

*Successful Learners* ✨

*Confident Individuals* ✨



*Responsible Citizens* ✨

*Effective Contributors* ✨

# *St. John the Baptist Primary School & Nursery Class*

*September 2017*

*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:*

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistprimary.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistprimary.org.uk)

Twitter: @stjohnthebapps



### School Website and Twitter

Please remember that there is a huge amount of information posted on our website regarding the school in general. Please use this very valuable resource to keep in touch with your child's educational experiences. As you are aware we also have a Twitter account which is a great way to share the achievements of your children.



### Primary 1 Welcome Mass

Thank you to the children and their extended families who attended the Primary 1 Welcome Mass on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This was a beautiful event which was very well attended and culminated in the children singing their song entitled "He Gave me Eyes that can See". Father Towie was also delighted by the support demonstrated by families. It was also lovely to meet so many parents and families afterwards.



### Head Lice

I would like to remind all parents and carers to be vigilant of head lice. Further information can be found at:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/)



### Parents Directory

Thank you to all the parents who completed forms to volunteer to help in the school and be part of our Parents Directory. Names have been passed to the Office Staff who will call upon help when required.



### Parking

Parking remains an ongoing concern before 9am and also at 3pm. Please show consideration to residents and do not park in front of their drives. I am in the process of meeting with South Lanarkshire Council's Road Department with a view to maximising the amount of parking spaces outside the school.



### Drop off

We currently have 2 school buses and a number of after school mini buses who use the bus bay in the morning. Parents and carers are welcome to use the bay as a drop off area and I would suggest that in order to drop your children off quickly and safely you should be mindful of the following:

- Drive as far as possible to the end of the bus bay (in the same way you would at a petrol station so that as many people as possible can access the area.)
- Park close to the pavement so that other cars can pass on the right hand side
- PLEASE DO NOT stop at the entrance to the bus bay to drop your child off as it blocks the area completely. A child was almost knocked down when a driver tried to reverse out of the bus bay after doing this! Rather you should drive through it.

These requests are to ensure the safety of all children including pedestrians and children from other schools who cross the road at this point. If these requests are adhered to then children will be safe and as many people as possible can use the area safely. In the meantime the Community Police will continue to have a presence.



### Parent Council

The Parent Council recently held their AGM and the following parents were elected as officials:

Chairperson ~ Joe Tinney	Vice Chairperson ~ John Devitt
Treasurer ~ Martin Kane	Secretary ~ Maria Devitt
Co-opted Member ~ Catherine Baxter (Church Representative)	

I would like to thank all previous officials and the Parent Council in general for their continuous support and hard work-I don't know what we would do without you!

The date of the next meeting is 7-8pm Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October .



### Flu Immunisation

A reminder that this will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Although the programme is planned to be completed in one day, last year the process spilled over to the next day. If this happens again, classes who have not been immunised will be informed by text.



### Behaviour on the Bus

I would like to appeal to parents to remind their children that they should echo their good behaviour displayed in the school and carry this forward on the bus. The school has received several complaints and concerns from worried parents and the bus driver regarding unruly behaviour. Examples of this are: taking off seatbelts and climbing over seats, squirting water bottles under the seats so that school bags get wet, jumping around the seats whilst the bus is moving and hitting other children as they move up the bus. As you will be aware this type of behaviour is dangerous and unacceptable and I would appreciate if parents could regularly check in with their children to ensure that they are displaying the high standards they are capable of. Myself and Mrs Colgan have spoken to the children about the necessity of good behaviour on the bus and will continue to monitor the situation.



### Arrangements for Halloween

P1-3 pupils are invited to participate in our annual Halloween Parade on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Pupils should bring their costume in a plastic carrier bag. Primary 7 Buddies, with the Class Teacher and Classroom Assistants will help dress the children in their costumes after lunch. Any child who is going home for lunch should be collected from the school office at 12.15pm (And not before!) and return to the school by 1pm. The Parade will be followed by a P1-3 Disco. Parents and carers are invited to view the Primary 1-3 Parade which will take place at approximately 1.15pm.

P4-7 Halloween Disco takes place in the school hall on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 1pm. Please note that the older children do not parade.



### Holidays during Term Time

I have noted that some parents and carers are increasingly removing their children from school to take family holidays during term time. Whilst I understand that holidays are cheaper out with the normal school holidays please be aware of the disruption this causes particularly in the first term. This is the time when children are settling into school and getting to know their teacher and class mates. In addition the first term is the time when we revise previous learning and focus on numeracy in our maths planners. This means that your child is missing vital teaching. It also means that when your child returns to school they have to be taught everything they missed which takes away teaching time from the other children. Parents are asked to inform the school in writing of their child's absence

due to holidays and on their return be prepared to complete any work that has been taught in their absence.



### Curriculum Evening

The Curriculum Evening held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September was a great success. Although only a third of parents attended feedback from those who did demonstrated that the evening was worthwhile.

A summary of Parent/Carer returns is recorded below. Please note that figures have been rounded up or down.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1. <i>The Curriculum Evening was beneficial to me as a parent/carer.</i>	73%	24%	2%	2%	
2. <i>The Curriculum Evening allowed me to see what and how the children actually learn.</i>	75%	22%	2%		
3. <i>I found the information/demonstrations helpful.</i>	75%	24%	2%		
4. <i>I had adequate time to view materials and resources.</i>	80%	20%			
5. <i>I had adequate time to discuss aspects of the children's learning with the Class Teacher.</i>	75%	24%	2%		

We also asked parents and carers their opinion about what the school is good at and what we could do better.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. A small selection of the comments are listed below:

<i>What are we good at?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Communication through homework folder and Twitter</i></li> <li><i>Time given to engaging parents</i></li> <li><i>Providing opportunities to come into the school</i></li> <li><i>Being open honest and approachable</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Excellent school &amp; community. Making learning fun. Teach children about respecting one another</i></li> <li><i>Good leadership</i></li> <li><i>Well respected school in the local community</i></li> <li><i>Friendly manner of staff</i></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduction of class dojo gives parents a chance to see what kids are up to</i></li> <li>• <i>Quality teaching. Actually caring about each child</i></li> </ul>	
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<i>What could we do better?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continue to do what you are doing. Excellent support. Looking forward to more evenings where I may have suggestions. Thank you</i></li> <li>• <i>If the school would give more notice to helpers on an ad hoc basis that would be good &amp; allow parents who work to request annual leave</i></li> <li>• <i>I believe the school is excellent in terms of how they learn. The only thing I can think of is maybe introducing online lunch cards</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sort the parking at the gates please. I know this is an ongoing major problem but seems to be getting worse year by year.</i></li> <li>• <i>More reminders for things such as Non Uniform Days, etc. More after school opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Parent communication- a letter to inform parents of room 4 becoming a 2/3 class would have been nice</i></li> <li>• <i>Let parents know details of events in advance- e.g. more info on times etc. so time can be arranged off work if we want to attend</i></li> </ul>

*A few parents requested that children be allowed to attend events such as Curriculum Evenings and Parents' Nights as childcare can be a problem. As we want to include as many parents as possible then we will allow parents to bring children but ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. Most other schools follow this principle as these evenings are for information to be passed onto parents. Dates of these evenings are also issued to parents well in advance and I would ask that if childcare is a problem then only one parent attends. Children who attend these events are unsupervised.*



**Class Dojo**

*Please ensure that you have signed up for your child's class dojo. This is an excellent way to receive communication about your child's progress and behaviour.*





### Chess Club

Mr Hanley has asked me to highlight the after school chess club to parents. This takes place on a Monday 3-4pm. The school has been very successful in chess tournaments in the past with both the school team and individual children winning a number of trophies.



### Sacramental Enrolment Masses

Please note that the dates for these masses are as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sacrament/Commitment</i>
10am Sunday 08/10/17	Pope Francis Faith Award
10am Sunday 05/11/17	Confirmation
10am Sunday 21/01/18	First Reconciliation
10am Sunday 04/03/18	First Communion



### Dates for Your Diary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sun 08/10/17	10am	P6 Pope Francis Award Enrolment Mass	Church
Tue 03-06/10/17		P7 Residential Visit	Barcaple Outdoor Centre
Thu 12/10/17	3.30-8.30pm	Parents' Night	School
Fri 13/10/17	All Day	Wear Your Own Style Day	School
Mon 16 - Fri 20/10/17		October Midterm Holiday	
Mon 30/10/17	1pm	P1-3 Halloween Parade	School
Tue 31/10/17	1pm	P4-7 Halloween Disco	School
Sun 05/11/17	10am	Confirmation Enrolment Mass	Church



Consultation

*Parental feedback is essential for a school to meet the needs of pupils and their families and so if you have any comments regarding the contents of this newsletter please use the space below:*

*Name of Child:*-----

*Parental Signature:*-----

*Comment:*-----  
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