



ST. HILARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JAN-APRIL 2024



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St Leonards, East Kilbride
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DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Dear Parents & Carers

Last term was a very busy time for us in the school in the run-up to the Christmas holidays with shows, parties and festivities. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in our Christmas Show and we hope everyone had a wonderful time watching. Thank you once again for your generosity and support during the Christmas period, it is greatly appreciated.

As we move towards spring, we look forward to further developing our school improvement priorities and celebrating the continued success of our pupils. Pupils within the school continue to work hard and I am very proud of their commitment and enthusiasm to learning. As we approach the season of Lent, we will think about how we can help others in need through school fundraising events. However, we know the financial challenges that families face at the moment so please do what is best for your own family circumstances. All monies raised will be donated to charity.

*With renewed good wishes
Mrs Bradley*

YOU SAID...WE DID

We have been working hard within the school to develop improvement priorities and implement some suggestions from the parental survey in September. Please note some of the improvements we have made so far:

SUGGESTION	PROGRESS SO FAR
More for pupils to do in the playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil benches added into playground, more ordered for Spring Each class have play resource box and new resources have been added in September and January
Promote Positive Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New policy implemented with rewards and recognition Free time Friday and reflection room used to support pupils and reflect on choices made P6 Peer Mediators supporting younger pupils within playground
Disco for pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween Disco organised by Parent Council
Transport for Sporting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6/7 attended all football and netball festivals this session

Extra-curricular clubs for younger pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 23 P3 Multisports
Share Targets/Support Plans with Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Additional Support Plans shared with pupils and parents in September • Review meetings with parents will be scheduled in March/April
Consistency in Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff allocate homework for the week
Develop curriculum and basics, reading and writing Early Intervention and supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Active Literacy from P1-3 • Introduction of new banded reading books and reading assessments in P1-3 • Implementation of NELI intervention to support early literacy skills • Whole school development of Talk for Writing
Ensure parents feel welcome in the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Information Board and seating within bubble area for parents • Parents invited to school masses and class showcases
Notice regarding events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on school app and parent portal • Termly newsletters outlining dates
Supports for pupils experiencing anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposts for parent support groups through SAMH • Implementation of Calm Corner within the school • All classes have quiet area for pupils when required • SSA trained in Lego Block Therapy • Specialist Support Teacher delivering Draw & Talk and Sand Therapy

SCHOOL ROLL/STAFFING UPDATE
The school roll currently sits at 178 pupils.

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6/7	P7
Mrs Walsh Mr Garvey	Mrs Magee Mrs Scott	Mrs Frame	Mrs Herd	Mrs Richford	Miss Dolan	Mrs Smart

We have two new members of teaching staff who have joined us this session,
Mrs Madden (Mon) and Mrs Scott (Tues-Fri).
Both staff will work with different classes to cover non-class contact time for teachers and Mrs Scott will also cover Primary 2 on Thursday and Friday.

P.E. TIMETABLE

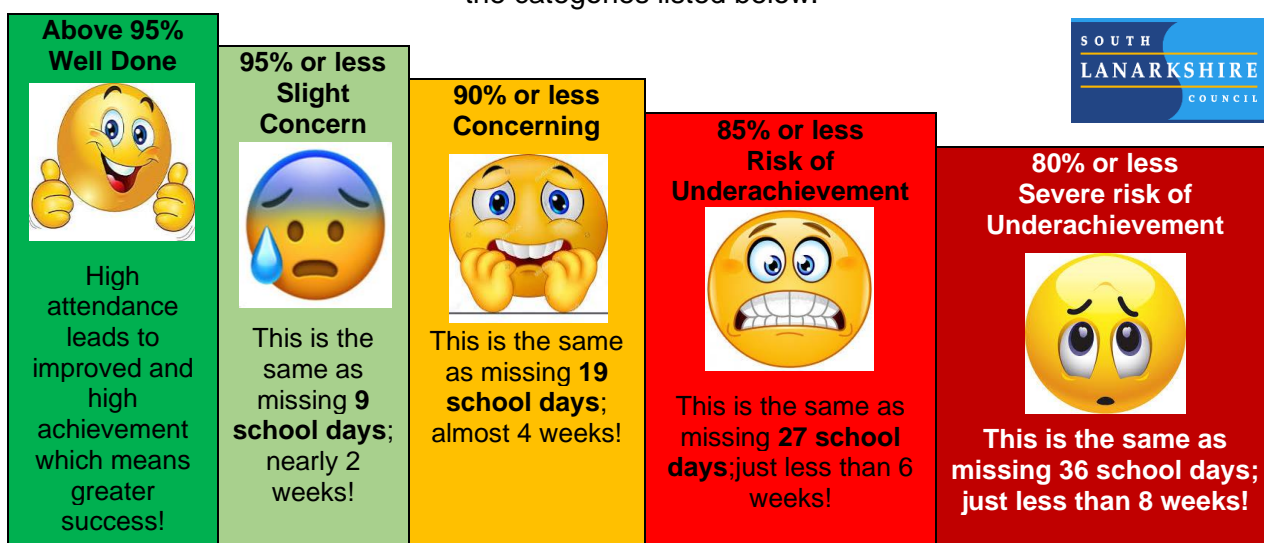
On P.E. days children can wear sports clothing and polo shirts.
Children are encouraged to wear a shirt and tie on all other days.
Pupils should not wear jewellery on P.E days and earrings that cannot be removed should be covered.

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.

PRIMARY	PE DAY 1	PE DAY 2
1	MONDAY (Mrs Madden)	FRIDAY (Mr Garvey)
2	TUESDAY (Mrs Scott)	THURSDAY (Mrs Scott)
3	TUESDAY (Mrs Frame)	THURSDAY (Mrs Graham)
4	THURSDAY (Mrs Graham)	FRIDAY (Mrs Herd)
5	WEDNESDAY (Mrs Scott)	THURSDAY (Mrs Richford)
6/7	TUESDAY (Mrs Scott)	FRIDAY (Miss Dolan)
7	MONDAY (Mrs Madden)	WEDNESDAY (Mrs Smart)

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.

SCHOOL APP/PARENT PORTAL

As you are aware, SLC have launched the parent portal which has been designed to reduce paperwork and letters home. We are delighted that most parents across the school have signed up for this and are using it regularly to receive school updates. At the moment, we still continue to use the school app, however, this comes with a significant cost and we will not be continuing with the school app from April 2024.

If you have not yet signed up for the portal I would urge you to do this to ensure that you receive all important information from the school. This will mean the parent portal will be our 'one stop shop' for all communication. In addition to uploading all important documents relating to pupils, the portal also has a range of effective features which we can fully utilise such as an online Parent's Evening booking system. Information on how to access these features will be communicated in the coming months. If you require any support to sign up for the parent portal please contact the school office.

TWITTER

We continue to use our school Twitter to celebrate achievements within school and outside. In order to ensure this information stays within the school community, you must request to join our Twitter page. We often receive requests to join Twitter from unknown names. If your name is different to your child or one that we may not recognise, we would ask that you email the school office to confirm your identity and we can then accept the request.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

If you are visiting the school, please use the buzzer at the front entrance and someone will give you access to the main 'bubble'. We have created a seating area for parents here if you need to speak to a member of the school office or if you are collecting your child.

We hope you will make use of this and feel welcome in our school.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please contact the school office to arrange a convenient time. Parents/carers are advised to speak to class teachers in the first instance if this is in relation to a classroom issue. If this relates to additional support or ongoing pastoral support, an appointment can be made with Mrs Graham or Mrs Bradley.

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council continue to work actively to support pupils across the school and without their fundraising efforts, many activities would not take place. We fully appreciate the ongoing support and kind donations of parents and families which allow us to reduce costs for all.

The Parent Council have outlined supports for pupils this session:

- £1,000 worth of outdoor playground equipment for pupils
- Panto snack for every child
- Shed for gardening tools/equipment (will be purchased in Spring term)
- Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Cakes
- First Holy Communion Teas/Coffees/Snacks after the mass
- Subsidising the School Trips in June
- Ice Creams for everyone at Sports Day
- P7 Leavers Meal
- S1 Ties for new High School
- P1 Book Bags

Upcoming events this session:

- Wonka Bar – have you found the golden ticket? Bars to be sold in school the week before and during World Book Day on 7th March.
- May Family Race Night – St Bride's Hall (Date TBC)
- P4 Art Exhibition – early June (Date TBC)

The next PC Meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 March in the school.

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.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

We have a supply of school uniform items (in very good condition) donated from parents/carers. All items are within the entrance area to the school and can be accessed by parents/carers at any time.

We also have a variety of 'lost and found' school clothing that can be accessed at any time.

LENTEN FUNDRAISING

The Pupil Council have been planning fundraising events and a timetable of events will be issued in the coming weeks.

ADVERSE WEATHER

In the event of adverse weather, we courteously ask all parents to:

- Check the school app/twitter regularly for any updates regarding school arrangements
- Where possible, ensure appropriate outdoor footwear (waterproof) is worn by pupils (We do not recommend that pupils wear the same shoes outdoors and indoors)
- Provide pupils with appropriate indoor shoes that can be worn inside the school building
- Ensure pupils have warm/waterproof jackets, including hats/gloves etc
- Provide spare socks/tights (in school bag) that pupils can use if required

We have a small supply of clothing items in the school that can be used for pupils who require additional items of clothing and we will do our best to cater to the needs of all.



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.

TOYS

We continue to ask for your support in ensuring that pupils do not bring toys/football cards etc to school.

As you may be aware, this can cause upset if personal items are lost or damaged. Pupils should keep personal items at home and make use of resources within the school.

LATE COMING/ABSENCE

We continue to promote good time keeping across the school and encourage all pupils to attend school on time. As you will be aware, this impacts learning within the class as teachers begin their lessons and many pupils are missing vital teaching. It is important that pupils arrive in school for 9am in order to ensure that they are able to fully engage in all learning opportunities.

If your child is going to be absent from school please telephone or email the school office before 9.30am if possible.

SACRAMENTS

Primary 3 Reconciliation – Monday 11 March (evening) in St. Leonard's Church
Primary 7 Confirmation – Wednesday 20 March in St. Leonard's Church (7pm)
Primary 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 18 May at 10am in St. Leonard's Church

More information regarding Sacraments will be communicated to individual families.

REPORTS & PARENT'S EVENING

Parents/carers will receive a pupil report on Friday 10 May. There will then be an opportunity to meet with class teachers on Wednesday 22 May.

Details regarding appointment times will be issued nearer the time.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL/LUNCH TIME CLUBS (Jan-March)

MON	P6/7 Netball Team & P4/5 Dance
TUES	Football Team
WED	P3 Cricket (lunch club)
THUR	Football Team

Dates for
the Diary:

(Jan - June 2024)

Dates for
the Diary:

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Monday 12 February & Tuesday 13 February	HOLIDAYS	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 14 February (Ash Wednesday)	IN -SERVICE	
Monday 11 March	Primary 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation	St. Leonard's Church (Times to follow)
Wednesday 20 March	Primary 7 Sacrament of Confirmation	St. Leonard's Church (7pm)
Thursday 28 March	School Closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holidays	
Friday 29 March - 12 April	Easter Holidays (2 weeks)	
Thursday 2 May	IN -SERVICE	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 6 May	HOLIDAY	
Friday 10 May	Pupil reports to parents	Please check school bags
Saturday 18 May	Primary 4 First Holy Communion	St. Leonard's Church (10am)
Wednesday 22 May	Parent's Evening	Times to follow
Friday 24 May & Monday 27 May	HOLIDAYS	
Friday 14 June	Primary 7 Leavers Mass	In the school (pm)
Monday 17 -Friday 21 June	Health Week	Pupils can wear sports clothes each day Sports Day to be confirmed
Thursday 20 June	Primary 7 Leavers Disco	In the school (6-8.30pm)
Tuesday 25 June	Primary 7 Leavers Assembly	P7 parents invited to attend (1.30pm)
Wednesday 26 June	School closes for Summer at 1pm	