



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class

August
2026

NEWSLETTER

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

I hope that you have all had a great summer and that you managed to enjoy some of the recent sunny weather and perhaps you even soaked up some of the excitement around the Commonwealth Games, not to mention the World Cup!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone on **Wednesday 12th August 2026**. The staff are already beginning to prepare for the start of the new school year and we have lots to look forward to.

In the next week or so, I will write to you all regarding some of the exciting initiatives we are embarking upon around Learning and Teaching. You will have the opportunity to come and hear a bit about these, so that you know more about what is happening in our classrooms.

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

- Start of year information for P1
- Start of year information for other stages
- Gates for collection
- School Uniform and PE Uniform
- P6/7 school meal payments
- Outline of the school year and all holiday dates

So much work goes into preparing for the new school year and I want to thank our entire staff team, including our teachers, support staff, cleaners, catering and janitorial staff for all that they have done and will continue to do 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



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INFORMATION FOR P2A/1C (Miss Wright)

Children in P2A/P1C should arrive for 9am along with the other children, as would be their usual routine. The children will still access the building through their own entrance from the playground to the classroom.

P2A/1C

They will be able to order lunch (*Bubble Fish, Margarita Pizza, Pasta Arabiata or a Ham or Cheese Sandwich*) if they wish to do so.

Dismissal/collection arrangements remain the same.

INFORMATION FOR P1A (Miss Millar) & P1B (Miss Byrne)

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

**P1A &
1B**

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 12TH 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 only for the first day. Staff will be in the playground to collect Lunch orders (Bubble Fish, Margarita Pizza, Pasta Arabiata or a Ham or Cheese Sandwich).***
- Children will line up in their class lines and their buddies will join them.
- Buddies will support the children throughout the day.
- You are welcome to come along to the school **from 2pm** on Wednesday 12th 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.

ON THURSDAY 13TH & FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST – Children will all start school at **9am** and enter through the main gate. Buddies will support this. Adults are not permitted to enter the playground.

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.

MONDAY 17TH - FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST - DROP OFF IS 9AM AND DISMISSAL IS 2:45PM. P7 Buddies will be at the gate from about **8:50am** to support their P1 friends. After this week, school will be 9am—3pm.

Children attending after school care will remain in school until they are collected.

There is always an adult presence at the school gate both in the morning and at 3pm. Mr Thomas and Mrs Martin are generally there to support the children's arrival and dismissal.

INFORMATION FOR OUR P7s

As our new school leaders, our P7s are expected to set the best example to our younger children.

P7 TIES: At our end of year Mass in June, our P6s were presented with their P7 ties. If your child was absent, then they can collect one from the school office either during the INSET Days on Monday/Tuesday or on the first day. ***These are gifted to the P7s and I would appreciate your support in ensuring your child comes to school with their shirt and tie on. This is excellent preparation for high school!***

BUDDIES: P7 are Buddies to our new P1 children. Part of their duty is to meet their buddy at the gate in the morning. For this to succeed, we need the children to be at school for 8:50am and wait at the gate.

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. Siblings of P1 will exit through the Dining Hall with their younger siblings.

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

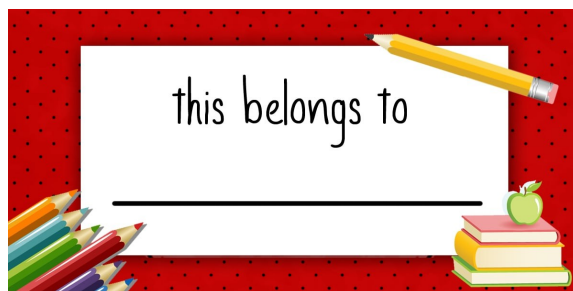
- Children should come to school in full school uniform. The main elements of our uniform are Shirt and Tie, black trousers/skirt/pinafore.
- Royal Blue sweatshirts/cardigan/vest tops/knitted garments - these do not need to have the school badge embroidered. That is your own choice.
- **BLACK SHOES** 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 an 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 **£3.55** 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.

P6 & P7 CHILDREN WILL REQUIRE THEIR ONLINE PAYMENT ACCOUNTS TO BE TOPPED UP IF THEY ARE NOT FREE SCHOOL MEAL.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Mrs McGhee and Mrs Moran are looking forward to welcoming the children to Breakfast Club!

You do not need to book a space. **P1-5 automatically qualify for a free breakfast. P6 and P7 will need to pay, unless you have applied for and secure a Free School Meal Grant.**

We have loads of exciting new resources and games for the children to use, as well a beautiful reading corner. There are lots of fun activities! If you do not send your children to Breakfast, we encourage you to do so!



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 19th August 2026. 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!

THE SCHOOL YEAR

August 2026

- Monday 10 August 2026 (Return date for teachers & In-Service Day)
- Tuesday 11 August 2026 (In-Service Day)
- Wednesday 12 August 2026 (Return date for pupils)

September 2026

- Friday 25 September and Monday 28 September 2026 (September weekend)

October 2026

- Monday 12 to Friday 16 October 2026 (October Week)

November 2026

- Monday 16 November 2026 (In-Service Day)

December 2026 - January 2027

- Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 18 December 2026
- Monday 21 December 2026 – Monday 4 January 2027 (inclusive) (Christmas holidays)
- Schools return on Tuesday 5 January 2027

February 2027

- Monday 15 February and Tuesday 16 February 2027 (Mid-term break)
- Wednesday 17 February 2027 (In-service day)

March 2027

- Friday 26 March (Good Friday)
- Monday 29 March (Easter Monday)

April 2027

- Friday 2 April (Schools close at 2.30pm)
- Monday 5 April - Friday 16 April 2027 (Spring break)
- Schools return on Monday 19 April 2027

May 2027

- Monday 3 May 2027 (May Public Holiday)
- Thursday 6 May 2027 (In-service day – Scottish Government Elections)
- Friday 28 May 2027 and Monday 31 May 2027 (May Weekend)

June 2027

- Schools close at 1pm on Friday 25 June 2027

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:
Wednesday 12th August	New Term Begins	Breakfast Club opens at 8:15am Nursery opens at 8:50am School starts for P2 - P7 at 9am P1A & P1B children will start later at 10am.
Wednesday 19th 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 1st September	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in the school dining hall
Thursday 24th September	Non Uniform Day	Children can dress down. Donations welcomed.
Friday 25th & Monday 28th September	September Holiday Weekend	



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