



St Helen's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Helen's,

The countdown to Christmas has begun and this is one of the loveliest times to work with children.

Our Christmas decorations will be going up shortly and rehearsals for the Christmas Nativity and Christmas Show are underway.

Please take a note of some important dates such as Christmas Jumper day, class parties, Christmas lunch, the Christmas Fair and of course our Christmas show dates!

We are looking forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible at Parents' Night on Thursday 14th Nov—with the exception of Primary 3—who will have their Parents' Night the following week—on Thursday 21st November.

As colder temperatures are upon us—please look out hats, scarves, gloves and cosy jackets. If any families require support with this—please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We all know colder weather can bring with it icy and snowy conditions. Please familiarise yourselves with the adverse weather plans for safe passage to access and exit the school.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

PARENTS' NIGHT APPOINTMENTS/BOOK FAIR

As you know Parents' Night is on Thursday 14th Nov from 3.30pm.

Please ensure you have booked an appointment via the electronic booking system. If you require assistance with this do not hesitate to call the school.

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the Conference Room. This is being delivered to the school on Tuesday 12th Nov and will be accessible on the evening of Parents' Night—if children wish to purchase books.

The Book Fair is usually picked up early on the Friday—to be delivered to another school—therefore Thursday will be the only day for purchases.

Children in Primary 3 can purchase books during the course of the day on Thursday 12th Nov if any parent wishes to send some money in or alternatively parents and children can still pop into the school on Thursday evening if they wish to have a browse together.



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The school closes for Christmas on Friday 20th December at 2.30pm. Traditionally on this day the school gathers as a community to sing Christmas Carols in Our Lady and St Helen's Church. This will take place at 11.15am and classes will sing Christmas Carols on the steps of the altar.

Fr Paulinus will be attending the Carol Service which is the first one in his post as our Parish Priest. I am sure he will be impressed with our great singing.

Please come along—this is always a lovely event and a great way to start the Christmas holidays.

HEALTHY TUCK

We have a healthy tuckshop available for children at morning break time. Please be aware this is **not** covered by the free school meal entitlement for children from Primary 1—Primary 5. Therefore, children need to have money in their account to access this.

We have a number of children who are coming to school with no playtime snack and are then presenting at Healthy Tuck with no money in their account.

Please can parents/carers ensure that children come to school with a snack or with money in their account.

If any family is facing a difficult time which is impacting financially—please get in touch with the school as there are ways we could support you.

PANTOMIME

On Tuesday 17th December we have arranged for a theatre company to come into the school to perform a Christmas Pantomime for the children. This year it is Pinocchio!

The cost of the Pantomime is £835. Therefore we are asking parents to pay a contribution of **£3 per child**.

This money can be paid via the iPay system or the school office.

Please can all monies be handed in by Monday 2nd December.



CHRISTMAS SHOW

We are delighted to inform you that we will once again be hosting a Christmas show with the infant children performing the Nativity and our middle/upper primaries serenading us with some Christmas songs.

I am sure you will agree this sounds like a lovely Christmas event and a great opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer.

The Christmas Show will be held on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December. Tuesday and Wednesday 10th/11th of December will be afternoon performances starting at 1.30pm and the 12th December will be an evening performance starting at 7pm.

There will be an allocation of tickets to each family and following this additional tickets will be on sale. Further details will follow.

On the day of the shows, please ensure you park considerately in a fashion that does not inconvenience local residents.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Following on from the success of our Christmas Fair last year—our Parent Council have worked hard to recreate the magic this year! With more stalls, performances from the choir, a bigger and better Tombola, raffle prizes, a lucky dip—it's all happening!

When? - Saturday 7th Dec

Where? - St Helen's Primary School Hall

Time? - 9.30—12.30pm

Come along for some festive fun and good cheer!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The children's Christmas Lunch Day will be on Thursday 5th December. Tables will be dressed with Christmas table cloths and napkins and there will be Christmas music playing.

A letter will be sent out regarding this with menu choices. The letter will include a date for returning menu choices—**please ensure this is returned to the school as this will inform the food order placed by the catering staff. Letters that are returned beyond this deadline might mean that pupils are not be able to get their first choice of dinner.**

The Christmas Lunch is free of charge to all children in Primaries 1—5 and for any children out with those stages who are in receipt of free meals. For all other children the cost will be £3.25.

Please ensure children have money on their cards to avoid the dinner ladies having to spend time writing out receipts for money owed—as this is always a really busy day for the dinner school.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS RECYCLING APPEAL

The school will hold Christmas Jumper day on Friday the 12th of December. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on this day for a £1 donation to charity.

Rather than families going to the added expense of purchasing new Christmas jumpers—which are only worn for a short period of time—we have a stock of preloved Christmas Jumpers that still have some life left in them. These will be available for people to look through at Parents' Night on Thursday.



PLP TRACKERS/SNAPSHOT JOTTERS

We hope you enjoyed looking through the children's Snapshot Jotters when they were sent home on 7th October.

The Snapshot Jotters will be in use in all classes during w/b 11th November and will then be sent home on Monday 2nd December 2024 for you to discuss learning and progress with children.

In addition to this the Progress Trackers for the children's Personal Learning Plans will also be sent home on Monday 2nd December.

We hope these measures help you to feel involved and informed about your child's learning and progress.

PARENT COUNCIL EVENTS

There will be a dress down day on Friday 15th December. This is a non-uniform day for a donation of £1 per child. The proceeds of this will go to our Parent Council and will be used to support the children.

The next PC Meeting will be on Tuesday 26th November at 6.30pm—All welcome!

The next Parent Council disco for the children will be on the evening of Thursday 8th December—so Christmas outfits at the ready!

WARM SPACE HUB

Our Lady and St. Helen's Church Hall is a recognised secure warm space in the community. This means the hall will be open on weekdays to provide a warm space for people, phone charging facilities and tea/coffee/toast as a means of helping with the cost of living crisis. The hall is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am—1pm. Fr Paulinus said, "It is open to the whole community!"

ADVERSE WEATHER PLANS

Hopefully we will get through another winter without being overly affected by snowy weather.

However if Mother Nature sends heavy blizzards our way and this results in a school closure the following action will be taken:

- We will inform you by text in the first instance to let you know this has been decided in the interests of health and safety
- Staff will remain in school with the children until they have all been safely picked up

In the event that there has been a heavy snow-fall during the night, you should consult North Lanarkshire Council's website on:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

prior to embarking on the journey to school.

Similarly if there has been a school closure the website will inform you if the school is open again.

Children will be able to continue their learning at home via Teams.

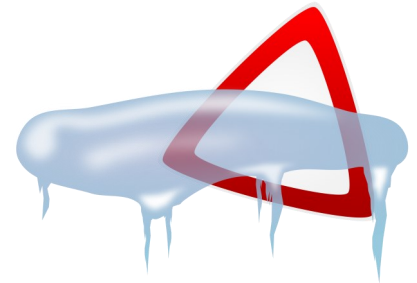


ENTERING/EXITING THE SCHOOL IN ICY— CONDITIONS

As we all know winter brings with it sub zero temperatures and icy conditions. This can make it hazardous on foot. The school playground can be particularly icy at these times.

In accordance with NLC guidelines, the Janitor will always ensure there is at least one gritted path for pupils and adults to enter/exit the school. This path leads from the Primary 7 gate—adjacent to the car park gate—and extends to the Main Entrance of the school.

If the conditions are icy—please use this path and enter through the Main Entrance of the school.



Over the course of the day—the janitor will assess the conditions and if needed there will be alternative arrangements in place for dismissal at 3pm. These will be posted on Twitter.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

I wish to extend my thanks to the many parents who support the school by not accessing the school carpark between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm. This is to manage the amount of traffic in the car park when children and families are making their way to and from school.

During the winter months there is increased adverse weather and it is tempting to use the school car park to drop children off.

I would ask you not to slip into these habits. By parking out with the school car park you are supporting the school and you are helping to keep all our children safe.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS & ORAL HEALTH CHECKS

Children who returned consent forms received their annual flu immunisation on Monday 4th November. The nursing team will return to the school again for a catch up/mop up visit on Monday 20th January 2025.

Oral health checks for pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 7 are due to be carried out on Tuesday 3rd December by NHS Lanarkshire. Consent/Opt Out forms will be issued in due course once these have been provided by NHS Lanarkshire.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
<u>November</u>	
Friday 1 st November 2024	Mass for All Saints Day
Thursday 14 th November 2024	Parents' Night
Monday 18 th November 2024	INSET 3
18 th November – 22 nd November 2024	Catholic Education Week
Thursday 28 th November 2024	P7 Confirmations
<u>December</u>	
Monday 2 nd December 2024	PLP Tracker home to parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
Thursday 5 th December	School Children's Christmas Lunch
Friday 6 th December 2024	First Friday Mass
Tuesday 10 th December 2024	Christmas Show (PM)
Wednesday 11 th December 2024	Christmas Show (PM)
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Christmas Show (evening)
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 th December 2024	P6-7 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	Pantomime P1-3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	P4-5 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December 2024	Carol Concert 11.15am
Friday 20 th December 2024	School closes at 2.30pm
23 rd December – 3 rd January (inclusive)	Christmas Holiday
<u>January</u>	
Friday 10 th January 2025	New Year Mass @ 10am
Friday 24 th January 2025	Burns' Day Café
Monday 27 th January 2025	PLP 2 home to parents
<u>February</u>	
Thursday 6 th February 2025	GLP Info Evening for P6 and P7 Parents
Friday 7 th February 2025	First Friday Mass
10 th – 14 th February 2025	Health Week
17 th – 18 th February 2025	February Holiday
Wednesday 19 th February 2025	INSET 4
<u>March</u>	
3 rd – 7 th March 2025	Fairtrade Week
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday Mass 11.15am
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March 2025	First Friday Mass

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Date:	Event:
10 th – 15 th March 2025	STEM Week
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	New P1 Information Evening at 6.30pm
Monday 17 th March 2025	PLP Tracker
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Fashion Show
Friday 21 st March 2025	Daffodil Tea
Tuesday 25 th March	11.15am New P1 lunch
Friday 28 th March 2025	Mother's Day Assembly time tbc.
<u>April</u>	
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Parents' Evening – Snapshot jotters available to parents
Friday 4 th April 2025	First Friday Mass School closes at 2.30pm
Friday 4 th April 2025	First Friday Mass School closes at 2.30pm
7 th – 21 st April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 1)
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 2)
<u>May</u>	
Friday 2 nd May 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 5 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	INSET 5
Tuesday 13 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 3)
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 4)
23 rd – 26 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 27 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 5)
Thursday 29 th May 2025	Ascension Thursday Mass
<u>June</u>	
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Friday 6 th June 2025	First Friday Mass
Monday 9 th June 2025	Final Reports to Parents Snapshot Jotters home to parents
Tuesday 10 th June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Wednesday 11 th June 2025	Sports Day
Monday 16 th June 2025	P1-3 Final Assembly
Tuesday 17 th June 2025	P4-6 Final Assembly
Friday 20 th June 2025	Meet the Teacher at 2pm
Friday 20 th June 2025	Leavers' Mass at 10am
Friday 20 th June 2025	Leavers' Disco
Monday 23 rd June 2025	P7 Final Assembly
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	End of term Mass at 10am School closes at 1pm

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are a number of ways you can keep up to date with school events and information:

Through the school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/sthelens/>

Through Twitter: @StHelensNLC

Email: nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

Phone: 01236632068