

Successful Learners ✨

Confident Individuals ✨



Responsible Citizens ✨

Effective Contributors ✨

*St. John the Baptist Primary School
and Nursery Class*



October 2022

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

Twitter: @stjohnthebapps



Parent Council

The Parent Council A.G.M took place on Monday 12th September. We were delighted to welcome some new parents who will join the Council. Martin Kane the former Chairperson presented the annual Chairperson's Report which is available on the school website in addition to the minutes of the meeting. As per procedure, we elected a new Committee as follows:

Chairperson	Kevin Smith
Vice Chairperson	John Devitt
Secretary	Mhairi Devitt
Treasurer	Kelly Weir
Church Representatives	Catherine Houston & Martin Kane

We would like to thank the Parent Council for donating all the money made from the Sponsored Walk/Treasure Hunt in June to the purchase of a new c-touch for Room 1 and the cost of the school app. The Parent Council have been very generous and have now ensured that each classroom has a c-touch so that all children in the school can access digital technology.



Easy Fundraising

The Parent Council have requested that parents and carers are reminded to use EASY FUNDRAISING all year round but particularly in the lead up to Christmas. Leaflets were distributed at Parents' Night but they wanted to remind you that the school receives a small percentage of what you spend. As stated in the website:

HOW IT WORKS

We turn your daily shopping into every day magic!

easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Brands pay us a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation - magic!



Holidays During Term Time

There have been a large number of families who have taken extended holidays during Term 1 which has impacted on our attendance levels but more importantly has negatively impacted on children's learning. Last session we prioritised pupil attendance and focused on supporting a number of families. However, the problem now is families taking extended breaks for 1 or 2 weeks which means that children are missing out on valuable teaching time with some children experiencing difficulties settling into their class on their return.

Please note that children who are absent due to holidays will not receive work on Google Classroom as this means an additional workload for the class teacher. Instead, the class teacher will have to teach children concepts and skills which have been missed meaning that teaching time is being taken from the other children in the class.

A number of families indicated that they were catching up with holidays which had been cancelled during covid restrictions and so I am hopeful that this year's lower attendance levels are a "one off".



South Lanarkshire Council Conference of Schools Event

On Wednesday 12th October, Mrs Summers and Mrs Downie accompanied 4 senior pupils from our Eco Committee to the first South Lanarkshire Conference for Schools at Hamilton Palace Grounds. The children participated in a number of events which focused on sustainability and brought lots of ideas back to school. They will report back to the rest of the school at assembly to encourage our children to think of our planet. We are very proud of the fact that we have been awarded 3 Eco Flags and look forward to hearing from the children as to how we can be even more sustainable.



Pupil Leadership Team Dress Down Days

You have already been informed that the Pupil Leadership Team met and decided on the dates and purpose of our Dress Down Days. Please note that we are aware of the cost of the school day and you should only contribute what you can. For your information, the next Dress Down Day is:

Wednesday 30th November which is Scotland Day when children should wear tartan (or their own clothes) and donate £1, or whatever you can afford, to Cancer Research.



Challenge Poverty Week

The Pupil Leadership Team would like to thank you for your food and clothing donations in Challenge Poverty Week. We were overwhelmed with food and clothing which were donated to local charities in an attempt to support families to alleviate poverty. As part of their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory topic, Primary 5 in Room 9 sold chocolate bars containing golden tickets. The class raised £196.50 which will be donated to Viewcare Project, a registered charity based in Viewpark Parish Church. Well done Room 9 and to all the children who just had to eat all that chocolate!!!

As is our tradition, we will also collect for the foodbank on Friday 9th December which is Christmas Accessory Day. (This is always a favourite with the children!)



St. John the Baptist Church Community Café

Father Ivan and the parish have organised a community café which will take place in the Church Hall every Tuesday from 12noon until 4pm. This will begin on the 8th November. Soup, tea, coffee, biscuits, warm company and friendly chat are on the menu and Father Ivan is organising for free wifi to be available.

Why not pop along and let your child do their homework with the help of some former teachers?

It is hoped that once the café is established Primary 6 and 7 children who are participating in the Pope Francis Faith Award will also help.



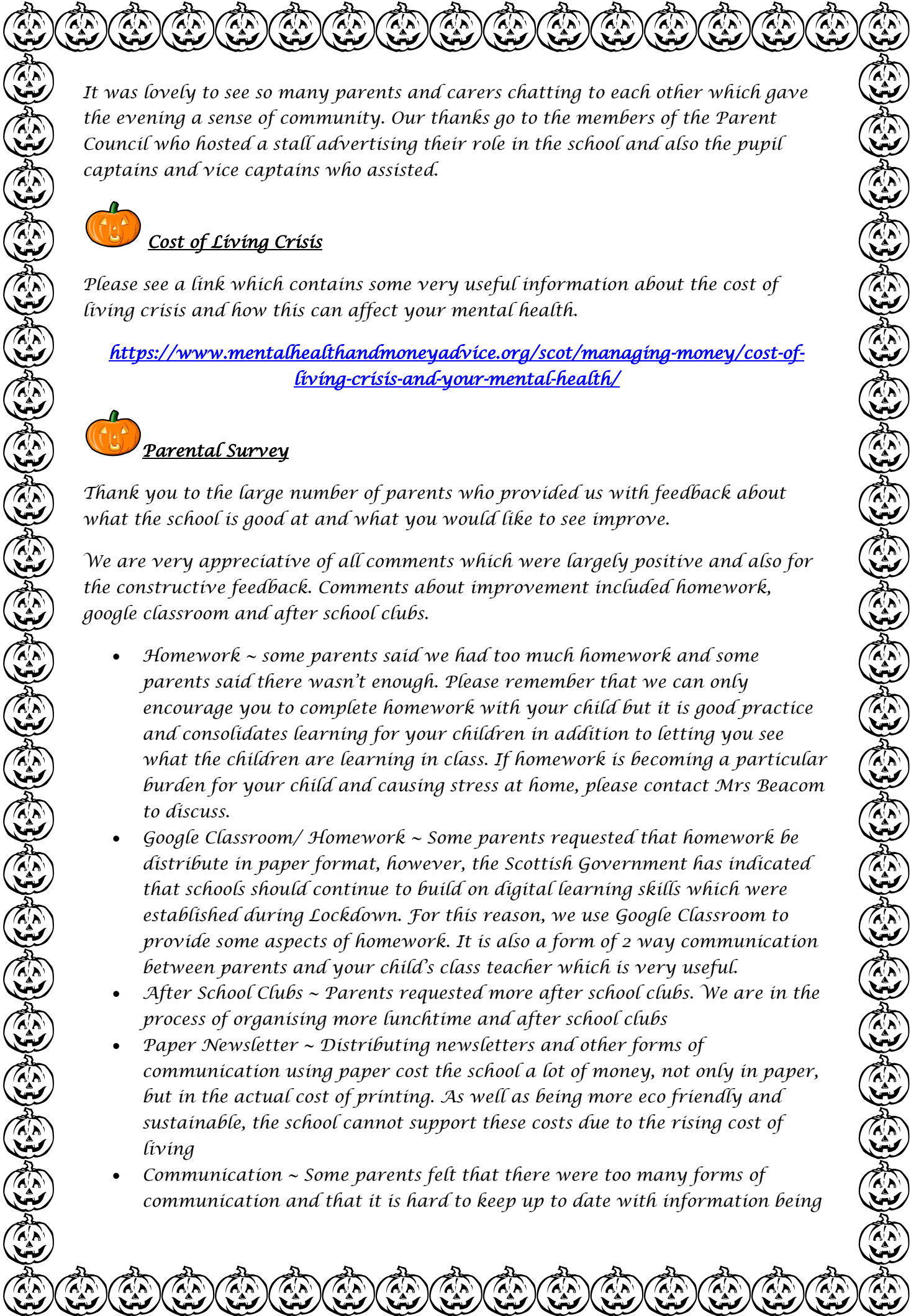
Parent and Carer School Improvement Plan

Please find a summary of our priorities for school improvement this year in your email with this newsletter. Thanks to the pupils and parents from the Parent Council who contributed. Please contact the school if you have any questions or suggestions about our priorities for improvement this year.



Parents' Night

After 3 long years, we were delighted to finally welcome our parents and carers into the school to hear about their children's progress. The evening was very well attended with 96% of parents actually attending on the night and 98% of parents and carers either attending on the night or making alternative arrangements. The few parents who did not attend were contacted to see if they would like to make an alternative arrangement.



It was lovely to see so many parents and carers chatting to each other which gave the evening a sense of community. Our thanks go to the members of the Parent Council who hosted a stall advertising their role in the school and also the pupil captains and vice captains who assisted.



Cost of Living Crisis

Please see a link which contains some very useful information about the cost of living crisis and how this can affect your mental health.

<https://www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/scot/managing-money/cost-of-living-crisis-and-your-mental-health/>



Parental Survey

Thank you to the large number of parents who provided us with feedback about what the school is good at and what you would like to see improve.

We are very appreciative of all comments which were largely positive and also for the constructive feedback. Comments about improvement included homework, google classroom and after school clubs.

- Homework ~ some parents said we had too much homework and some parents said there wasn't enough. Please remember that we can only encourage you to complete homework with your child but it is good practice and consolidates learning for your children in addition to letting you see what the children are learning in class. If homework is becoming a particular burden for your child and causing stress at home, please contact Mrs Beacom to discuss.*
- Google Classroom/ Homework ~ Some parents requested that homework be distribute in paper format, however, the Scottish Government has indicated that schools should continue to build on digital learning skills which were established during Lockdown. For this reason, we use Google Classroom to provide some aspects of homework. It is also a form of 2 way communication between parents and your child's class teacher which is very useful.*
- After School Clubs ~ Parents requested more after school clubs. We are in the process of organising more lunchtime and after school clubs*
- Paper Newsletter ~ Distributing newsletters and other forms of communication using paper cost the school a lot of money, not only in paper, but in the actual cost of printing. As well as being more eco friendly and sustainable, the school cannot support these costs due to the rising cost of living*
- Communication ~ Some parents felt that there were too many forms of communication and that it is hard to keep up to date with information being*

distributed by the school. Perhaps in the past we have gone into “overkill” and distributed information in too many formats in an attempt to ensure that important information gets out to parents. From now on we will stick to our guidance which was issued last session and in August and is detailed below:

<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>



Christmas Cafe

After 2 years of covid restrictions, we are delighted that we will, once again, host a Christmas Café in the school on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December. More details will follow nearer the time but you will be given the opportunity to watch your child perform a Christmas Carol or song during an allocated slot in the school day. Whilst you and your family watch your child you will be treated to tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread and get a chance to chat with family and friends. You will also be able to purchase the gifts and goodies made by the children in their annual enterprise project. The café is a lovely community celebration leading up to Christmas.



Results of Participatory Budgeting Consultation Exercise

Thank you to everyone who recently took part in our Participatory Budgeting Consultation Exercise in which you were asked to choose one of the four proposed projects you felt would be the most effective way to close the poverty related gap. Votes from pupils, parents and staff were totalled and the project chosen to invest the £1000 is...

Buy new resources and equipment for our playground so that all pupils experience more outdoor learning in social situations.

Although the funding will be spent as detailed above we also hope to follow up on several of the other suggestions which parents made.

Your contribution was much valued and appreciated.



Halloween Parties

The children had a fantastic time on Monday 31st October at their class Halloween Parties. They participated in fun activities and enjoyed their sweet treats. Each class, including all the nursery classes, paraded around the school to show off their costumes. Parents can view photographs on your child's Google Classroom.

Thank you to Marks and Spencer who donated some goodies for the children to eat and a big thank you to all the parents who donated new and nearly new costumes.

As the children received so many goodies for Halloween, I would like to remind all parents and carers not to allow children to come to school with any kind of nuts e.g. monkey nuts due to the number of children who have nut allergies. For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to come to school with lollipops in case they choke.



Flu Vaccine

The Medical Team visited the school on Wednesday 5th October and administered the flu vaccine to children. Thanks to the excellent organisation of the Office and Support Staff the day went without a hitch. The Nurses commented on how polite and well mannered the children were. The catch up day will be Tuesday 8th November for any child who was absent or whose parent hadn't returned the completed forms.



Junior Librarian Visits

Our 8 Junior Librarians pursued their quest to improve the school library by visiting Uddingston Library on Wednesday 26th October. They were accompanied by Eleanor and our Specialist Support Teacher, Mrs McGilvary. They spoke with the Head Librarian who gave the children some hints and tips which we will adapt and adopt.



Learning Journey Jotters

The children will showcase their learning by completing a number of tasks in their Learning Journey Jotters from 21st November. The Learning Journey Jotters allow parents to see the evidence of their child's progress and provides you and your child with the opportunity to comment. Learning Journey Jotters will be sent home on Friday 2nd December and should be returned by Friday 9th December. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Primary 7 Confirmation Enrolment Mass

Father Ivan requested that Primary 7 children who wish to enrol for the Sacrament of Confirmation attend the 10am mass on Sunday 30th October. The mass was very well attended with almost all children in Primary 7 making the pledge to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. A reminder that Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Toal at a special mass at 7pm on Wednesday 8th March 2023.



Pope Francis Faith Award

Primary 6 children who wished to participate in the Pope Francis Faith Award participated in an Enrolment Mass on Tuesday 1st November when the children attended mass for All Saints Day.



Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across the country. Book Week Scotland 2022 will take place from Monday 14th-Friday 20th November. To celebrate this classes will have a particular focus on reading and Primary 1-3 will be issued with their Book Bags from The Scottish Book Trust. More details will follow.

Primary 1-3 parents and carers will be invited to come along and explore Book Bags with their child.



Dates for Your Diary



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<i>Mon 14/11/22</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>Development Day 3</i>	<i>School closed</i>
<i>Sun 20/11/22</i>	<i>10am</i>	<i>First Communion Enrolment Mass</i>	<i>Church</i>
<i>Sun 27/11/22</i>	<i>10am</i>	<i>First Reconciliation Enrolment Mass</i>	<i>Church</i>
<i>Wed 30/11/22</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>Scotland Day</i>	<i>Wear tartan~ Donations to Cancer Research</i>
<i>Mon 05/12/22</i>	<i>All Week</i>	<i>Christmas Enterprise Week</i>	
<i>Fri 09/12/22</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>Christmas Accessory Day</i>	<i>Foodbank donations</i>
<i>Mon 12/12/22</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>Christmas Caf� Dress Rehearsal</i>	<i>Children should bring their appropriate costumes to school</i>
<i>Tue 13/12/22</i>	<i>Allocated times</i>	<i>Christmas Cafe</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>
<i>Wed 14/12/22</i>			
<i>Thu 15/12/22</i>	<i>Lunchtime</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>
<i>Fri 23/12/22</i>	<i>9,30am</i>	<i>Pupils attend Thanksgiving Mass</i>	<i>Church</i>
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>School closes for Christmas Holidays</i>	
<i>Mon 09/01/23</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>School reopens</i>	