



ST. HILARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEP 2023



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 St Leonards, East Kilbride
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DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Dear Parents & Carers

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer break. Staff are delighted to begin the new school year and we warmly welcome all pupils back to school. A special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils who have made a great start and are already working so hard! A special thank you to our Primary 7 Buddies who have demonstrated great commitment to supporting younger pupils.

I have had a warm welcome from staff, pupils and parents and I am delighted to join the community of St. Hilary's. We are already making plans for the year ahead and I have outlined some activities and events below. I will provide termly newsletters and hope to provide you with information and news about our ongoing school improvements. I look forward to getting to know the pupils and meeting families over the coming months.

*Kind wishes
 Mrs Bradley*

SCHOOL ROLL/STAFFING UPDATE

The school roll currently sits at 175 pupils across seven classes:

Room 1 P1	Room 2 P2	Room 3 P3	Room 4 P4	Room 5 P5	Room 6 P6/7	Room 7 P7
Mrs Walsh Mr Garvey	Mrs Magee Mrs Martin	Mrs Frame	Mrs Herd	Mrs Richford	Mrs Dolan	Mrs Smart

We have two new members of teaching staff who have joined us this year,
 Mrs Martin (Wed-Fri) and Mr Garvey (Fri).
 Miss Dolan will continue to work with different classes to cover staff non-class contact time.
 We are delighted to welcome new staff and the pupils have already made them
 feel welcome within St. Hilary's.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2023/24

As an educational establishment, we seek continuous improvement and we plan key priorities each year. Key priorities for this session will focus on:

- Implementing Talk for Writing approaches from Nursery to P7
- Develop reading progression pathway and assessment from P1-3
- Introduce maths recovery strategies to develop early numeracy skills
 - Review health and wellbeing across the school
 - Explore key themes within Developing our Faith

We will develop these priorities throughout the year and provide updates on our progress within these areas.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Last week, we elected new Captains and Vice Captains for Houses within the school through a house voting system. Well done to all our Primary 7 pupils who put themselves forward and delivered speeches, this was very impressive and they should all be very proud!

All pupils within the school will now have the opportunity to earn tokens for their house (by staff) for displaying positive behaviour, effort and manners within the school. The house with the most points each term will also receive a house treat and a house shield will be awarded at the end of the year. Over the next week, pupils will be given a coloured badge to identify the house they belong to and they should wear this each day. The houses are identified below:

OGILVIE	SINCLAIR	COLUMBA	BOSCO
RED	GREEN	YELLOW	BLUE

PUPIL COMMITTEES

We are currently establishing a Pupil Council within the school with representation from all stages across the school to promote pupil voice. We will work together to gather pupil views regarding ongoing school improvement.

PARENTAL SURVEY

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the survey. I am currently collating results from parents, staff and pupils and will use this information to plan improvements for the year ahead and beyond. This will be shared with parents in the coming weeks.

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND RELATIONSHIPS

We pride ourselves on the behaviour and manners of our pupils and will use the house system in the school to encourage and promote this. In addition to this and in response to feedback from staff, pupils and parents we are currently revising St. Hilary's Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy. Included in this will be a Playground Charter in order to support positive play.

We want all pupils to enjoy their experiences within the classroom and the playground and to understand how to demonstrate respect towards staff and their peers. It is important that pupils are aware of the school values and can demonstrate them daily. It is important that pupils adhere to our school rules, which focus strongly on a 'hands off' approach.

Pupils are not permitted to 'play fight' or play games that involve kicking, slide tackling, pulling or pushing each other. Although pupils may think this is a game, the risk of children being injured or distressed is our main concern. Pupils should not engage in rough play and we are monitoring this closely within the school. We also request that pupils do not bring toys/play resources to school. If this happens, pupils will be asked to keep them in their school bag to return home. We have playground equipment and resources for the children to play with at break times and we hope to add to this to allow them to have enjoyable play and social experiences.

SCHOOL APP

We continue to use the school app as our main communication method. It is a very quick and efficient way for the school to send messages and reminders to parents/carers. The app is regularly updated so if you have not received any messages you may need to delete and reinstall it.

Please note that when searching for this it is called:

School App for Parents or PSA. Please then select St. Hilary's Primary Glasgow

TWITTER

We use our school Twitter to celebrate achievements within school and outside. Pupil learning, achievements and awards will be posted to share success. Please encourage your child to share their achievements out with school with us.

PARENT PORTAL

This is a new portal introduced by SLC to reduce paperwork and letters home. If you have not already signed up or require information to do this, please contact the school office.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club continues to operate from 8.15am each day and is free to school pupils. Pupils should enter through the main entrance into the dining hall. Pupils are asked not to attend before 8.15am and the last serving will be 8.35am.

LUNCH

Primary 1-5 pupils are entitled to a free school meal.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

John Wilson Photography will be coming to the school on Thursday 7 September to take individual and family photographs. Information regarding how to purchase photographs will be issued to all parents.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is great to see pupils looking smart in their school uniform. Thank you to all parents/carers for your support in this area. Parents are asked to label items of clothing to avoid confusion over ownership (especially at the lower stages of the school.)

School ties can be ordered on ParentPay and then collected from the school office. Please alert the school office if you have ordered a tie as they do not always receive a message on ParentPay.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

We have a supply of school uniform items (in good condition) donated from parents/carers. Uniform items can be accessed by parents/carers at any time so please approach the school or Parent Council.

HOMEWORK

In response to the parent survey, we will be reviewing our homework policy and details will follow in the coming weeks. In the meantime, pupils will receive some homework set by staff.

HEAD LICE

Can I remind parents/carers that it is recommended to check your child's head regularly.

NUT ALLERGIES



We do have children within the school who have nut allergies and request that children do not bring food that contains nuts to school. Thank you for your assistance.

MOBILE PHONES



I would ask for your assistance in ensuring that pupils do not bring mobile phones to school. If parents/carers request for older children to bring phones, we would ask that they are given to the school office during the school day where they will be stored safely.

P.E. TIMETABLE/FOOTWEAR

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6/7	P7
WED FRI	MON THUR	TUES THUR	THUR FRI	TUE WED	TUES FRI	MON WED

On P.E. days children can wear casual clothing and polo shirts.
Children are encouraged to wear their shirt and tie on other days.

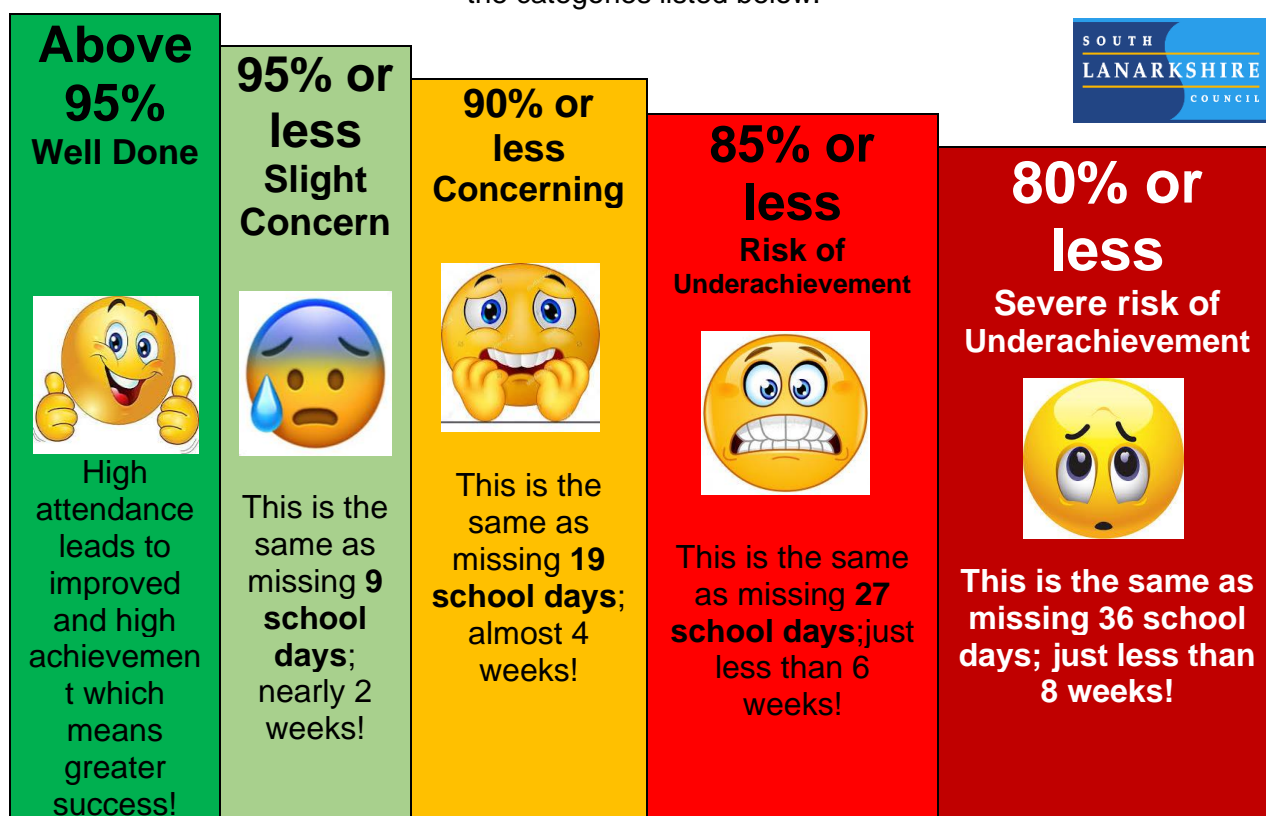
As the weather changes, we would ask that all pupils bring indoor shoes to change into to ensure that the carpets within the school are kept in good condition.

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent or late for school, on any occasion, please phone the school office to speak to a member of staff or leave a message. Where no notification of absence has been received, the school will make all reasonable attempts to contact the parent/carers or the emergency contact.

SLC PUPIL ATTENDANCE FRAMEWORK

SLC have clear guidance for schools in relation to pupil attendance. This is being monitored very closely across the authority and schools must issue a range of letters to parents/carers if attendance falls within the categories listed below:



National guidance states that, *'The cumulative impact of missed days at school can have detrimental and long lasting consequences and can significantly impact on positive destinations and outcomes for children and young people'*.

We want to ensure that we promote good attendance across the school and this framework will support us in this area.

If you receive an attendance support letter, please contact the school to discuss this.

ST. HILARY'S PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council play a pivotal role in school improvement and organising fundraising events throughout the year. They can be contacted by email (sthilarysparents@gmail.com). If you have some spare some time to lend a hand, please contact them.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

The first fundraising event of the year will be on Friday 8 September. Pupils can wear casual clothes to school (no football colours) and are asked (if possible) to donate an item for the Parent Council tombola. Donations can include chocolate, bottle, gift set/ toiletries. Any donations will be gratefully received.

WELCOME BACK PARTY

St Hilary's Parent Council are hosting a **Welcome Back Party on Friday 15th Sept in the school from 6-8pm**. Tickets are **£5 for adults** and children (who are current St Hilary's pupils) are free. Older children will need a ticket. Buffet is included in the price of a ticket so please bring your tickets along to get your food!

There are various stalls and activities available at the party - Tombola, Lucky Dip, Soak the Teacher, Petting Zoo, 100 Square, Beat the Goalie, Basketball Hoops, 10 Pin Bowling, Robot Challenge, Pocket Money stall, Tuck shop, Raffle, Facepainting, Braiding, Glitter Tattoos and many more!

Tickets are sold in the school on **Wednesday-Friday 6th, 7th and 8th Sept** and **Wednesday-Friday 13th, 14th and 15th of Sept**. Get your tickets soon!
If you wish to help out on the night, please email us.

OPEN AFTERNOON

Parents & Carers are invited to come along to visit pupils in classes and meet the teacher on Thursday 14 September. Parents should come to the main entrance where senior pupils will be available to direct you to classes. Doors will be open from 2pm and you can drop in anytime up until 3pm. If parents are unable to attend, grandparents/relatives are most welcome.

REPORTS & PARENT'S EVENING

Parents/carers will receive an interim report on Friday 6 October. There will then be an opportunity to meet with class teachers on Tuesday 10 October. Details of appointment times will be issued nearer the time.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Below are some after school clubs this term. We will aim to extend classes for different primaries as the year progresses. We will also offer some lunch time clubs throughout the year which will be led by Active Schools.

MON	P6/7 Netball Team
TUES	Football Team
WED	P5 Basketball
THUR	Football Team

SCHOOL MASS

Father Dominic will visit the school to celebrate mass on Thursday 21 September at 1.45pm. We extend a warm welcome to parents and carers to join us.

SACRAMENTS

Primary 3 Reconciliation – Monday 11 March (evening) in St. Leonard's Church
Primary 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 18 May at 10am in St. Leonard's Church

Information regarding Sacraments will be communicated nearer the time.

Dates for
the Diary:

(Sep-Dec 2022)

Dates for
the Diary:

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Thursday 7 September	School Photos	Individual and Family
Friday 8 September	Dress Down Day	Donation for tombola
Thursday 14 September	Open Afternoon	2-3pm
Friday 15 September	Parent Council Welcome Back Party	6-8pm in the school Tickets £5 adults free for kids
Thursday 21 September	Mass	1.45pm in the school hall
Friday 22 & Monday 25 September	School Closed SEPTEMBER WEEKEND	
Tuesday 3-Friday 6 October	P7 Residential to Ardentynny	
Friday 6 October	Interim Report to parents & carers	
Tuesday 10 October	Parent's Evening	
Monday 16-20 October	School Closed OCTOBER WEEK	
Friday 27 October	Parent Council Halloween Disco (information to follow)	
Monday 13 November	School Closed to pupils IN-SERVICE DAY	
Friday 8 December	Christmas Pantomime in the school (information to follow)	
Saturday 9 December	Parent Council Christmas Fayre (information to follow)	
Monday 11 December	Flu Immunisations	
Friday 22 December	School closes for Christmas holidays at 2.30pm	