

Successful Learners ✨

Confident Individuals ✨



Responsible Citizens ✨

Effective Contributors ✨

St. John the Baptist Primary School & Nursery Class

January & February 2023

Newsletter

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place as it contains vital information regarding the school and remember that information is also available on our website:

www.st-johnthebaptist-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Twitter: @stjohnthebapps



Honesty Trust Respect Faith Friendship



Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be Monday 13th March at 7-8pm. The meeting will take place in the staff room.



School Uniform and Soft Shoes

In St. John the Baptist Primary School we pride ourselves on our high standards of uniform. Parents and carers have supported us over the years and many people in the community comment on how smart our children look. However, an increasing number of senior pupils are developing a more relaxed attitude to uniform and are wearing branded sportswear and brightly coloured sweatshirts. This does not set a good example to the younger children and is not good practice for moving onto secondary school where the same high standards apply. We would be grateful if parents could check that their children are adhering to school uniform rules.

We would also be grateful if parents could check that their children have a pair of soft shoes or plimsoles to wear in school. This practice was relaxed during covid but we are finding that a large number of children continue to wear their outdoor shoes inside the school which means that the school is noisier and our carpets are dirtier. We are aware of the Cost of the School Day and anyone who is struggling to purchase uniform or soft shoes should contact the school and we will be happy to support you.



Pupil Attendance

Attendance in our school is normally approximately 97%, however, the week beginning 19th December, which was the week before Christmas, attendance was only 57%. We acknowledge the fact that some parents kept their children off school because of the danger of catching the highly contagious Strep A infection. However, there is a trend developing whereby some families are increasingly taking holidays during term time, in particular, tagging holidays onto the beginning and end of terms. Whilst we appreciate that holidays may be cheaper at this time, we would ask that families adhere to booking holidays out with term time unless there is a good reason not to do so. Thank you in advance.



Parents' Night

Report cards will be issued to parents on Thursday 30th March. These will summarise your child's learning progress from August to March. We will then host a Parents' Night on Thursday 1st June where you will be given the opportunity to discuss your child's learning progress from March to June with their class teacher.



Nut Allergies

A growing number of children are presenting in schools with nut allergies and we would like to gently remind parents and carers that we are a nut free school. We would be grateful if you check the ingredients of products before they are included in children's snacks and packed lunches. We would particularly like to draw your attention to some Kinder products which contain hazelnuts. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping all our children safe.



Burns Factor

For the first time in 3 years we hosted the Burns' Factor. This was held over 2 sessions with our House Captains and Vice Captains acting as judges. We were delighted to announce the overall winner as Beth Kelly in Primary 6. Her name was engraved on the Burns Factor Trophy which is displayed in the school foyer. Well done Beth and well done to all our entrants who worked very hard to learn their lines and actions which contributed to the high standards of entries. The 2 excellent runners up were Imogen Forsyth and Adrianna Croall. Thank you also to the parents, carers and families who listened to and supported their children through their auditions!



Lunchtime and After School Clubs

Building on the success of last year's Participatory Budgeting decision we continue to offer a wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs to pupils. This term we will introduce 2 more lunchtime clubs which will be led by Primary 7 pupils specifically, a P4/5 Singing Club and a P1 Art Club.



Book Fair

Our recent Book Fair raised £1600 commission for the school which will be shared proportionately with the nursery. We will use the money to enhance school resources i.e. purchase more class novels and books chosen by the Library Monitors to enhance the school library.



Fair Trade Pancake Tuesday

On Tuesday 21st February Room 11 pupils organised a Pancake Café with a choice of Fairtrade toppings. The class used their entrepreneurial skills and worked out the amount of profit they had made. They then researched which charities gave directly to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal and which charity had the lowest administrative costs. They chose Mary's Meals and a cheque was sent for the fantastic amount of £353.42! Well done Room 11 and Mrs Pitcathley.



Ash Wednesday Mass

Father Ivan celebrated mass for the children in the school on Ash Wednesday. Father has very kindly offered to celebrate mass every school day at 8.15am in church so that children and their families can celebrate mass during Lent. Unfortunately, the attendance at this mass has been very low. We are aware that parents and carers have work commitments but would ask that whenever possible you try to attend mass at this time.



Lenten Homework

The Mini Vinnies launched our traditional Lenten homework last week. The range of family homework activities reflects the Church's tradition of almsgiving which is why we collect for SCIAF and the local foodbanks. The Mini Vinnies also felt that it was important to share God's love which is why they have asked children to make signs which will be displayed on the school fence for the local community to see.



Schools Modernisation Programme

You may have seen in the press that South Lanarkshire Council have finalised the plans to extend the school kitchen and dining area. The works will take place over the summer holidays and will also include the creation of a small meeting room which can also be used by small groups of children.



Primary 1-3 Read, Write and Count Bags

These bags will be distributed to Primary 1, 2 and 3 children by the librarian at Uddingston Library over the next few weeks. This will give the children the opportunity to visit the library and learn in a different environment.



Book Amnesty

We have audited our reading books and are missing a few copies from each set. Before we purchase additional reading books we would like an amnesty of reading books. Please return any reading books which are lying about the house and there will be no judgement! We would just like them to be returned. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Dates for Your Diary



Date	Event
Wednesday 08/03/23	7pm Confirmation
Thursday 09/03/23	6pm First Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 14/03/23	2pm Celebratory Reconciliation Prayer Service
Friday 24/03/23	P7 Teambuilding Day at Holy Cross High School
Thursday 30/03/23	Report Cards issued
Friday 31/03/23	Non Uniform Day (Donations to Food banks)
	School closes at 2.30pm