



## ST. MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

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Dear Parent/Carers,

I am pleased to say all the children have settled well and there is great learning evident in all the classes. This is another busy term with much to look forward to. Please take a note of all the important dates detailed in this newsletter.

#### **ENTRY AND DISMISSAL ARRANGEMENTS FROM SCHOOL GATES**

The infant and senior gates will be opened by staff at 8.50 a.m. Pupils can enter by either gate and then make their way to the appropriate yard, where they will be supervised by school staff. Please remember that breakfast club is available from 8.15 a.m.

Should your child arrive late for school (after 9.00 a.m.) please ensure they enter via the main school entrance and report to the school office. Children must use pupil gates and not enter via the main door prior to 9.00 a.m.



The arrangements for dismissal at 3.00 p.m. are as follows:-

Basketball Court Primary 1, Primary 2/1 and Primary 3/2

Infant Gate Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 5

Senior Gate Primary 6/5, Primary 6, Primary 7A and Primary 7B

Pupil may exit via the infant gate or basketball court gate with younger siblings should it be required. I politely request that school parents and carers do not enter the yard at 3.00 p.m. but wait at the appropriate dismissal area to collect their child.

#### **WORLD BOOK DAY**

The whole school will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please do not go to any extra expense buying a costume and if you require any assistance, we have some costumes in the school. Please contact myself or Mrs Di Mascio for further information.

#### **FIRST COMMUNION**

Children have received a letter confirming the date they will celebrate their First Communion. We look forward to joining our families on either 20<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00 p.m. or 21<sup>st</sup> April at 10.00 a.m. for Mass in St. Michael's Church. Parents are invited to attend our Workshop on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.00 p.m. in the school hall.

#### **FIRST RECONCILIATION and WORKSHOP**

These children have also received confirmation of their date of either 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 p.m., again the Mass will take place in St. Michael's Church.

Parents are invited to attend our Workshop on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.00 p.m. in the school hall.

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February which is the in-service day. Father Michael will welcome all our families to receive their ashes in the church.

## CLASS HOMEWORK

Each class is set homework for the week either on Microsoft Teams or in paper form. This is an important part of their learning and consolidates what the teacher has taught in class. I would ask that you ensure your child has completed and returned all homework by Friday of each week.

## STEM

This year, we have been working hard to inspire our pupils through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Our hard-working committee have been busy building their own skills by gathering and exploring exciting new resources with the aim to share their expertise with their classmates. Our vision is to inspire and build confidence in others to help them achieve success in STEM. Great work has taken place already and we are gathering evidence with the hope of achieving a STEM Nation Award. Lots of super science experiments have taken place in our STEM classroom as well as practical engineering and technology activities which our pupils have loved. In addition to this, our Primary 7 pupils have been working hard on their journey to becoming Young Stem Leaders. They have shown they are inspiring role models by planning activities and delivering lessons to our infant classes, embedding a love of STEM for future generations!



## DIGITAL COMMITTEE



Having received our Digital Award last year our Digital Committee are keen to keep improving the use of digital across our school in all areas of the curriculum. Our Digital Committee have used the results of our Smart Council survey to come up with a timetable of classes that we will visit to teach them how to use the app, Scratch Jnr. The Committee have already delivered this lesson to Primary 3/2 and are looking forward to delivering it to the rest of the infant department. We will then use

the results of our digital survey to deliver different lessons to the middle and upper school classes depending on what best suits their needs.

## READING SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone for working alongside us on our journey to becoming A Reading School. We are now well on our way.

We have participated in whole class visits to our school library on a weekly basis to promote Reading for Pleasure. Children are fully engaged learning about authors and genres. They have used library time to work in groups as well as independently.

We have been visiting the local library to enhance our community links, thank you to all parents/carers who are now attending the library on a regular basis. We are delighted to have parents attend the school library to help out.

Peer Reading with upper children and infants, writing their own books, using drama to tell stories and choosing books to ensure a fully stocked library has been successful. Parents and carers enjoyed helping out with the infants with the launch of Book Bugs. Thank you for supporting your children in reading at home.



## PUPIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE



We are continuing to work towards our Rights Respecting School Silver Award. As part of this, the Pupil Rights Committee have asked the children for their opinion on how we can improve our school. Using our Smart Council survey, we asked the children to come up with ideas for games which they would like to use in our school playground. Following this survey, the committee asked for donations of toys which we were so grateful to receive. Thanks to these donations the Committee were

able to create a number of playground boxes which the children are now enjoying at playtime and lunchtime. As a committee, we are always striving to improve our school and the children are continuing to share their views on how we can keep improving our school playground, add more activities and make our playground a fun and engaging place to play. The Committee are now hoping to work with the Parent Council to raise money to continue to develop our playground through painted playground markings and new equipment.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

All our children should wear full school uniform including a tie to school every day. School uniform gives everyone a sense of belonging and we are often praised by members of the local community on how well turned out our pupils are. Our school tie is an important part of our uniform and I would encourage all our children to wear one. P.E. kit should be brought into school on a Monday and kept on your child's peg until Friday, when it will be brought home again. All uniform items can be order online at [www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk](http://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk)

### BOYS

White shirt, long or short sleeve (not polo shirt)  
Brown tailored trousers or shorts (summer)  
Brown v-neck jumper  
School tie (traditional)

### GIRLS

White shirt, long or short sleeve (not polo shirt)  
Brown skirts or pinafore dresses, trousers (winter)  
Brown v-neck jumper or cardigan  
School Tie (traditional)

## SCHOOL MEALS P. 1-5

All children from P.1 to P.5 are now entitled to a free school meal at St. Michael's. All our lunches are made in our school kitchen and it is great to see so many of our children enjoying the hot meal each day. If your child has not been to dinner school for a while, please get them to try the lunches for a couple of days, particularly in the cold weather.



## ST. MAURICE'S ROADSHOW

The senior management of St. Maurice's High School invite all our P.7 parents to their Roadshow within St. Michael's Primary on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 p.m.

## PARKING



Unfortunately, we are still having issues with parking around our school grounds. For the safety of all our pupils and staff, please ensure that you are not parked on the zigzags at any of the entrances. There is ample parking at the church or Co-op car parks or on better days, children should be encouraged to walk or cycle to school. I would ask again, that cars do not 'bump up' on the kerb or block the entrance to the Sheltered Housing.

Mrs Di Mascio and I are very grateful of the support of parents and carers, please pass on these requests to all grandparents/childminders/carers who pick up and drop off at St. Michael's.

## P.7 TRIP TO YORK

We are now on the countdown to our trip to York on 20<sup>th</sup> May until 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The final payment of £60.00 is due at the end of February. The trip must be paid in full by the end of February. An information evening will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 p.m. in the school.

## SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

A new youth group will meet on Tuesdays in the Pivot Centre from 7.00 p.m. until 8.45 p.m. For further details contact Caroline Simpson 07812501828.

## WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure your child has a suitable water bottle with them every day with sufficient supply to last them all through the day.



## PERIOD DIGNITY PROVISION

Details of where free period products are available in the local area can be found at <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/working-communities/free-period-products>

## ALLERGIES

Please remember that we are a nut free school when you are giving your child their snack or packed lunch. If your child has any allergies, the dinner hall must be notified and the relevant forms completed. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## COMMUNICATION



We have a growing number of followers on twitter, now 'X' - @StMichaelsPNS - and would ask if you could please follow us in order to keep up to date with news and events. The school website is an excellent source of communication also as it is regularly updated. We will continue to communicate through the e-mail system and ask that you check this regularly to keep up to date.

## FEBRUARY HOLIDAY and INSERVICE DAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. All children should return on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00 a.m.



## FURTHER HOLIDAYS

The school will close for Easter on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 p.m. and reopen on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 a.m.

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Please find details of three groups being run by our NLC Community and Development Worker, Val McKernan at the end of this newsletter. Everyone will be made most welcome.

As always, if there is anything in this newsletter that you would like to discuss or indeed any aspect of school life, please contact via e-mail addresses stated below.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Greechan  
HEAD TEACHER

## E-MAIL CONTACTS

| Staff   | Class  |
|---|--|
| Mrs. Greechan   | <a href="mailto:nlgreechank@northlan.org.uk">nlgreechank@northlan.org.uk</a>   |
| Mrs. Di Mascio for Nursery and P.1-3 enquiries                    | <a href="mailto:nldimascion@northlan.org.uk">nldimascion@northlan.org.uk</a>   |
| Mrs. Belam for P.4-7 enquiries and Support for Learning           | <a href="mailto:nlbelamk@northlan.org.uk">nlbelamk@northlan.org.uk</a>   |
| Mrs. Devlin and Mrs McNab for I.C.T. and Digital Homework queries | <a href="mailto:nldevlinn@northlan.org.uk">nldevlinn@northlan.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:nlmcnabk@northlan.org.uk">nlmcnabk@northlan.org.uk</a> |
| Miss. Clinton for general school enquiries                        | <a href="mailto:nlclintonh@northlan.org.uk">nlclintonh@northlan.org.uk</a>   |
| Mrs. Rand for absences, Illness, iPay and Parents Night           | <a href="mailto:nlrاندp@northlan.org.uk">nlrاندp@northlan.org.uk</a>   |
| Mrs. McMillan for Nursery and contact details                     | <a href="mailto:nlmcmillanr@northlan.org.uk">nlmcmillanr@northlan.org.uk</a>   |

Image by Veecteezy

# Women's History Project

**10 weeks from  
Thursday 25th January  
10am to 12pm  
in Muirfield Centre  
Cumbernauld**

**Come along and learn about  
history through the lives of  
women. This term we are  
looking at the history of female  
protest including the campaign  
for the right to vote.**

**To book a place text 07812 501883  
or email: [mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk)**

**Val McKernan, Community Learning and Development Worker (Schools)**

# Little Explorers



**The sessions are for children  
2 years and up.**

**They include a Bookbug session  
followed by a chance for  
parents and children to play,  
explore and create together.**

Grandparents are also welcome to bring along their grandchildren.  
Younger children are welcome if accompanying an older sibling.

**from Wednesday 31st January for 8 weeks**

**10.30am to 11.30am**

**The Pivot Centre, Moodiesburn**

**To book on the sessions use the QR code or online at:**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/vwPN0jmKC4>**



**Or text: 07812501883**

**Val McKernan, Community Learning and  
Development Worker (Schools)**

**text: 07812501883**

**Email: [mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk)**

**Other groups and parent workshops are available**



# PARENT WORKSHOPS

## Child development and behaviour



This workshop gives an overview of child development, looking at how their brains develop and how this influences their behaviour. By the end of the workshop you will have more understanding of your child and why they act the way they do. This workshop is recommended for all parents/carers.

**Friday 9th February, 10am to 12pm, Garrell Vale Centre, Kilsyth**

## Anxiety and meltdowns



In this workshop we will use the information that we learned in the child development workshop to put together strategies to support to support our children with their behaviour, anxiety and/or distress.

You need to attend the child development workshop before attending this workshop.

**Friday 16th February, 10am to 12pm, Garrell Vale Centre, Kilsyth**



## Supporting positive behaviour

In this workshop we will look at simple strategies to encourage our children to develop good social, emotional and behavioural skills.

**Friday 1st March, 10am to 12pm, Garrell Vale Centre, Kilsyth**

## Problem Solving

In this workshop we will learn how to help our children develop their skills to help them deal better with challenging situations and help keep homes calmer with less meltdowns and shouting.

**Friday 8th March, 10am to 12pm, Garrell Vale Centre, Kilsyth**



## Sleep Support Session

In this workshop we will look at improving children's sleep, including understanding:

What is Sleep? • The importance of sleep • Good bedtime practice And how to put it into practice

**Friday 15th March, 10am to 12pm, Garrell Vale Centre, Kilsyth**



To book on any of the workshops use the QR code or online at: <https://forms.office.com/e/gS0a0L44cF>

You can also text on: **07812501883**  
email: [mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk)

All activities are offered by Val McKernan, Community Learning and Development (Schools)