



NEWSLETTER

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

I hope that this Newsletter finds you all well. I realise that it has been some time since our last Newsletter, which is oddly uncharacteristic for us here at St. JP II! Within this Newsletter, you will find many items of interest and a number of key dates which will take us to the Easter Holidays and beyond.

As always, I encourage you to make careful note of any dates which may include you or your child(ren).

We have entered the season of Lent, which is always a special time for us in school. We continue to encourage the children to Pray, Fast and Share during Lent.

Since our last Newsletter, HMIE and Care Inspectorate have been, gone and have now published their findings as a result of our inspection in November 2019. Whilst this seems like a long time ago, we have been awaiting the final publication of our report with great anticipation and we have not been disappointed! More information and comment on this can be found within these pages!

As you all know, there are ongoing concerns about the impact and spread of the Coronavirus. I have included some information within our Newsletter as per the updates I have received from the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland, via North Lanarkshire Council. Please read this and encourage your child (ren) to take some of the simple steps necessary to prevent the spread of germs. Much of this is/should be routine, but we all know that not all children are the best at washing their hands properly and regularly!

There will be challenging and complicated times ahead but I know that, if we all communicate and co-operate, then the best possible outcome will be reached. Our focus continues to be on Learning & Teaching and keeping our community safe.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr Thomas
Head Teacher



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

As you are well aware, our school remains open and children should attend as normal unless the following applies (these are national guidelines):

1. If your child has a headache, persistent cough or a high temperature, they should not attend school and should "self isolate" for a period of **14 days**. **If one family member has symptoms, the whole family should isolate.**
 2. If your child reports any of these symptoms at school, we will contact you immediately and will fully expect that you or an appointed adult will collect your child as soon as possible.
 3. If your child has any underlying health issues, you should seek advice from your GP or NHS24.
- Apart from the obvious concerns around Coronavirus, we currently have a large number of children who have had Sickness and Diarrhoea over the last week. Children should not return to school until **48 hours** after their last episode.



AS FAR AS POSSIBLE MAKE CONTACT WITH US VIA TELEPHONE/EMAIL

To avoid unnecessary face-to-face contact, we ask that you make enquiries via telephone or email. A member of the Senior Leadership Team or a relevant member of staff will return your call/email if it is not possible to speak to you when you call. As you know, we operate an open door policy. However, for the time being, we will have an open line policy instead!

We will be limiting visitors into school to avoid any unnecessary contact with people who are not essential to the ongoing running of the school. No new appointments/meetings will be made until further notice.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UPDATES AS AND WHEN WE HAVE THEM

Our School App and Website will be the main means of communication between school and home. We will use Facebook and Twitter to direct you to this information, but to avoid unnecessary speculation, the main information will be given through the App and/or Website. This enables you to download letters and documents, etc.

Official announcements are only made under the direction of North Lanarkshire Council. It is important that EVERYONE receives the same messages at the same time. This keeps everyone informed and on an even footing.

WILL THE SCHOOL CLOSE?

The situation is under constant review and North Lanarkshire Council, along with NHS Lanarkshire/Scotland follow advice from the Scottish and UK Governments. **The school will not close unless a directive is made by the Scottish Government and/or NLC.**

You will be the first to know if such an announcement is to be made, but we remain open and look forward to welcoming the children each day. **Please do not pay attention to unofficial information.**

CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS, TRIPS, EVENTS AND CLUBS

So far, we have had to cancel the Dance Competition, The Choir Festival, The Youth Music Initiative Concert and the following:

- ◆ **ALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS.** This is to allow our Teaching Staff the time to focus on planning for Learning and Teaching.
- ◆ **ALL PLANNED TRIPS & EXCURSIONS.** We have some trips planned which we have been advised to cancel by NLC. Any refunds will be offered ASAP.
- ◆ **PARENT HELPERS & PARENT MEETINGS.** NLC have advised us to avoid all **unnecessary face-to-face contact.**
- ◆ **CARDINAL NEWMAN LINKS.** None of the planned transition events will take place.
- ◆ **PLANNED NURSERY ACTIVITIES.** Sponsored walk, Zumba, Football will not take place.
- ◆ **ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES.**

DRAMA CLUB UPDATE

With the cancellation of Drama Club, we may be unable to stage a production later in the school year. Obviously, if the children are not rehearsing, they cannot work towards a performance. However, we will take things into consideration and perhaps try to arrange rehearsals during the school day for the next few weeks. By that time, we may know more and have a clearer picture from the Government. This is another HUGE disappointment for the children, yourselves and obviously the staff who put so much of their time and enthusiasm into this.

MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY - CANCELLED

This year's Mother's Day Assembly is unfortunately cancelled. This is part of our measures to reduce unnecessary gatherings within the school campus. Whilst this is a real disappointment to you all, I am sure that you understand the reasons behind this cancellation.

Thank you to our P1 children and our P1 staff who have already put in so much effort to prepare for this event. It is a disappointment to us all!



We wish all Mothers, Grandmothers and those who care for our children a very Happy Mother's Day. These strange times should make us evermore grateful for the special people in our lives.

FIRST CONFESSION - CANCELLED

Children from St Columba's Parish are due to make their First Confession on 30th March 2020 in the church. However, following discussion with Father Bogan, it has been decided to **CANCEL** this event. Our P3 children are all prepared and ready to make this Sacrament. Therefore, an arrangement will be made with Fr Bogan and the school so that the children can make their Confession in the coming week. Unfortunately, no Parents/Carers will be invited to join us. Rest assured, we will make this a special occasion for the children.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our Primary 4 children are due to make their First Communion in May. I know that Parents/Carers have approached both Parish Priests and certainly I have also been approached. It is too early to say if Communions will be cancelled, as we do not know what decisions will be made about social/religious gatherings. Keep the prayers going for a speedy end to all of this please! We will keep in contact with our Parish Priests in the coming weeks and will publish any information as soon as we have it.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

You may remember from our previous Newsletter in August/September that we have slightly changed the order of when and how we report to you. Within the next two weeks, you will receive a written report for your child(ren) from their Class Teacher. This is instead of sending such reports out in June. To end the school year, a Parents' Evening will be held in early June. Myself and Mrs Martin are currently working through the reports and adding our own comments. I look forward to sharing the reports with you.

LENTEN FUNDRAISING DAY - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2020

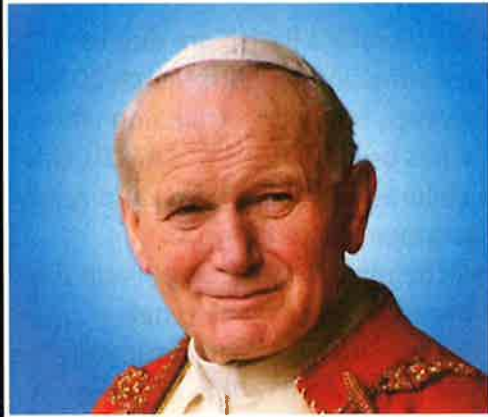
Our annual Lenten Charity Day will take place on 27th March. This will be a non uniform day and there will be lots of activities and games for the children to participate in. All money raised will go to our chosen charities. It is always a fantastic day and our school community is known for the generosity shown to those in need. More information will follow.

WEEKDAY LENTEN MASS - CANCELLED

Given that the advice we have been given is to *limit unnecessary social contact* we have taken the decision to cancel our Weekday Lenten Masses. This is done with a heavy heart, as the attendance at Mass has been wonderful since the start of Lent.

Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to support these Masses; children, parents, carers, family members, staff members and parishioners. As I mentioned before, this is always a special time for us and is a highlight of our school liturgical calendar.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR OUR PRAYERS TO STOP THOUGH...



Saint John Paul II

'Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.'

POPE FRANCIS HAS COMPOSED THE FOLLOWING PRAYER FOR USE DURING THIS TIME:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.



Our School Community Prayer

Dear Holy Father, St. John Paul II,

Please pray for our school;

our children and all the staff.

Help us to be good and to

always try the best we can.

Help us to be kind and to

care about others like you did.

Amen.

St. John Paul II; Pray for us.



**Our Lady
of Lourdes;
Pray for us.**

THE RESULTS ARE IN AND THEY ARE VERY GOOD!

Last week, we received the final report from HMIE and Care Inspectorate following the inspection which took place on 11th—13th November 2019. The links to this were circulated to you through our school App, social media and our school website. A summary of the report is attached to this Newsletter, however, I would encourage you to use the links on the summary, as this gives a much more details account of the findings.



The fact that HMIE rated the standard of **Learning, Teaching and Assessment** as **VERY GOOD** is a huge achievement and is testimony to the hard work and dedication of our entire staff team. This is a fantastic endorsement of what we are working towards as a school community, with all parents/carers and partners having our children at the centre of all that we do. Our work towards **Raising Attainment and Achievement** was graded as **GOOD**, which is also a great endorsement of our work around the Scottish Attainment Challenge and our efforts to ensure that all children continue to achieve. The inspectors particularly commented on the fact that **EQUITY** was at the heart of our school; meaning all children have a variety of experiences, opportunities and supports available to them supported by careful planning and close monitoring of progress and achievement.

Our Nursery Class were graded as **GOOD** for both Learning & Teaching and Raising Attainment & Achievement. We are very proud of their achievements. They also had an inspection by Care Inspectorate during the same week. For both areas they were inspected on, they were graded as **VERY GOOD** with no recommendations to take forward. This is a wonderful achievement!

Our journey of improvement does not stop here, however! We are not complacent and we know there are always areas for improvement and development.

In particular, I want to thank our children and staff for the way in which they welcomed this inspection with open arms! We were ready for this. We had been preparing for this. I also want to thank all of our Parents/Carers for their contribution and support, which is so valued and so important to us.



The full inspection findings are available on our School Website and within our School App.



ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

I have been informed that our school will be used as a Polling Station on Thursday 7th May 2020 for a local Bi-Election. This is following Councillor Bonnar's election to the Westminster Parliament. We wish Councillor Bonnar well in his new role.

This means the school will be closed on the following dates in May:

THURSDAY 7TH MAY—CLOSED FOR ELECTION

FRIDAY 8TH MAY—HOLIDAY

MONDAY 11TH MAY—INSET DAY

FRIDAY 22ND MAY—HOLIDAY

MONDAY 25TH MAY—HOLIDAY



Obviously, with the current situation the election may or may not be cancelled, but I felt it better to keep you informed and have the date in your diaries.



WELCOME TO OUR NURSERY NEWS SECTION!

There are a number of events planned in our Nursery Calendar, but some of these will have to be postponed. We will try our very best to keep you informed. Needless to say - anything which involved parental input in the Nursery will be cancelled until further notice. We apologise for inconvenience or disappointment this may cause. We are sure you will understand.

WELCOME TIME

The staff have been working hard to develop a new Welcome Time. The new Welcome Time formats are being introduced this week, with the introduction on Emotion Works. The School have been doing a lot of work with this and we believe it would be beneficial for our children to have access to this and begin to introduce this within their learning. Staff are planning to visit other Nurseries to get ideas of how they are including this into the nursery day.

DONATIONS

We understand that this is a busy and financially demanding time of year, but we would remind all parents/carers that we rely on donations for some of our activities and also for the snack we provide.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Just a reminder to ensure your child has a spare set of clothes in their Nursery bag/tray. Outdoor learning is accessible every day and with the extension of hours the children have the opportunity to participate in outdoor learning all day. Although the children have waterproofs on they can sometimes get their clothes wet and need to be changed.

- ◆ Tops
- ◆ Trousers
- ◆ Pants
- ◆ Socks

The nursery accepts donations of old clothes as spares for changes.



P6 BUDDIES & TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS



We have been working with the Primary 6 teachers to arrange for the School buddies to visit their Nursery buddies on a Thursday Morning or Afternoon. This is giving them the opportunity to get to know each other before going to School in August. This will continue in the coming months and we will be introducing more opportunities for the children to spend time together.

PARENTS PORTAL *Please read this information carefully and act upon it!*

In support of North Lanarkshire Council's ambition to continue improvement in parental communications and its broader Digital NL plans we have been working with national organisations to develop a "Parents Portal".

The portal has been and will continue to be developed to provide parents with a clear insight to their child's education and to support transactional communications between parents and the school, this includes attendance, reports and school information.

A national consultation exercise was conducted to include the views of parents in the design of the portal. A copy of the report can be found here:

<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/parent-views-of-school-engagement.html>

The development was piloted last session in a small number of schools, when it was within its first phase. Since then more features have been added and North Lanarkshire has moved forward its own digital communication

This first phase will introduce basic information about the school and include services such as

- ◆ online school payments,
- ◆ attendance,
- ◆ placing request forms,
- ◆ the annual data check
- ◆ general school information

parentsportal.scot

As the development of the Portal continues, it is hoped to add features such as reporting absences and permission slips for excursions, etc.

We are live NOW on Parents Portal... sign up and try using some of the features. All services... ONE password!

Further details will follow as these services become available and the best way to make them available to you is for you to sign up to the portal.

Instructions for this can be followed in video available via this link:

<http://bit.ly/ParentsPortalNLC>

This portal will become one of the main communications between schools and parents across North Lanarkshire Council and we encourage you to sign up to this service. It is a one stop shop to many of our current and future communications.

We hoped to have drop-in sessions to allow Parents/Carers the opportunity to get support with signing up. However, in the current climate, this will not be possible.

FULL INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SIGN UP ARE AVAILABLE ON THE LINK ABOVE AND ALSO ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE.

March 2020

Date:	Event:	Time/Venue:
Friday 27th March	Lenten Charity Day	
Friday 3rd April	School closes for Easter Break	
Monday 20th April	School Reopens	8:15am Breakfast Club
Saturday 2nd May	St Gabriel's First Holy Communions	12noon in St. Gabriel's
Thursday 7th May	School closed for Local Election	
Friday 8th May	HOLIDAY	
Monday 11th May	INSET DAY—Pupils should not attend	
Tuesday 12th May	Parent Council Meeting	TBC
Thursday 14th May	P7 Parent Council Movie Night	TBC
Friday 15th May	P5 Assembly—All welcome	TBC
Saturday 16th May	St. Columba's First Communions	11am Venue TBC
Thursday 21st May	Ascension Thursday Mass	Arrangements TBC
Friday 22nd May	HOLIDAY	
Monday 25th May	HOLIDAY	

I plead with you —
 never, ever give up on hope,
never doubt, never tire,
 and never become discouraged.
Be not afraid.

— Pope John Paul II



St. John Paul II Primary School & Nursery

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w: www.johnpaul.n-lanark.sch.uk | twitter: @JPIIPrimary

Head Teacher: Mr Kristofer Thomas

Faith | Respect | Friendship | Trust | Kindness | Equality

Accessing the Parent Portal

Please make sure that the web address typed is exact or type **mygovscot** into your search engine.

1. Go to the Website

 <https://www.mygov.scot/myaccount/>

mygov.scot

[Home](#) >

2. Scroll down and click on the link

Help using myaccount

If you need help with your myaccount you can find it at

<https://signin.mygovscot.org/myaccounthelp/CAS>

If you can't find an answer to your problem using the online help then you can ask someone to help by filling out a support request form. The support request form is available by scrolling to the bottom of this page

<https://signin.mygovscot.org/myaccounthelp/CAS>

3. Click on Register

mygovscot
myaccount

HOME REGISTER SERVICES NEWS BETA

myaccount Help

4. Click on register and fill in the information

Register for **mygovscot**
myaccount

Register for **myaccount** by providing your Personal and Residential details. Registration is a simple 3 step process which will enable us to provide you an account to access a range of online services.



REGISTER

WHAT IS MYACCOUNT?

Once you have registered you will receive an e mail to VERIFY the account. You need to access your e mail and click verify. Your **mygovscot** account will then be active and you can go onto the **PARENTS PORTAL**

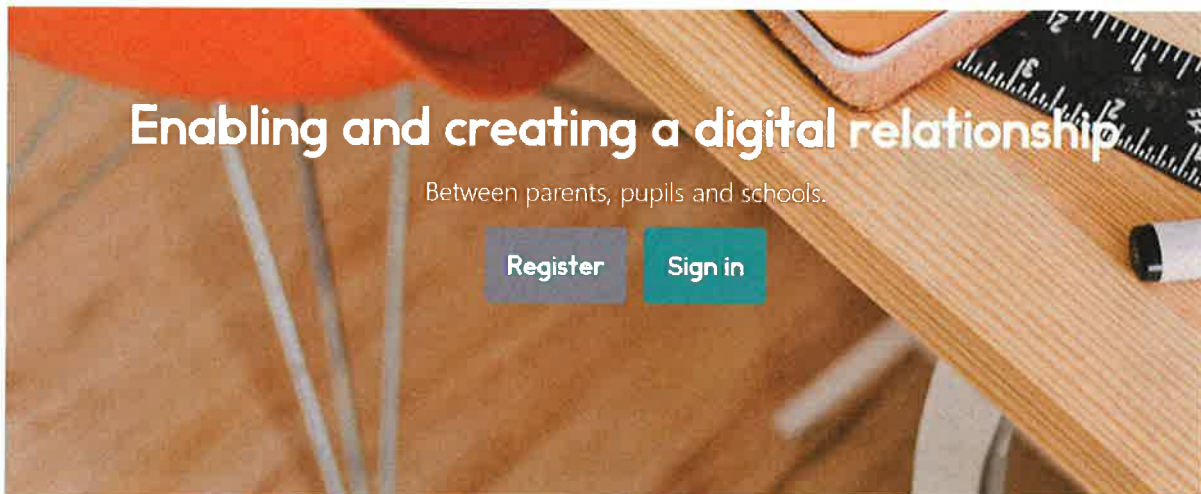
5. Go to Website

→ ↻ 🏠 <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

parentsportal.scot



6. Click on sign in



7. Sign in using your MYGOVSCOT account which you created at Stage 1.

parentsportal.scot



Enter your username

Enter your password

|

Show Characters

SIGN-IN

 SIGN-IN USING YOTI

REGISTER

[FORGOT USERNAME?](#)

[FORGOT PASSWORD?](#)

[Need Help?](#)

8. Click on Link Child



9. Click Start the process



10.

Using the Data Sheet issued by the school fill in the child's information **EXACTLY** as it is on the Data Sheet.

Once linked a **one time code** will be sent to either your phone or e mail. ENTER THE CODE.

Your access to the PARENTS PORTAL will now be pending until the school APPROVES IT.

Once APPROVED you can access the PORTAL.