



Attendance

Strive for 95!

Our most recent pupil-led initiative is "Top 5 who Strive for 95!", which encourages every class to aim for 95% attendance and above. Pupils who meet the target are recognised and rewarded in our attendance shop, creating a supportive, fun, and motivating way to build positive attendance habits together.



This campaign reinforces the message that attending school regularly isn't just about numbers -it's about opportunities, friendships, learning, wellbeing, and feeling part of our school community.

We are incredibly proud of our attendance pupil group leaders for their commitment, creativity, and the powerful role they play in shaping a culture of belonging and success for all.

This term, our attendance pupil voice group are organising an attendance competition and made a video to share all about it! <https://youtu.be/FzkHg9DltzI>



Assembly Dates (P2-7) and Nativity (P1)

This term, all our children will be performing in a Christmas Concert, making our Parents' Assemblies even more exciting!

Each stage will perform some Christmas songs, hymns and poems for you to get us all in the festive mood. We look forward to seeing all our families there!

Stages	Date	Time
P6 and P7	Wednesday 3 rd December	9:10am - Gym Hall
P4 and P5	Thursday 4 th December	9:10am- Gym Hall
P2 and P3	Friday 5 th December	9:10am Gym Hall

As always in Term 2, **Primary 1** will perform their wonderful nativity 'Baarmy Bethlehem!' in St. Margaret's Cathedral on **Wednesday 10th December at 10am.**



More information to follow.

X - Twitter Updates

Stay connected with your child's learning by following our school's X account (formerly Twitter). Each week, our teachers share class highlights featuring activities and learning moments from across the school.

Learning Journals

This term, we will continue to share meaningful and personal observations of your child's significant learning experiences, offering valuable insights into their day at school. We encourage you to view and comment on these updates to stay engaged with your child's profile, helping to strengthen the connection between home and school. The children enjoy checking in to see the likes and comments they receive, so we appreciate your support and participation in this process



Rights Respecting Schools - Gold Reaccreditation Update

We are delighted to share that our school recently took part in our Gold Rights Respecting Schools reaccreditation visit, and it was an incredibly positive day. Our children, parents and partners have been working together to demonstrate our strong commitment to children's rights, and this shone through during the assessment.



The assessor was extremely impressed with our pupils' confidence, awareness, and passion for children's rights. Our young people spoke so well about their experiences, their learning, and the many opportunities they have to share their voice and influence school life. We are very proud of them!

Our ethos at St. John's was highlighted as a real strength, with special recognition given to how we empower our pupils to lead change and take ownership of their learning. We were thrilled that our Follow Your Own Friday approach was praised as an example of very good practice.

While the official results will arrive in December, we can share that the assessor has recommended St. John's for Gold reaccreditation for the third time running, a testament to our nurturing, inclusive and rights-respecting community.

A huge thank you to our staff, parents, partners and, of course, our wonderful pupils for their ongoing dedication, enthusiasm, and support on this journey. Together, we continue to build a school where every child feels valued, empowered, and heard.

We will update you soon with the official results of the visit.

Electives for Term 2

We're excited to enter the second round of electives for this school year! Many of our pupils will have the chance to create Christmas crafts, which will be available for purchase at the Christmas Fayre on Friday December 6th.

The children always look forward to getting into the holiday spirit and enjoy crafting festive items. Through these activities, they build skills from the expressive arts and technologies curriculum, making this a wonderful opportunity to support their learning while raising funds for the school.

Primary 5 Day of Dance Festival

A group of enthusiastic Primary 5 pupils have volunteered to participate in the upcoming Day of Dance Festival on Wednesday 19th November! Each week, they practice traditional Ceilidh-style dances with experienced instructors, building skills and confidence along the way.

This will all come together in a festive event later this term, where the children will have the chance to showcase their moves to parents and other local schools. These dance skills are sure to be useful as we head into the holiday season!

Halloween!

Another fantastic day for all our pupils! We enjoyed making Halloween crafts, dookin' for apples and had lots of fun at class parties.

We gave out prizes for party games and dance competitions so well done to everyone for all their efforts.





Halloween Sponsored Spooky Walk

A huge **'Thank You'** to our Parent Council for organising a spooky walk for all our children today. In typical Scottish weather style, the walk was adapted due to a downpour 10 minutes before we were due to head out. The pupils still enjoyed their spooky walk around the playground and in the building. We had music, lights out and spooky decorations that they loved. Thank you to the families who have already handed in sponsor money. This is due in no later than Friday 7th November.



St. Andrew's Day

On Friday, 28th November, we will once again be holding a full day of Scottish-themed activities and crafts. During the day, children will learn about the life of St Andrew, explore the achievements of famous Scots, and enjoy poetry or extracts from well-known Scottish authors.

We invite children to wear any tartan items they already have—such as bobbles, scarves, or other accessories. There is no need to purchase anything new; this is simply an opportunity to celebrate Scotland together

Christmas Fayre

The Parent Council and school are delighted to be working together once again to host our festive Christmas Fayre on Friday 6th December at 3pm in the school.

There is no entry fee, and you'll find a wonderful selection of stalls and Christmas crafts available to purchase on the day. Funds raised from the children's Christmas crafts will go directly towards supporting class-based activities, while all other proceeds will be collected by the Parent Council to help fund whole-school events, such as the annual Pantomime trip. We'll soon be requesting donations to help support the stalls and activities at the Fayre — thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support.

P1- P7 Pantomime

All children in Primary 1 to 7 will attend the Gaiety Theatre at 10am on Friday 12th December for 'Aladdie'. There is no cost to attend the Pantomime as the Parent Council are very kindly covering the cost of this trip. Thank you again, as always, for your continued support.

Christmas Parties

This year we will continue our Christmas party days throughout December. All children will have a Christmas themed day with a film, craft, and their party. Children can come to school in their party clothes for a day of activities. There is no cost for parties.

Christmas Lunches

Gina and her amazing team in our kitchen always pull out all the stops to ensure they cater for specific allergies and any dietary requirements so that all children can enjoy their lunch. Every child, regardless of a school lunch or a pack lunch, will go to the hall for their Christmas lunch and their teachers and associated school assistants will also join them. The school will pay for all Christmas lunches so please try and encourage your child to have a delicious festive lunch. The date for this is Thursday 11th December.

Christmas Jumper/T-Shirt/Boppers/Bobbles/Tinsel Day

Christmas Jumper Day will be on Friday 12th December. Christmas Jumper Day for the last few years has also included the choice to wear any kind of Christmas item to avoid any additional costs to parents. Children can wear any accessory at all or a Christmas hat or jumper. Please do not buy jumpers for one day. **Christmas jumpers can ONLY be worn on this day.**

Join Our Parent Council!

Our Parent Council is looking to welcome new members and would like to thank everyone who has already expressed interest. They encourage parents to get involved, even on a flexible basis—such as helping with fundraising events—without the need to commit to regular meetings.

While full members are always welcome, there's no obligation to attend Parent Council Meetings if it doesn't fit into your schedule. To keep the Council thriving in the coming years, we hope to have representatives from various year groups.

The Parent Council plays a vital role in our school community, offering parents a meaningful opportunity to positively impact school life. We'd love for you to be part of this important work!



Advance notice of Diary Dates

November		
Tuesday 4 th November	P5-7 Multisport Club	3-4pm In School
Tuesday 4 th November	P6/7 Multisport Transition Club	4-5pm at QMA
Thursday 6 th November	P5 Scottish Dancing	In School
Thursday 6 th November	Dance Afterschool Club	3-4pm In School
Tuesday 11 th November	P5-7 Multisport Club	3-4pm In School
Tuesday 11 th November	P6/7 Multisport Transition Club	4-5pm at QMA
Thursday 13 th November	P5 Scottish Dancing	In School
Thursday 13 th November	Dance Afterschool Club	3-4pm In School
Tuesday 18 th November	P5-7 Multisport Club	3-4pm In School
Tuesday 18 th November	P6/7 Multisport Transition Club	4-5pm at QMA
Wednesday 19 th November	P5 Day of Dance	Ayr Town Hall
Thursday 20 th November	Catholic Education Week "Family Prayer Breakfast"	8.30-9am In School
Thursday 20 th November	Dance Afterschool Club	3-4pm In School
Saturday 22 nd & Sunday 23 rd November	Catholic Education Week	Saturday: 6pm in St Margaret's Sunday: 9.30am in St Margaret's 11.30am in St Paul's
Tuesday 25 th November	P6/7 Multisport Transition Club	4-5pm at QMA
Thursday 27 th November	Dance Afterschool Club	3-4pm In School
December		
Wednesday 3 rd December	P6/7 Assembly	9.10am In School
Thursday 4 th December	P4/5 Assembly	9.10am In School

Friday 5 th December	P2/3 Assembly	9.10am In School
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Fayre	3-5.30pm
Monday 8 th December	P7 Christmas Party	In School
Tuesday 9 th December	P6 Christmas Party	In School
Tuesday 9 th December	Cluster Carol Service	6.30pm in St Margaret's
Wednesday 10 th December	P1 Nativity	10am in St Margaret's
Wednesday 10 th December	P5 Christmas Party	In School
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Lunches	In School
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Whole School
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Panto "Aladdie"	The Gaiety Theatre
Monday 15 th December	P4 & P3 Christmas Parties	In School
Monday 15 th December	Advent Penitential Service	7pm in St Margaret's
Tuesday 16 th December	End of Term Mass (Whole School)	10am in St Margaret's
Wednesday 17 th December	P2 Christmas Party	In School
Thursday 18 th December	P1 Christmas Party	In School
Thursday 18 th December	Hansel's Festive Carol Singing (Choir)	10.40am at Ayr Central
Friday 19 th December	School closes for Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm	
January 2026		
Monday 5 th January	PUPILS RETURN	School Open