND?



BUILD STRONGER BONDS THROUGH PLAY

SUPPORT EARLY DEVELOPMENT

ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY AND COMMUNICATION

CONNECT WITH OTHER FAMILIES

SHARE EXPERIENCES IN A RELAXED, SUPPORTIVE SPACE



WEDNESDAY SESSIONS:

UNDER 4S: 10-11AM

P2-P4: 3:30-4:30PM

AGES 3-7: 5:30-6:30PM

Our sensory room is also available for unfacilitated
bookings on Wednesdays at a small charge.
Book via our website.

PLEASE NOTE: A PARENT OR CARER MUST STAY DURING THE SESSIONS

📍 YMCA BELLSHILL & MOSSEND, 294 MAIN STREET, BELLSHILL, ML4 1AB

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

SPACES ARE LIMITED - SIGN UP TODAY!

KERRI@YMCABELLSHILL.ORG

07984224861



Understanding your child: From toddler to teenager

Join our group sessions to support you in your journey of understanding emotional health, wellbeing, behaviour, and more. A 10 week programme to help you raise confident, kind, emotionally aware and resilient people.



Book here



This group covers:

- Childhood development and emotional processing
- How ideas and techniques for nurturing wellbeing can be helpful for common areas of difficulty such as emotional regulation, sleep, toileting and friendships.
- Support to reflect on your own child's health and wellbeing, their behaviour and your relationship with them
- Helping you feel more confident about your relationships and more connected to your child

Group Dates: Tuesdays 31st March to 23rd June (excl. Easter holiday)

Time: 6pm-8pm

Address: Bellshill Academy Wellbeing Base, Main Street, Bellshill

Contact: Lynsey Hughes, CLD Worker (Family Learning), 07812 501821, hughesl@northlan.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:	Details:
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Parents' Night	
Monday 30 th March	Lenten Charity Fun Day	Details in Newsletter
Thursday 2 nd April	Holy Week Service	9:30am in the school hall. All Welcome to join! Hall open from 9:10am
Thursday 2 nd April	LAST DAY OF TERM	School finishes at 2:30pm
Monday 20 th April	School Resumes	Breakfast Club open from 8:15am
Tuesday 28 th April	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the Dining Hall - All Welcome!
Monday 4 th May	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 6 th May	20 th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Toal	1:45pm in the hall
Thursday 7 th May	INSET DAY - Closed for Scottish Elections	
Thursday 14 th May	Ascension Thursday Mass	10am in St. Columba's Church. All welcome!
Saturday 16 th May	P4 First Communion	St Columba's at 11am and St. Gabriel's at 1pm
Wednesday 20 th May	P1 Transition Event 1	
Friday 22 nd & Monday 25 th May	HOLIDAY WEEKEND	
Tuesday 26 th - Friday 29 th May	P6 Outdoor Education Week	Palacerigg Country Park