



ST. JOHN PAUL II
Primary School & Nursery Class



**LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT**

JUNE 2026

From Mr Thomas...

I can't quite believe that we are where we are! The school year is fast disappearing in front of us. It has been such a busy time recently in school, and we have so much more happening in the weeks ahead. As always, our newsletter has all of the important information you will need for the next wee while.

We have quite a few transition events for our new P1 intake and also for our P7 Leavers. Incidentally, the P7s look AMAZING in their new hoodies! Well done to them for wearing the P7 shirts and ties under them... this is good preparation for them going to High School, who set high standards and strict expectations around school uniform. It's good to get used to it now!

In the next week or two, we will be issuing a questionnaire for Parents and Carers. This is similar to the questionnaire that HM Inspectors would issue during a school inspection. I would encourage you to complete this so that we can gather your views and so that we can plan for the future in terms of school improvement and other suggestions that you might have. As always, please to contact me if you need any support, or would like to discuss anything!

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

ENHANCED PROVISION CLASS NEWS

We were delighted to find out this week, that our new Enhanced Provision Class, which was established as part of a pilot in North Lanarkshire for this school year, has been made permanent. This is wonderful news, not only for our school, but more importantly for the families and children who have been part of this pilot.

This is the news that we have all been waiting for! The children and team within P1A have quickly become an integral part of our school community, as have their families. They have taken part in all aspects of school life this year and now they are simply part of our school family.

Our school was chosen for this pilot because we are recognised for our positive, inclusive ethos and we are delighted that all of the hard work that has gone in to establishing our Primary 1A has paid off.

I want to thank the staff team who work within P1A... Mrs MacFadyen, Miss Wright, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs McGinn and Mrs Bell. They have worked so hard to help the children and their families settle into school life and their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thanks also to the families who have embraced our school community.



The class will continue next year with the same children and this will be the case until they are in Primary 7.

End of Term Mass

**Friday 26th June at 10am in
St. Columba's Church**

**P6 will be presented with their P7 Ties and our P7 Pope Francis
Faith Award Children will receive their Certificates.**

ALL ARE WELCOME & INVITED TO JOIN US!

Please keep Disable Spaces



**free for Blue
Badge Holders
only!**

Be considerate when parking!

We have a limited number of allocated Disabled Spaces in our Car Park and these are regularly used by people who shouldn't be using them. If you do not have a Blue Badge, you must find another space. Please do not park across these spaces when they are empty!

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL - Right of the Month

JUNE

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The right to the rest, leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic life

School Trips for Terms 3 & 4

Class:	Where:	When:
P6	Outdoor Education Week at Palacerigg	26 th - 29 th May 2026
P4	Forth Bridges Experience	9 th June 2026

We still have one more trip in the diary! Once again, thank you to Mrs Cummings for her support and for all of her organising. So far, everyone has had a great time whilst on their trips. This is testimony to our staff team and our volunteers. Thank you to all of them.

ONLINE PAYMENTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

If you haven't managed to pay for your child's trip, (even if it has already happened) please don't worry! You can still do this. Our online payment system is the best way to do this, but you can also send in cash if you need to. Lack of funds should never be a reason not to allow your child to attend a trip. We can always help with this, if you let Mr Thomas know. It is not a problem.

P6 OUTDOOR EDUCATION WEEK AT PALACERIGG COUNTRY PARK

Mr Thomas recently wrote to our P6 families to encourage payment for this week long event. Again, if you have any worries regarding this, please let Mr Thomas know, rather than not paying. You can still pay, even though the trip has been and gone!



PARENTS PORTAL - The one stop shop for daily school functions

Have you signed up for Parents Portal yet? If not, you should! Our Pupil Reports are issued in June through Parents Portal and, as well as this, you can report absences, make payments, check the menu (and what your child has ordered) and receive communications from the school. **[CLICK HERE to access and sign up for Parent Portal.](#)** **If you need help to sign up, please contact the school office and our staff will be able to provide you with support.**



Many congratulations to all of the children from Primary 4 who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 16th May in both of our parish churches. We are so proud of them all. We hope that this was the first of many visits to the Table of the Lord.

END OF YEAR MASS - Save the date!

This will take place on the last day of term, Friday 26th June at 10am in St. Columba's. Everyone is welcome to join us. Our P6s will be presented with their new P7 school ties and we will bring this wonderful school year to a fitting end. Please join us!

A prayerful, joyful and fitting celebration

Our Mass of Thanksgiving took place on 6th May in school. We were delighted to welcome so many invited guests from civic and local life, as well as so many parents, carers and members of the local community to celebrate with us. The Bishop was delighted with the Mass and complimented the children on their prayerfulness and their participation. Their singing was amazing and all of the children were an absolute credit. If you haven't had the chance, please take a look at the short video with lovely photos and singing from our Mass.



Anniversary Movie

Miss Agnew and a whole team of Primary 7 pupils have created the most wonderful movie to mark our 20th Anniversary. It features contributions from Mrs DiNardo and Mrs Brady (our first and second Head Teachers) as well as many memories from staff, former pupils and (of course) our wonderful children! It was a huge undertaking and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the movie and who brought it all together. Again, please take some time to have a look at it... it is a MUST SEE!

20th Birthday Bash!



What a day we had to bring all of the celebrations to an end! The children had an absolute ball with our Silent Disco (Gill went down a storm!) and our shows with Magic Gary, who entertained and dazzled us in two hour-long shows. Our Smart School Council also put together a wonderful Assault Course for the children to take part in. To top it all off, towards the end of the day, we all gathered along the corridor as our Birthday Cake was processed along as we sang and cheered. It really was an amazing day, full of happiness and fun. It is exactly what our children deserve. Our school funds were put to good use that day!



Following on from the feedback that we received, I have been meeting with our teaching staff to see if we can follow up on some of your suggestions,

Some of you suggested that there could be more opportunities for Parents/Carers to come into school to see their child's work, perhaps in the evening. This is definitely something we think we can achieve and will include in the calendar for our next school year,

Our Parents as Partners events will certainly continue next year and we will try to make some subtle changes to them so that there is better visibility of children during the presentations.

One suggestion was better seating. Due to the number attending and the need for tables to be used when looking at jotters, this may be more of a challenge!



PARENT COUNCIL BEACH PARTY

The Parent Council have taken the decision to cancel the Beach Party, as the Let they had booked the school was on the same night as the opening ceremony and first match of The World Cup. They will be running a World Cup themed Raffle in school to continue their fundraising efforts for the last term. More information will follow. We thank the Parent Council for all that they continue to do to support the school and the children throughout the year.

World Cup Fan Zone Day Thursday 11th June



This will be a non-uniform day. Children can wear a NATIONAL football strip (no others) or they can add something scottish/tartan to their clothes. No charge!



School success starts
with attendance

**In the run up to the end of term,
please maximise your child's
attendance at school!**

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 Drama Club will continue to run from 3pm - 4:30pm. Attendance at rehearsals is SUPER important! Ticket info to follow this week.

Thursday 18th June 2026 at 7pm

End of Term Arrangements for P7

We have had some enquiries about what arrangements have been made for P7 on the last day of term. Other than events planned within the school day and, of course, the Graduation Celebration on 23rd June at 6pm (details in this newsletter), the only other event will be our End of Year Mass.

On the last day of term:

- School finishes at 1pm for everyone.
- When the final bell goes at 1pm, P7 will wait behind for a few minutes to let other children and families clear from the gates.
- A piper will play and staff will form a Guard of Honour for the children as they process out in line for the final time.
- Any other arrangements which have been made are nothing to do with the school.
- **PLEASE NOTE - any Limos, Boogie Buses, etc. should not arrive at school until about 1:15pm when other cars will have left. Vehicles are not permitted in the Car Park.**

The Summer weather is here... or is it?

Obviously, the great people of Scotland are well used to the changing weather in our country. One minute it is sunny, the next it is raining!

However, hotter weather is more regular at this time of year (as we have seen in the last couple of years). The weather does change quickly, however! So, we ask that you please...

- Keep an eye on the forecast for the FULL DAY! It may be sunny in the morning and then duller/cooler in the afternoon.
- Remember to apply sun screen - the UV can be high, even if it is cloudy.
- Give your child a sun hat if possible. On days with better weather, children may be outdoors for longer.
- Ensure your child has a light jacket with them. Some children come with no jacket at all, and if the weather changes, they need one as happened this Monday!
- Give your child a water bottle with them. We don't mind if your child has a little diluting juice with them - hydration is the key! However, NO ENERGY DRINKS, cans or fizzy drinks.

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!

We will publish the dates for next year's meetings well in advance, so that you can save the date. There are only four per year and they are spread across the four terms.



St. John Paul II

Parent Council

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!

NO ENERGY DRINKS

An increasing number of children are coming to school with drinks which are unhealthy and unsuitable for school.

Many of these are energy drinks, some of which it is unlawful for children to purchase.

There is very clear scientific evidence to prove that these drinks impact upon mood, behaviour and heart rate.

Many of our children are already dysregulated at times and drinks like these only add to the problem.

We have two water coolers in school. Children can top up their water bottles when they need to.



A little diluting juice can help those children who don't particularly like water. ***Please do your best to support this request. Thank you in advance!***

£500 from FINDEL Education Suppliers

One of our suppliers recently supplied us with a community grant of around £500. This was a welcomed injection of cash and we could use this money to buy items from their supply catalogue.

We chose to go down the route of buying items to help children to regulate and relax in school. All of our children can access these resources, but they are particularly helpful during periods of anxiety or dysregulation.

Every classroom in our school has a CALM CORNER which children can use. These resources will support our approach.

WE ARE HAVING A LOT OF ISSUES WITH SQUISHY ITEMS BEING BROUGHT TO SCHOOL. Whilst these are fun and can be helpful, they are also often cheaply made and some of them even contain asbestos! We have had instances where they have burst in class and have caused damage to pupil desks. If this is what they do to desks, what might they do to skin or eyes? **PLEASE DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS INTO SCHOOL! Thank you.**

Cardinal Newman Transition Dates for P6 and P7

WELCOME MASS & PARENTS' MEETING

The Welcome Mass which was held on 27th May was a beautiful way to mark this new chapter in our P7s lives. It was great to see so many of our families represented at Cardinal Newman. Our thanks go to the staff and to Father Parkes, the school chaplain, for their warm welcome.

2 DAY VISIT

The 2 Day Visit seems to have gone very well! Those who I met at the Mass on 27th had a brilliant first day!

Upon their return to school, we will spend some time digesting the visit and if there are any concerns or worries, we will work with Cardinal Newman to alleviate these.

If you yourselves have any worries, please do get in touch. It is always better to sort these things in advance, rather than leaving them until next year.

PRIMARY 7

Graduation

The pupils of Primary 7
invite you to attend their

Mass of Thanksgiving
and
Graduation Ceremony

on
Tuesday 23rd June 2026
at 6pm

in St. John Paul II Primary School
Assembly Hall



Click on the **RSVP link below.**

Further Information

The programme for the evening will be:

- 6pm** Mass of Thanksgiving
- 6:45pm** Graduation Ceremony
- 7:15pm** After 'photo ops' the children can change out of their uniform and they will be treated to food and refreshments courtesy of the Parent Council whilst enjoying some of their favourite tunes! Parents/Carers are asked to vacate the hall ASAP so we can set up for this part of the evening.
- 9pm** Parents to collect children

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

You have been allocated an initial **6** tickets per family. Please return your RSVP by clicking the link. Tell us how many of the 6 tickets you will be using **by 9am on 17th June**. If you do not want to use all of your tickets, we can offer them to other families.

If we have any spare tickets after 9am on Wednesday 17th June 2026, we will inform all Parents/Carers and we will issue these on a first come, first served basis.

Please read the information above and then click the link to claim your tickets for Graduation.

RSVP by clicking **HERE**.

We look forward to welcoming you all for what will be a wonderful celebration of our P7 children.

DROP OFF FOR BREAKFAST CLUB - THANK YOU

There has been a definite reduction in children being dropped off too early at school for Breakfast Club, which opens at 8:15am. I wanted to thank those who have made an effort with this. It is much appreciated and it certainly makes a difference. **Please keep this up!**

Children being dropped off **before 8:15am are unsupervised**. There are no adults to supervise children before the start of Breakfast Club.

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.**

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do contact me at the school. Thank you. Mr Thomas.

Breakfast Club Survey

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.

Breakfast



WE ARE SEEKING YOUR VIEWS ON OUR BREAKFAST CLUB PROVISION.

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO COMPLETE A VERY SHORT SURVEY. THIS IS FOR ALL FAMILIES - EVEN IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT ATTEND BREAKFAST CLUB.

The more feedback we have, the more we can seek to improve thing! Thank you!

St. John Paul II Primary School



Annual sports day

All children should come to school in **either PE Uniform or a National Football Strip** for Sports Day.

**FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
2026**

GAMES & ACTIVITIES:

- Sports Quiz (in House Groups)
- Staff V Pupils Netball Game
- Traditional Races at 2:15pm on the pitch

Parents/Carers are welcome to join us at 2:15pm for our races on the pitch **weather permitting!** If we have to move indoors, then this will be for children only!



P1 Transition

Our new Primary 1 intake and their parents/carers came along to St. John Paul II for their first visit on Wednesday 20th May and this was a great success!

The next visit will take place on Thursday 4th June from 11am, with lunch being provided in the lunch hall. We look forward to welcoming all of the children and their parents/carers then.

On Thursday 11th June, we welcome them again for a mini sports day with their buddies. I would like to congratulate our P6s who are the buddies for our new P1s. They are doing an outstanding job with the children.

We have issued a booklet with all of the dates and times to help our families plan for the first days of school in August, along with lots of other information that will be helpful. As we said at our first induction day, please get in touch with us if you have any concerns or questions. We are here to help!



Transition Arrangements for P2 - P6

For many of our children, this time of year can be unsettling. This is because they are beginning to worry about what comes next! Of course... why would they be any different to most adults?

This is why, for the last few years, we have tried to offer children a better transition experience, with time to get to know their new teacher.

UNIVERSAL TRANSITION

All children will be introduced to their new class teacher and have two times set aside to meet with them before the end of the term. We will publish these dates ASAP. All teachers complete transition/handover information and discuss this with the receiving teacher. This covers all aspects of school and important information.

ADDITIONAL TRANSITION

Some of our children require a little more support with transition and so our teachers ensure that they find time to check in with them on a group or individual basis. Again, all of this is discussed and planned through our transition work.

INTENSIVE TRANSITION

A small group of our children may need some more intensive transition. This will be planned on an individual basis.



Planning Ahead for August School Uniform

It may seem rather silly to be mentioning School Uniform for the next school year just now, but I wanted to give you a few reminders.

The first is about applications for **Clothing Grants**. Please click [HERE](#) for information on how to apply and who is eligible.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Light Blue Shirt & School Tie
- **Black** Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore
- Royal Blue Sweatshirt/cardigan/v-neck/tank top - no hoodies (these are for P7)
- Plain black shoes
- Having the school badge on garments is your choice!

PE UNIFORM

- **Only worn on PE days!**
- Light Blue Polo Shirt
- Black track suit bottoms/shorts/leggings
- Royal Blue Sweatshirt/cardigan/v-neck/tank top - no hoodies (these are for P7)
- Trainers

NEW and Replacement Shrubs in the Car Park area

Contractors recently carried out some work within the grounds to replace damages or dead plants and shrubs. These areas around the car park had become damaged over time.

Most of the problem comes from people walking/cycling through the areas - children and adults alike!

I have been asked to contact everyone to encourage those who walk/cycle through this area to take more care and help keep our school looking so good!

We are lucky that, as part of the building maintenance contract, our grounds are so well maintained. We will speak to the children about doing their bit to keep our school looking beautiful. I ask all of the adults to do the same, whilst taking care in and around the grounds. **Please refrain from walking through the bedding areas... use the paths and encourage the children to do this too!**

Thank you for your help!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

Date:	Event:	Details:
Thursday 4 th June	New P1s - Transition Meeting	11am
Sunday 7 th June	Diocesan Corpus Christi Procession in Carfin Grotto	3pm. Our 1 st Communion Children are invited to attend.
Monday 8 th June	Eucharistic Adoration	Services throughout the day
Tuesday 9 th June	P4 Trip to Forth Bridges	
Thursday 11 th June	World Cup Non-Uniform Day	Children can wear NATIONAL football strips or something Scottish!
Friday 12 th June	Sports Day	Parents invited to attend Races on the Pitch at 2:15pm (weather permitting!)
Thursday 18 th June	Drama Cub Show	7pm in the Hall.
Friday 19 th June	Reports to Parents/Carers	Via Parents Portal. Please sign up!
Monday 22 nd June	Nursery Father's Day Tea	
Tuesday 23 rd June	P7 Graduation Mass, Ceremony & Pizza/Disco	6pm in the Hall
Thursday 24 th June	Nursery Graduation	
Friday 26 th June	Final Mass of the School Year, Charity Presentations, P6 presented with P7 Ties and final P7 Farewell.	10am in St. Columba's All Welcome!
Friday 26 th June	School Closes for Summer	1pm EARLY FINISH