



# ST. HILARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

### JAN-APRIL 2025



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 St Leonards, East Kilbride  
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**DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

**RESPECTFUL SAFE KIND**

**Our Values**

**Respectful**

**Inclusive**

**Successful**

**Fair**



*Dear Parents & Carers*

*I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed visiting the school over the festive period. Thank you for supporting us in fundraising events and encouraging pupils during their Nativity performance. We were extremely proud of them and we received lovely feedback from parents and extended family members.*

*This session, we look forward to further developing our school improvement priorities and celebrating continued success within learning. Pupils within the school continue to work hard and I am very proud of their commitment and enthusiasm in developing a wide range of skills. You will find information below regarding different events for the next two terms and we hope you may be able to join us to allow pupils to share their achievements.*

*With renewed good wishes  
 Mrs Bradley*

#### PARENTAL SURVEY OCTOBER 2024

We have been working hard within the school to develop improvement priorities and implement some suggestions from the parental survey in October 2024. We received 77 returns and below you will find results and some of the improvements we have implemented so far:

FOCUS AREA	VERY GOOD	GOOD	WEAK
School Ethos	65%	35%	0%
Communication	47%	53%	0%
Pupil Wellbeing	63%	37%	0%
Parental Engagement	57%	42%	1%
Curriculum Development	67%	33%	0%

PARENTAL FEEDBACK	PROGRESS SO FAR
<b>SCHOOL ETHOS</b> More focus on athletics and cross country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of after school Athletics club</li> <li>• Pupils attending athletics and cross country festivals</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>Trouble with booking system for parent's evening</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Longer notice period for events</p> <p style="text-align: center;">More paper copies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Equality on social media</p> <p>Teachers present at end of day for issues</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reporting incidents to parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New system being used and we are liaising with support services to highlight any technical issues</li> <li>• Dates for events from Aug-Dec given in first newsletter</li> <li>• We are following national and council guidelines in communicating information digitally but paper requests can be accommodated if parents have no access</li> <li>• We are continuing to ensure that all class activities are shared</li> <li>• Teachers all dismiss their classes at the end of the day and are available if parents need to pass on message/information. Any formal information/concerns can be addressed by requesting a meeting/call with the class teacher or SMT as the playground is not the appropriate place for this</li> <li>• Phone calls/letters if pupils have a serious accident/injury</li> <li>• Introduction of letter to inform parents of any incidents relating to behaviour</li> <li>• Review meetings with parents to support positive relationships between pupils and staff</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUPIL WELLBEING</b></p> <p>Reminding pupils about kindness and anti-bullying</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THINK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b> = Is it True?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b> = Is it Helpful?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b> = Is it Inspiring?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b> = Is it Necessary?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b> = Is it Kind?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THINK posters displayed throughout the school</li> <li>• Anti-bullying week assembly and competition</li> <li>• New committee involving pupils, staff and parents to create a St. Hilary's anti-bullying policy</li> <li>• Staff trained in Emotion Coaching to support pupils</li> <li>• Wellbeing weekly check-in available for pupils who require it</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <p>All classes hosting parental event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">More open days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between Oct-Dec parents invited to Curricular Afternoon, Parent's Evening, whole school Christmas Show, school Masses, parent helpers for pantomime, clubs and sports festivals</li> <li>• Between Jan – June 25 all classes will invite parents to visit classes to share learning. Parents all invited to masses, Parent's Evening, Sports Day and Sacraments.</li> </ul>

### **ADVERSE WEATHER**

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

- Check the school portal/X regularly for any updates regarding school arrangements
- Ensure appropriate outdoor footwear is worn by pupils
- Provide pupils with appropriate indoor shoes that can be worn inside the school building and for PE
- 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.

### **CAR PARK**

I have been contacted by several parents who have been unable to use the disabled spaces in the car park due to them being occupied by cars not displaying a badge. I'm sure you can appreciate that this may cause them distress. These spaces should only be used by people who have the required documentation and I would ask you to consider this when using the car park.

### **PUPIL AND PARENT FOCUS GROUPS**

#### **ANTI-BULLYING**

This session, we would like to develop a new Anti-Bullying Policy with some members of our pupil council and a small group of parents. We feel that this would support us in providing a balanced view from all stakeholders. This would involve two meetings during the school day (days can be confirmed depending on availability). If you have some time to spare and would be interested in joining a focus group, please email the school office with your name and child's class.

#### **NUMERACY**

As part of the SLC Numeracy Strategy, Mrs Frame will be delivering a series of pupil/parent numeracy workshops. They are designed to help parents to learn strategies to support pupils with early numeracy skills. The workshops will take place in the school for 6 weeks from Thursday 24 April 9.15-10.15am. If you would be interested in participating, please email the school office with your name and child's class.

### **SNACKS**

In line with SLC, we promote healthy snacks and nutrition within the school. We ask that pupils do not bring fizzy/energy drinks to school. We also ask for your support in not bringing lollipops as this is a safety concern when pupils are running around.

### **CARDS**

We ask that pupils do not bring football cards etc to school. This can cause distress if they are lost or swapped without adult supervision. Many thanks for your support in this area.

### **SLC PUPIL ATTENDANCE FRAMEWORK**

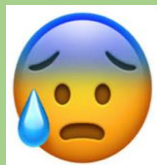
SLC have clear guidance for schools in relation to pupil attendance. This is being monitored very closely across the authority and schools must issue a range of letters to parents/carers if attendance falls within the categories listed below:

**Above 95%  
Well Done**



High attendance leads to improved and high achievement which means greater success!

**95% or less  
Slight  
Concern**



This is the same as missing **9 school days**; nearly 2 weeks!

**90% or less  
Concerning**



This is the same as missing **19 school days**; almost 4 weeks!

**85% or less  
Risk of  
Underachievement**



This is the same as missing **27 school days**; just less than 6 weeks!

**80% or less  
Severe risk of  
Underachievement**



This is the same as missing **36 school days**; just less than 8 weeks!

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.

### PARENT PORTAL

This is our main source of communication and we ask that you check this regularly for messages, letters and calendar updates. The office regularly update the calendar with upcoming events so please make use of this to keep abreast of times and details of events. If you receive an email from the office, they courteously ask that you reply with your child's names and class to confirm that you have received the message. Thank you for support in this area.

**X**

We continue to use social media platform X (formally 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 private page. 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.

### PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council continue to work tirelessly to support pupils across the school and without their fundraising efforts, many activities would not take place. You may or may not be aware that, in line with SLC guidelines, the Parent Council have to pay for the hire of the hall/school outwith school hours but costs for events is kept to a minimum in line with the school's cost of the school day policy.

We fully appreciate the ongoing support and kind donations of parents and families which allow us to reduce costs for all. All monies raised goes directly back to the pupils in some way so this support is vital for our ongoing progress. Currently we have a small committee, but the Parent Council are always looking for new members to support their ongoing work. Even if you are not able to attend meetings, if you could spare some time to help to organise resources or assist at events would be greatly appreciated. Please email the parents council: [sthilarysparents@gmail.com](mailto:sthilarysparents@gmail.com)

The next PC Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5 February at 7pm 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. Many items have no names and this causes great difficulty. In addition to this, each class also has a lost and found box so if your child has lost an item of clothing, please advise them to check the box in their class. To help us in this area, we would ask that all items of clothing are labelled with names.

### **CLASS SHOWCASE**

Between January and June, each class will invite parents to share in a learning experience. If parents are unable to manage, a family member can visit. Further information will be sent to individual classes but the dates and times are listed below:

PRIMARY 1	Tuesday 20 May	1.45pm
PRIMARY 2	Wednesday 7 May	1.45pm
PRIMARY 3	Tuesday 29 April	1.45pm
PRIMARY 4	Wednesday 14 May	1.30pm
PRIMARY 5	Wednesday 12 February	1.45pm
PRIMARY 6	Thursday 27 March	1.45pm
PRIMARY 7	Thursday 19 June	1.15pm

### **CLASS EXCURSIONS**

All classes will have the opportunity to go on an educational excursion before June. Information will be communicated in due course.

### **LENTEN FUNDRAISING**

The Pupil Council will be planning fundraising events in the next few weeks and a timetable of events will be issued soon.



### **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

### **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. In recent months, we have also had a higher number of pupils not being collecting from school at 3pm. We understand that there can be emergency situations but supervising pupils after 3pm is difficult as we often have staff meetings.

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 – Tuesday 25 March in St. Bride’s Church (evening – allocated time slot TBC)

Primary 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 10 May at 12 in St. Bride’s Church

Primary 7 Confirmation – Monday 9 June at 7pm in St. Bride’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 16 May. There will then be an opportunity to meet with class teachers on Wednesday 21 May.

#### NUT ALLERIES

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)

Clubs this session will end on week beginning 17 March

DAY	3-4pm	Lunch club
MON	P6/7 Football	
TUES	P6/7 Netball	
WED	P4/5 Dance	
THUR	P6/7 Athletics	P2 Multi-sports



*(Jan - June 2025)*



DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Wednesday 12 February	P6 Class Showcase	1.45pm
Monday 17 February & Tuesday 18 February	HOLIDAYS	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 19 February	IN -SERVICE	
Wednesday 5 March	Ash Wednesday	Service within the school at 1.30pm. Parents welcome
Tuesday 18 March - Friday 21 March	P7 Residential to Inverclyde	Letter will be given week beginning 3 February

<i>Tuesday 25 March</i>	<i>Primary 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>St. Leonard's Church (Further information to follow)</i>
<i>Thursday 27 March</i>	<i>P6 Class Showcase</i>	<i>1.45pm</i>
<i>Friday 4 April</i>	<i>School closes for Easter Holidays</i>	<i>2.30pm finish</i>
<i>Monday 7 April-21 April</i>	<i>Easter Holidays</i>	
<i>Tuesday 29 April</i>	<i>P3 Class Showcase</i>	<i>1.45pm</i>
<i>Thursday 1 May</i>	<i>IN -SERVICE</i>	<i>SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</i>
<i>Monday 5 May</i>	<i>HOLIDAY</i>	
<i>Wednesday 7 May</i>	<i>P2 Class Showcase</i>	<i>1.45pm</i>
<i>Saturday 10 May</i>	<i>Primary 4 First Holy Communion</i>	<i>St. Bride's Church (12 o'clock)</i>
<i>Wednesday 14 May</i>	<i>P4 Class Showcase</i>	<i>1.30pm</i>
<i>Friday 16 May</i>	<i>Pupil reports to parents</i>	<i>Please check ParentPortal</i>
<i>Tuesday 20 May</i>	<i>P1 Class Showcase</i>	<i>1.45pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 21 May</i>	<i>Parent's Evening</i>	<i>Information to follow regarding booking slots</i>
<i>Friday 23 May &amp; Monday 26 May</i>	<i>HOLIDAYS</i>	
<i>Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 May</i>	<i>P7 Induction Days</i>	<i>St. Andrew's and St. Bride's</i>
<i>Thursday 29 May</i>	<i>Ascension Mass</i>	<i>1.30pm in the school hall- parents welcome</i>
<i>Monday 9 June</i>	<i>P7 Sacrament of Confirmation</i>	<i>St. Bride's Church at 7pm</i>
<i>Friday 14 June</i>	<i>Primary 7 Leavers Mass</i>	<i>In the school (pm)</i>
<i>Monday 16 -Friday 20 June</i>	<i>Health Week</i>	<i>Pupils can wear sports clothes each day Sports Day to be confirmed</i>
<i>Thursday 19 June</i>	<i>Primary 7 Leavers Mass and Assembly</i>	<i>1.15-2.45pm</i>
	<i>Primary 7 Leavers Party</i>	<i>5.30-7.30pm in the school</i>
<i>Wednesday 25 June</i>	<i>School closes for Summer at 1pm</i>	