



New Vision + Values

By March 2020 we had undertaken a large consultation with children, families, partners and staff around the school vision and values. We were almost at the point of defining what this would be for our school when Covid hit. In January of 2023 we started this process again, working with children in classes and parents through surveys, Access Hour tasks and Parents' night displays. We couldn't believe how much our lives, hopes and desires for our school community had changed. We wanted to ensure that our school vision and values reflected this change. Another change in our school community since 2020 is the diversity within the school. We now have children and families within our school community from across the world which enriches the learning of both children and staff. We have now agreed on 4 core values. The image just now will change following the opportunity for pupils to design the image of our core values.



Our vision for our school:

St John's Primary school is a diverse catholic community with Faith at the centre. Children and families are at the heart of all our efforts, celebrating achievements and reflecting through prayer. Our mission is to work together to ensure a safe, respectful and inclusive environment. We ensure that our pupils receive rich learning experiences that encourage them to become creative, independent and ambitious learners.

School Houses

To complement the refresh of our vision and values we are also refreshing our house system. We will now have five houses which have a direct link to Saints associated with five of the world's continents.

Green House Africa	Blue House Oceania	Red House Americas	Yellow House Asia	White House Europe
Green represents the forests and grasslands of Africa.	Blue is for the ocean surrounding the islands of the Pacific.	Red symbolizes the fire of faith that brought the missionaries to Americas.	Yellow is for the morning light of the east, representing Asia.	White symbolizes Europe, home of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world.
Saint Josephine Bhakita	Saint Mary McKillop	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha	Saint Paul Miki	Saint Ninian

We feel that our new choice of house saints, decided upon in consultation with staff and students, reflect the growing diversity of our school community. It is important that our pupils also see themselves reflected in the images of the saints and therefore our new saints are associated with almost every part of the world - not only Europe.

Furthermore, we hope to celebrate the breadth of cultures in our school community, by coming together for special days and events celebrated by families who have joined us from other parts of the world. If your family would like to support children's learning about a specific culture, feast days, celebrations, or other traditions we would love to hear from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions on this, please contact Mr Winning to discuss.

Finally, we will be asking children to design 'icons' based on each of the house saints. These will become our 'visual' for each house around the school and in our new reflection room. The children will be finding out more about this in the coming days and weeks.

Assembly Dates

Each term we will hold a Stage Assembly to showcase what your child/children have been learning in class. Please see dates below for the remainder of this term.

Our amazing parent council have been fantastic in previous years at organising fundraising events for our assemblies with the school providing free tea and coffee at the start of each assembly. As part of our 'No cost to the school day' we are conscious of parents being asked for money at every assembly, therefore only 2 out of the 4 assemblies will involve a fundraising element. The office will notify you when this is the case. Remember all of the money raised at these assemblies stay with the stage and is used for activities, trips or resources. Parents can decide with the children what they want to do and what they want to spend the money they raise on. Last year the monies raised were put towards school trips that were completely free for all children.

Term 1

Day and Date	Activity and Class	Time and Where
Friday 29th September	P3/4	9.20 In School
Friday 6th October	P1/2	9.10 In School

Pupil Voice Groups

This year, all P4 to P7 pupils will have particular opportunities for personalisation and choice through our electives and pupil groups. The children had the choice of 8 pupil groups and all children have been allocated a group within their top 3 choices! These are now underway, and we are sure that you will be finding out more about the work they have been doing over the course of the year through our Access Hours, Stage Assemblies and Social Media. Our P1-3 pupils will also be doing some work linked to the Pupil Voice groups following the October Holidays.

Pupil Voice Group	Teacher
Digital / ICT	Miss Tolland
Faith & Fundraising	Mrs Hogg
Health	Mr Mullan
Global Citizenship	Miss Casey
Library	Miss McKeown
Dyslexia Friendly Schools	Mrs Home
Eco-Friendly Schools	Miss Mack
Anti-bullying	Mrs Bowie

Electives

Our P5-7s have almost completed their first round of electives. The children have enjoyed taking part in a variety of exciting activities and developing a range of skills from the Expressive Arts Curriculum. Next term, pupils will have the opportunity to select a Christmas Crafts Elective, with their finished products being sold at the Christmas Fayre. In the month of December, they will return to Expressive Arts to take part in their second choice from Term 1.



Elective	Teacher
Watercolour	Miss Tolland
Painting	Mrs Bowie
Drawing	Miss McKeown
Sculpture	Mr Winning / Mrs Fleming
Music	Mrs Hunter

PE Timetable

This term, all children from P1-7 have PE on specific days. Can all P1-5 children have a PE kit bag left in school. P6+7 children may wish to bring kit each week - please remember to bring every day as there are often opportunities for additional PE times.

P1A	Monday + Tuesday
P1/2	Tuesday + Friday
P2/3 Mrs Walker	Wednesday + Friday
P2/3 Miss Ross	Tuesday + Wednesday
P4A	Tuesday + Thursday
P5A	Wednesday + Thursday
P5B	Thursday + Friday
P6/7A	Monday + Wednesday
P6/7B	Monday + Thursday
P7A	Monday + Tuesday

Advance notice of Diary Dates

Day and Date	Activity and Class	Time and Where
Monday 2 nd October	P7 Transition Curricular Visits (Maths & ICT)	QMA (during school day)
Friday 6 th October	P1-2 Assembly	9:10am In school
Friday 13 th October	School closes for October Holidays	
Monday 23 rd October	IN-SERVICE DAY	Closed to pupils
Tuesday 24 th October	PUPILS RETURN	
Thursday 26 th October	Flu Immunisations	In school
Monday 30 th October	P1 & P7 Dental Inspections	In school

P7 Transition

Can you believe it's that time for our P7s already?

P7 will start their transition events to QMA next month. Pupils will take part in a range of curriculum visits and fun events over the year where they will get the chance to visit classrooms and meet other P7s from across the cluster. We look forward to visiting the Maths and ICT departments next week! Be sure to ask your child all about it.

