

St Helen's Nursery Class



November/December 2024



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

We are now weeks away from the Christmas celebrations and we have lots of Christmas themed activities planned for the children.

The children's Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 5th December and children will be offered turkey or a vegetarian option, ice cream and water, milk or juice. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.

Our official Christmas jumper day will be on Thursday 12th December and children are asked to bring a donation of £1 to raise money for our chosen charity.

Practices have started for our Christmas Sing-a-long and we hope you can join us for this on **Friday 13th December**.

Our Christmas Fun Day is on the **19th December** and children can wear a special Christmas outfit on this day if they wish.

Mrs Langford is unwell at the moment and is off work resting and recuperating. We hope she feels better soon.

Christmas can be a tough time for many families for a number of reasons and the current cost of living crisis is adding an extra strain on society. We would like to remind you that we are always here to support families who are experiencing difficult times. Please do not hesitate to drop me an email or give me a phone as I am happy to help.

To this end, we also remind you that although gifts for staff are very appreciated, they are not necessary—we would not want families feeling under pressure to make purchases when there are many other financial burdens on families. We would be delighted if this money is used to bring a bit of extra sparkle to the children's Christmas.

On behalf of all the staff at St Helen's we want to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, peace-filled New Year.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

NURSERY DETAILS

Session time	8.45am—2.45pm
Head Teacher	Mrs Liz Kelly
Principal Teachers	Mrs Siobhan Ferguson Mrs Clare Ireland Mrs Pamela Purdue
Early Learning and Childcare Keyworkers:	Mrs Nicola Langford (Lead) Mrs Lorraine Daly Mrs Audrey Semple Mrs Paula Forsyth Mrs Pamela Habbick
Early Learning and Childcare Support Workers:	Mrs Wai Lan Wan Ms Megan Yanetta-Pryde Mrs Linda Pender Mrs Kelly Grant

PLEASE REMEMBER THE NURSERY FINISHES EARLIER THAN THE SCHOOL DAY—AT 2.45PM. ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE PICKED UP BY THIS TIME.

Nursery doors open for pick up from 2.30pm

SPONSORED SCAVENGER HUNT

The children had fun participating in an Autumn themed scavenger hunt. This was a sponsored event to raise money for nursery funds.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event which raised the sum of £422. This money is gratefully received.



REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEFERRALS

Primary 1 may still feel like a long time away for our pre-schoolers. However, children who reach the age of 5 years between 1 March 2025 and 29 February 2025 should be registered for Primary school. Registration week has still to be confirmed by North Lanarkshire but we anticipate this will be held on week beginning Monday 13th January 2025 to Friday 17th January 2025. Please consult your catchment school for specific times (St Helen's Primary School times will be sent separately).

During registration week, you must register your child at their **catchment primary school** and bring with you your child's **birth certificate** and your **current Council Tax notice**. This can be obtained online by logging into your account or from your First Stop Shop.

Whilst registering your child at your **catchment primary school**, you may make a placing request for your child to attend another school out-with your catchment area or express a desire to defer your child's entry to Primary School until August 2026.

You can automatically defer your child's entry to Primary School and receive an additional year of Early Learning and Childcare funding if your child is still four years old on the date they are eligible to start school (children with birth dates on or between the day after the schools start date in August (13 August 2025) to the last day in February 2026).

For anyone whose child is five years old between March 2025 and the day the schools start in August 2025, and wishes to defer entry to Primary School, a further year of funded early learning and childcare provision would be at the discretion of the local authority.

If deferral is something you are considering, please speak to your child's Key worker.

It would be helpful to let your child's Key worker know which school you are registering your child at and which school you are hoping for your child to attend. This will enable us to begin preparing Transition information and events.

GOOD NEWS!

You will be aware that Mrs Habbick has not been in the nursery for a while as she is currently on maternity leave. We are delighted to share that Mrs Habbick gave birth to a beautiful baby girl at the end of September.

Both Mum and baby are doing very well and Mrs Habbick visited the school and nursery with her new baby last week. She is gorgeous!



CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 13th December for our Christmas Sing-a-long! The doors to the school entrance will open from 1.30pm and you will have the opportunity to buy the following:

- Your child's 2025 Calendar
- Snowman Soup
- Reindeer Dust
- Your child's Christmas bauble
- Raffle tickets—Christmas hamper and chocolate hamper

All monies will go towards our Nursery Fund.

Children will then come into the hall and perform some Christmas songs at 2pm.



ADVERSE WEATHER PROCEDURES



With the dropping temperatures, we may be affected by snowy and icy weather over the coming months as winter sets in. If Mother Nature sends severe weather our way, and this results in a nursery 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 nursery with the children until they have all been safely picked up*

In the event that there has been severe weather during the night, you should consult the North Lanarkshire Council website on: www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk prior to embarking on the journey to nursery. Similarly if there has been a nursery closure the website will inform you if the nursery is open again.

ACCESSING THE NURSERY:

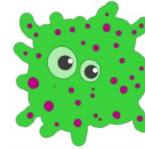
*During icy weather, when the ground is slippery, the school is required to keep **one** path of access gritted. This will be the pathway through the Primary 7 Playground (Lomond Place side) which will be gritted from the gate, to the Main Entrance of the school.*

Where possible, there will be a pathway gritted from the Rose Street entrance to the Nursery entrance.

If conditions are icy, children should enter via the main school entrance where they will be greeted by a member of the nursery staff and escorted to the nursery. If, at the end of the session, it has not been possible to grit a pathway to the nursery entrance, parents should wait in the school reception and a member of staff will invite them to collect their children from the hall.

Stay tuned to our Twitter for instant messages and updates regarding accessing the school building.

INFECTION CONTROL



These days we are all well versed on spotting signs of infection. Unfortunately, our youngest children are still prone to picking up the usual childhood bugs and the nursery is required to follow strict guidance from Care Inspectorate on the control and reporting of any outbreaks (2 or more cases).

Some bugs and illnesses require an exclusion period from nursery—a full list can be found on the Health Protection Scotland or Care Inspectorate websites. However I wanted to draw your attention specifically to the following:

- Unexplained rashes—children should not attend nursery until assessed by a doctor or pharmacist.*
- Sickness/diarrhoea. If your child experiences either of these, they should not attend nursery until 48 hours after the last episode of sickness/ diarrhoea.*
- Fever/high temperature— if your child has a fever or high temperature (37.8 or higher) they must not attend nursery until they are 48 hours free of a high temperature without the use of medication to regulate this.*

Even though your child may appear to be feeling better, it is during this 48-hour window when they are most infectious.

If your child is ill, they must not attend childcare and if your child becomes unwell whilst in our care, we will phone you to request that you collect them. Please tell us if your child has been ill whilst they are away from nursery and if you're not sure, please phone us before you bring your child.

As you are aware we have a child in the nursery who is immuno-compromised, please can I remind you to alert the nursery if your child contracts measles, chickenpox or shingles as this child will require medical intervention to preserve their health.

We appreciate your support with this in helping to protect all our children and limit the spread of infection.



WHAT TO BRING TO NURSERY

Children should come to nursery in comfortable play clothes—this can be our nursery uniform or their own clothes. Please do not dress your child in special clothing as we love messy play at nursery! We kindly ask that you provide the nursery with a spare set of clothes (including underwear) should your child require a change. This will prevent us from having to contact you to bring clothes to nursery during the session.



We also ask that children leave a pair of plimsoles in nursery to wear inside the playrooms to keep our play space nice and clean. Velcro shoes help to promote independence in our children.



Although we have a supply of wetsuits and wellies, we are happy to store children's personal outerwear in order that they can still go out in the rainy weather and have fun. It would be very helpful if children could bring a pair of wellies to be kept in the nursery. Our lovely Scottish weather is temperamental at the moment, please ensure your child comes to nursery with a jacket in order that they can still play outdoors when it is raining.

If your child is not yet toilet trained, please provide the nursery with wipes, nappies, nappy bags and spare clothes including underwear.

Every child has a drawstring bag on their peg where they can store their belongings. This keeps our cloakroom areas neat, tidy and clutter free. However please ensure you label all your child's belongings including shoes, jumpers, cardigans etc as children often have similar clothing and this avoids confusion.

Lastly, we have lots of toys, puzzles, books and craft materials at nursery therefore there is no need to bring personal toys. We ask that these be kept safe at home as children can become upset if they misplace their toy or if others touch/try to play with it. If your child requires to bring a small transitional object/toy to help them settle, this should be discussed with your child's Key worker. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNICATIONS



Where possible and practical, we will email you with any relevant information regarding the operations of the nursery. There may be some instances when information is sent out on paper where written consent is required. We will also post important information on our Twitter page and send texts when necessary.

Our parent/carer notice board is located in the cloakroom beside the main entrance. You can find important information about the nursery and Early Learning and Childcare in general, support leaflets, brown envelopes for the nursery fund, and much more.

We try to update this as regularly as possible with information that may be of use to you. Please check this regularly and help yourself to any articles and leaflets.

The best way to keep up to date on your child's learning and progress is through our Online Learning Journals. Please make sure you log on—and speak to a member of staff if you need any help with this.

PROUD CLOUD



Our children are growing and learning new things every day and meeting milestones in and out of nursery. We want to celebrate all of their achievements and showcase these for all to see.

If your child has a 'wow' moment at home, no matter how big or small, we would love it if you could send us a picture and a brief comment and we will display this on our 'Proud Cloud' - located in the cloakroom at the main entrance.

In Mrs Langford's absence, Proud Cloud details should be sent to Mrs Kelly—nlkellye@northlan.org.uk

KEEP IN TOUCH

Newsletters

Newsletters will continue to be delivered electronically and will be sent out in the following months:

- December
- January/February
- May



Follow us for important updates and information, and to see pictures of the children's learning on:

Learning Journals



Twitter

[@StHelensNLC](https://twitter.com/StHelensNLC)



Information on Early Learning and Childcare

www.parentclub.scot

<https://elcnorthlanarkshire.scot/parents.html>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:
<u>November</u>	
Week beginning 4 th November	Come and Play Week: Monday - Green Tuesday - Blue Wednesday – Red Thursday – Orange Friday – Catch Up
Monday 18 th November	INSET 3
<u>December</u>	
Thursday 5 th December	Nursery Children’s Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 th December	School and Nursery Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 th December	Nursery Sing a Long at 1.30pm
Thursday 19 th December	Nursery Fun Day
23 rd December – 3 rd January	Christmas Holiday children return on 6/1/25
<u>February</u>	
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 World Book Week
Week beginning 10 th March	Come and Play Week: Monday – Orange Tuesday - Red Wednesday – Blue Thursday – Green Friday – Catch Up
<u>April</u>	
7 th – 21 st April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
<u>May</u>	
Monday 5 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	INSET 5
23 rd – 26 th May 2025	Holiday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:
<u>June</u>	
Friday 6 th June 2025	Nursery Summer Fun Day
Monday 9 th June 2025	Nursery Reports to Parents
Thursday 12 th June 2025 – Tuesday 17 th June	Nursery Progress Meetings Thursday 12 th June – Blue Group Friday 13 th June – Green Group Monday 16 th June – Red Group Tuesday 17 th June – Orange Group
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Nursery Graduation
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	Nursery closes for summer