

*Successful Learners* ✨

*Confident Individuals* ✨



*Responsible Citizens* ✨

*Effective Contributors* ✨

# *St. John the Baptist Primary School*

## *August 2022*

### *Welcome Newsletter*

*Please keep this newsletter in a safe place as it contains  
vital information regarding the school.*

Website: [www.st-johnthebaptist-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.st-johnthebaptist-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Twitter: @stjohnthebapps





### Head Teacher Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of session 2022/2023. As we have now been awarded our 3rd Eco Flag and wish to be more sustainable, all newsletters will be sent electronically and are also uploaded to the website for reference.

I continue to be impressed with the high standards of behaviour and uniform already demonstrated by the children and would like to thank you for your support in this. I look forward to getting to know our new Nursery and Primary 1 parents and carers and working closely with you to ensure that your children feel safe and happy in school.

As Covid restrictions now allow, we will return to an "Open Door" Policy whereby a member of the Senior Leadership Team should be available to see you if you feel you have an issue you urgently wish to speak about. However, we would be grateful if you could either call or email myself, Mrs Beacom, Mrs McNulty or Mrs Clarke first as we are very busy and sometimes in class. We will endeavour to call you as soon as we can.



### Current COVID Information

As Covid is still present in the school, and society as a whole, I would ask that any parent or carer who thinks their child has covid to contact the NHS helpline so that you access the most up to date information from a qualified professional.



### Annual School Calendar

The annual school planner is also being distributed electronically. I would ask that you save this on your mobile phone if possible so that you can note the huge range of events we have planned for this session. Please note that all dates are provisional and subject to change in accordance with current guidelines received from the Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council. In order to keep the school community safe we will make decisions nearer to the event and only if necessary.

*It has never been more important to keep up to date with communication from the school and again we would like to highlight our means of communicating information to you.*

<i>Parent Pay (via the email address you previously provided.)</i>	<i>Newsletters and appropriate information letters</i>
<i>Twitter</i>	<i>Information about pupils' attainment and achievement</i>
<i>School App</i>	<i>Reminders e.g. about forthcoming events</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>General information e.g. newsletters, Advent and Lenten homework etc.</i>
<i>Texts</i>	<i>Information that has to be communicated fast e.g. the school bus is late or cancelled due to inclement weather</i>
<i>Paper copies of letters, flyers etc.</i>	<i>Information that comes from other stakeholders e.g. Active Schools and other appropriate information which requires an individual answer e.g. EV5 Permission Forms etc.</i>
<i>Google Classroom</i>	<i>This platform will also be used to communicate some of the above as a "back up" system to ensure that you receive information.</i>



### *Standards and Quality Report*

*Also issued with this newsletter is our Standards and Quality Report Parents' Report for Session 2021/22. This is a summary of our attainment and achievement throughout the year and we would appreciate if you would take the time to read it and celebrate the achievements of the children and school as a whole.*



### *Annual Data Check*

*If you have not already done so we would be grateful if you could return the annual data check forms as soon as possible. It is vitally important that you note any changes particularly to mobile phone numbers so that we can contact you in an emergency. Any parent who has changed address should contact the school office.*



### Primary 1, 2 and 3 Exiting the School at 3pm

Primary 1 exit the school via the bottom gate at 3pm. This area is particularly congested and so we will keep the order that classes are dismissed the same every day so that parents and carers can judge when their child is exiting the school and then move forward. Classes will be dismissed in the following order:

**Room 3 -> Room 4 -> Room 1**

Primary 2 and 3 exit the school via the middle gate at 3pm. This area is also congested and so we will also dismiss the classes in the following order:

**Room 3 -> Room 5 -> Room 6 -> Room 7**

We would be grateful if this message could be passed on to any grandparent, relative or childminder who collects children from the school.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



### Flu Vaccinations

We would also be grateful if you could return your child's flu vaccination forms as soon as possible. Please note that the vaccinations will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.



### Absence Procedures

As part of our absence procedures, if your child is unwell and will be absent from school then you should call the school office to let us know. You may leave a message on the answering machine or speak to Mrs Houston or Mrs Cowan and we will record the reason for your absence.

If your child is absent and we do not hear from you then we will call you to ensure that your child is safe. If we cannot contact you then we will use the alternative phone numbers on your annual data check.

Thank you for your continuous co-operation with this matter.



### Google Classroom

*Google Classroom proved to be invaluable for our remote learning during lockdown. We will still use this resource to display weekly homework tasks for each class. We will also ask you to submit certain pieces of homework so that we do not use paper. I would urge every parent to ensure their child can access this as we will also use this learning platform to share achievements within the class and communicate other information.*

*Primary 2-7 have already been using Google Classroom in school so that they can maintain and develop their skills and knowledge. If you are experiencing difficulty accessing Google Classroom, please email Mrs Clarke using the following email address:*

[gwclarkemargaret2@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gwclarkemargaret2@glow.sch.uk)



### Mobile Phones

*In line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, we request that you only send your child to school with their mobile phones if absolutely necessary. Whilst I understand that there may be a need for some children to bring a mobile phone to school to clarify pick up arrangements etc. we do not want to encourage this. There have been incidences in other schools where children have filmed other pupils in the classroom and this footage has appeared on social networking sites. We thank you for your support in this matter.*



### PARK SMART

*Once again I ask for your co-operation with the issue of parking. In the interests of pupil safety please be considerate to pedestrians, including children, other road users and local residents when dropping off or picking up your children from school. Please also ensure that you do not park on the pavement or in the bus bay as it is difficult to manoeuvre buses around parked cars. Please continue to keep the turning circle at the bottom gate a pedestrian area at 3pm for Nursery and Primary 1 parents and carers. A huge thank you to the parents who are either parking at the church or further away from the school. Although the road outside the school is very*



congested at 3pm, parents and carers are very patient in waiting their turn to exit North British Road.

Thank you for your continuous support to keep our precious children safe!



**Dangerous Snacks!**

To ensure the safety of all children we ask for your support in maintaining our school as a "Nut Free School". We have a number of children with a severe nut allergy and the best way to avoid any danger to pupils is to ban all snacks containing nuts e.g Nutella, Snickers etc. We would also appreciate if you do not send in birthday cakes or sweets when it is your child's birthday. As we are a Health Promoting School I would also ask that you continue to ensure that your child's snacks are healthy. Finally, please ensure that children do not bring lollipops to school to avoid the risk of choking.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



**Parent Council**

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be in the school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 7-8pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend and we would particularly welcome new members. This will be the A.G.M. when we will vote for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as well as setting dates for meetings for the rest of the session. Any new parents and carers wishing to join us should contact Martin Kane, the current Chairperson, using the following email address:

[trevkane@icloud.com](mailto:trevkane@icloud.com)

Please join our meeting and support your school!



**Pupil Leadership Team**

We are delighted to announce the Pupil Leadership Team for Session 2022/23. These children play a valuable part in our self evaluation and decision making processes and we look forward to seeing their positive impact throughout the school.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Nursery-Portacabin</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>Nursery-School</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>Room 1</i>	<i>Ashton McCoach</i>	<i>Room 3</i>	<i>Lucas MacBean</i>
<i>Room 4</i>	<i>Sebastian Strachan</i>	<i>Room 5</i>	<i>Dominic Colgan</i>
<i>Room 6</i>	<i>Caleb McGeough</i>	<i>Room 7</i>	<i>Noah Low</i>
<i>Room 8</i>	<i>Holly Pacheco</i>	<i>Room 9</i>	<i>Heidi Imbur</i>
<i>Room 10</i>	<i>Cayden Cavin</i>	<i>Room 11</i>	<i>Orfhlaith Young</i>
<i>Room 12</i>	<i>Finley Gray</i>	<i>Room 13</i>	<i>Niamh Shields</i>



### *Primary Open Afternoon*

*Since covid restrictions have prevented parents from visiting schools since March 2020, instead of organising a Curriculum Evening, we would like to invite you to attend an Open Afternoon so that you can see your child in their classroom learning environment. On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 2.15-3pm you are welcome to come to the school and visit your child's class. The children will be seated at their desks engaging in a learning activity and you are welcome to view the displays of Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing. Class Teachers and other staff will be in the class so that you can chat to them should you wish. Please note that the school and outside parking area will be very busy but we wanted to invite you into the school at the earliest opportunity so that you can observe your child in their class and view the resources they will be using to learn. The Open Afternoon is not designed so that you can discuss your child's progress in learning as this will be done at the Parents' Evening in October.*



### *Parents' Evening*

*We are also delighted to invite you to the first traditional Parents' Evening in 3 years on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Letters will be issued nearer the time indicating the time of your appointment with your child's class teacher. We organise the Parents' Night so that family appointments can be accommodated. To remind Primary 4-7 parents and to inform Primary 1-3 parents of the procedures for Parents' Night, please note the following:*

- Parents should enter the building via the main entrance at the school office.*

- *Parents can sit in the Dining Hall and view a folder containing their child's work before going through to the Gym Hall where class teachers will be seated. Class teachers will then call you over at your allotted time.*
- *You may have another short wait but the Senior Leadership Team manage the flow of parents so that you do not wait too long.*
- *As the time is limited to 7 minutes parents who have any concerns and wish to discuss matters related to their child in more detail should contact the school to make an alternative appointment.*
- *Tea and coffee is available.*
- *We ask that, where possible, you do not bring the children to Parents' Night as it is difficult to supervise a large number of children on the night.*

*We look forward to welcoming you back into the school building and catching up with old friends!*



### **After School Clubs**

*We are planning a range of lunchtime and after school clubs for various year groups throughout this session. We already have 2 very successful clubs running for Primary 3-7 pupils namely; Chess every Monday and Judo every Thursday. Please contact the school office should your child wish to join any of these clubs.*



### **Primary 1 Intake**

*We welcomed 56 children into Primary 1 this year and they have settled quickly into full time education and are thoroughly enjoying school. They have been very well supported by their excellent Primary 7 buddies.*



### **Primary 1 Welcome Mass**

*Father Ivan and I have organised a Primary 1 Welcome Mass on 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the school Gym Hall. We would love for parents and carers of Primary children to join us to celebrate mass and welcome you into the family that is St. John the Baptist Primary School. Tea and coffee (and water for the children) will be served in the Dining Hall after mass.*





### School Uniform

*Our children continue to look very neat in their new school uniforms including blazers. As stated before I am impressed with the high standard of uniform and feel that the children are very distinctive in the local community. Thank you for your continued and excellent support. Children should wear school rain jackets over blazers in adverse weather or navy outdoor jackets to match the school uniform. Whenever possible pupils will go out to play at break times as indoor playtimes will only be organised when absolutely necessary. Pupils should, therefore, dress appropriately.*

*Please also remember to purchase a pair of soft indoor shoes (Gutties or Penny Blacks depending on your age!) for your child.*



### Water Bottles

*Please issue your child with a reusable water bottle every day so that they can have access to drinking water whilst in class. Research has shown that children learn better when their brains are hydrated. Children are allowed to drink water any time the teacher is not teaching.*



### School Lunches

*Primary 1-5 are entitled to a free school meal. Primary 6 & 7 should pay for their meals via Parent Pay. Any P1-7 child who wish to have milk at school should pre-book via Parent Pay in advance. Any new or existing parent who has not signed up for Parent Pay should do so as quickly as possible. A copy of the menu has been distributed and is also available to view on our website.*



### School Photographs

*We have arranged for Maureen Bell, the photographer, to come to the school and nursery to take school photographs on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. She will begin taking individual photos of the children in the nursery and then children with their families. She will then*

begin at Primary 1 to do the same and work through the school over the 3 day period. For this reason children should wear full school uniform for those days, even if they have P.E.



**Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club proves to be very popular and any parent wishing their child to attend should contact the school office. Please note that since it is a Breakfast Club and not a Childcare Club, children are expected to eat something.



**Primary 7 Residential Meeting for Parents and Carers**

There will be an information meeting for Primary 7 parents and carers to find out more about the children's residential visit to Barcaple on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 5-6pm.



**Celebration of the Sacraments**

Please note that the annual calendar contains dates for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. For ease of reference dates are as follows:

<b>Sacrament</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
First Reconciliation Prayer Service	School	Thursday 02/03/23	2pm
First Reconciliation	Church	Thursday 09/03/23	6pm
First Communion	Church	Saturday 06/05/23	11am & 1pm
Confirmation	Church	Wednesday 08/03/23	7pm

Father Ivan and I have arranged for children to enrol for each sacrament at 10am mass in St. John the Baptist Church on the following dates:

<b>First Reconciliation</b>	<b>First Communion</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>
Sunday 27/11/22	Sunday 20/11/22	Sunday 30/10/22

Please note that Primary 6 children will be given the opportunity to enrol for the Pope Francis Faith Award at a school mass on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November which is All Saints Day.



### *Free Apples!*

*We have an abundance of cooking grade apples in the small orchard garden at the middle gate. You are welcome to help yourself as some of the children and staff have already done so. We can vouch that the apples are good quality as the staff have enjoyed a range of home baked apple cakes and pies!*



### *Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Celebration Books*

*To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee every primary pupil in the United Kingdom was eligible to receive a book which outlines the Queen's 70 year reign. Your child will receive this book in the next few days.*



### *Dates for Your Diary*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>7pm Parent Council AGM</i>
<i>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>5pm Barcaple Information Meeting</i>
<i>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept</i>	<i>2.15pm Primary Open Afternoon</i>
<i>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> - Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>September Weekend Holiday</i>
<i>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>3.30pm Parents' Night</i>
<i>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>9.30am First Friday Mass in Church</i>
<i>Mon 10<sup>th</sup> -Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>P7 Residential Visits to Barcaple</i>
<i>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> -Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</i>	<i>Midterm October Break</i>



### *Finally....*

*I am aware that this newsletter contains a huge amount of DOs and DON'Ts but I must emphasise that they are designed to ensure the safety and security of your precious children. Including the nursery, the school now has almost 400 pupils on the register. If everyone follows the rules then the children will be safe and our fantastic school will run smoothly.*

*Thank you for your continuous co-operation.*

*Mrs Beacom*