



I hope that all our families had a lovely summer break and managed to enjoy some family time together. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Primary One children and to all the new families who have joined us this year. We are delighted that you have chosen to join us at   
St John’s Primary and we look forward to getting to know you.

**Senior Leadership Team**

We are committed to working in partnership with parents to support all our pupils. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the **class teacher** in the first instance who will aim to help wherever they can. The class teacher knows your child better than anyone else and they are keen to work with parents to support children. **With reasonable notice**, teachers are able to have phone calls with parents before and after school. If you feel the matter is not resolved, then contact our Principal Teachers – Miss Ross for **P1 to P4** and   
Mr Winning for **P5 to P7**. If you feel that the matter is still not resolved, then please contact the Depute Headteacher – Miss Casey or Headteacher – Mrs Patterson. Miss Casey will also be responsible for attendance monitoring.

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| **Mrs Patterson Head Teacher** | **Miss Casey**  **Depute Head** | **Miss Ross**  **Infant PT** | **Mr Winning**  **Upper PT** |





**Xpressions (Groupcall) / Parentsportal**

**Xpressions (Groupcall)**

This is our **main** form of communication. You will only be able to get information from the Xpressions APP if you download it and register with the email address and telephone number, we have on file for you. The Xpressions APP will provide you with instant text messages, letters, and emails.

To register for the APP please use the link below.

[www.parents.groupcall.com](http://www.parents.groupcall.com)

**Parentsportal**

The traditional school bag run has been used to facilitate communication between parents and schools for generations. Parentsportal provides a digital solution to this issue, making it easier for parents and carers to manage paperwork connected with school activities, and to obtain information about their child’s educational progress at a time that suits them. Current features include complete Annual Data Check, manage permission/consent forms, report an absence, access report cards, and view the school calendar.

To register for the APP please use the link below.

<https://parentsportal.scot/home/>.

Please inform the school of any changes to telephone numbers and email addresses to ensure that you continue to receive information from the school.

**IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL THEN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO CHECK THE DETAILS WE HOLD FOR YOU.**

**Gym/PE kit**

All children will participate in PE (Physical Education) every week in the gym hall and a 2nd PE session in the playground (weather permitting). For safety reasons, and the comfort of children, it is important that children have gym kit to change in to. A school T-shirt is fine but not a school shirt as there is not a lot of room to move. Children can wear shorts, leggings, or jogging bottoms. A soft trainer shoe is required. This does not need to be different from their school shoe if children already wear trainers to school. Hard shoes, slip on shoes or knee-high boots should not be worn. If any parent is concerned about the additional cost, then please contact the school and we can support with this. Please label gym kits and leave in a carrier bag on classroom pegs. Some of our Primary 6 children are modelling a variety of Gym/PE kit.



**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club has restarted and is completely free. To further support our working parents, we are opening our doors from 8.20am. Booking is now required to allow us to monitor the number of children we are expecting, and a link will be sent out for booking from Monday 2nd September.

**Access/ Progress Hour**

Each term there is a one-hour ‘Access Hour’. This means that parents and families are welcome to visit the school with your child. The first one for this year will be on **Wednesday 4th September from 3 - 4pm.** You can pop in any time up until 4pm, you do not need to arrive at exactly 3pm as it is a very informal visit to the school. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to come along to the school, have a cup of tea/coffee and meet your child’s teacher. You can ask any general questions at this time but if you have any specific concerns then please contact the school to arrange a time for the teacher to call you. P1-4 will be showing how to access Learning Journals and Primary 5 – 7 will be showing how to access the online homework and Glow Teams.

**Stage Assemblies**

Every term, parents/carers and extended families are welcome to join us in the school for a short assembly. The children will highlight some of the work that they have been learning. A few children at each assembly will receive a certificate. Teachers keep a note of the children who receive a certificate so that by the end of the year all children will have received one. There will be free tea and coffee for all.

This term, P1 will have a Stay & Play instead of an assembly, where the parents are invited into the class to see what their child has been working on and have a chance to work together with their child for a short period of time. There will also be a song from the children and certificates given out in class. Due to the limited space available there will be a maximum of 2 adults per child permitted.

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| **Date** | **Class** | **Time + Venue** |
| Friday 13th September | P7 | 9.10am in gym hall |
| Thursday 19th September | P6 | 9.10am in gym hall |
| Thursday 26th September | P4 | 9.10am in gym hall |
| Friday 27th September | P5 | 9.10am in gym hall |
| Wednesday 2nd October | P1 Stay & Play | 9am-9:30am in class |
| Thursday 3rd October | P3 | 9.10am in gym hall |
| Friday 4th October | P2 | 9.10am in gym hall |

**Homework**

Following a full year of consultation with children, parents and staff and further discussions at last year’s Parent Council meeting we have recently changed our homework policy. For this session (similar to last session) all children in Primary 5-7 will work online for all homework activities. There will be an opportunity at Access Hour for parents to view the online platforms and seek any support with the technical aspects. Children will access MyOn, Sumdog and Glow Teams. In Primary 1-4 the focus will be on reading skills; a reading book will go home with all children in Primary 1-4. Homework will start week beginning the 9th of September. P1-4 books will be signed out by your child on a Monday and should be returned on a Thursday. P5-7 online tasks will be uploaded on a Monday, and these should be completed by a week on Friday (2 weeks). Parents will have an opportunity to opt in or out of homework. The link to opt in or out of homework will be sent out on Monday 2nd September. If you opt into homework, we will sign out a book to your child each week and **parents must ensure the book is returned to the school** on the due date. For parents who do not opt into homework, a reading book will NOT go home.

**Medication in School**

Please note that we cannot administer any medication without a medical consent form being completed. These are available from the school office. Pupils should not carry medication in their bags. We can only accept and administer medicine which is supplied in its original packaging and labelled by the pharmacy. It must not be beyond the expiry date and must give clear dosage instructions. It is parent/carer responsibility to advise the school at any point throughout the year if there are any changes to your child’s medication.

**Attendance**

We are proud to be part of the new South Ayrshire campaign, Every Learner, Every Day. Please follow the link to see current and past pupils taking part in the YouTube advert. As always, we will be tracking and monitoring attendance throughout the year. We want to see every learner, every day in session 2024/2025.

[Every Learner Every Day - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ELED)



**Advance Notice of Diary Dates**

**2024/2025**

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| **September** |  |  |
| Wednesday 4th September | Whole School Access Hour | 3-4pm In School |
| Monday 9th September | Parent Council Meeting  (All welcome – childcare available) | 3.15pm In School |
| Tuesday 10th September | Welcome Mass | 10am in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| Friday 13th September | P7 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| Tuesday 17th September | Flu Immunisations | In School |
| Thursday 19th September | P6 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| Friday 20th September | Bank Holiday | School Closed |
| Monday 23rd September | Bank Holiday | School Closed |
| Thursday 26th September | P4 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| Friday 27th September | P5 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| **October** |  |  |
| Wednesday 2nd October | P1 Stay & Play | 9-9.30 In School |
| Thursday 3rd October | P3 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| Friday 4th October | P2 Stage Assembly | 9.10am In School |
| Thursday 10th October | Parents’ Evening | 3.30pm Onwards |
| Friday 11th October | School closes for October Holidays |  |
| Monday 21st October | IN-SERVICE DAY | School Closed |
| Tuesday 22nd October | PUPILS RETURN | School Open |
| **November** |  |  |
| Friday 1st November | All Saints Feast Day Mass | 10am in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| 16th – 22nd November | Catholic Education Week |  |
| Wednesday 27th November | Whole School Access Hour | 3-4pm In School |
| **December** |  |  |
| Monday 9th December | P1 & P7 Dental Inspections | In School |
| Wednesday 11th December | School Nativity | 10am in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| Wednesday 11th December | Christmas Lunches | In School |
| Thursday 12th December | Whole School Christmas Panto  “Mother Goose” | The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr |
| Thursday 12th December | Christmas Lunches | In School |
| Thursday 12th December | Cluster Carol Service | 6.30pm in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| Monday 16th December | Advent Penitential Service | 7pm in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| Tuesday 17th December | Advent / End of Term Mass | 10am in St Margaret’s Cathedral |
| Friday 20th December | School closes for Christmas Holidays | Free Happy Holidays Png Transparent, Download Free Happy Holidays Png ... |
| **January 2025** |  |  |
| Monday 6th January | PUPILS RETURN | School Open |