

St Louise Primary

Autumn Newsletter

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer holiday. It is fantastic to see all the children back looking so well and rested. They look ready for the new session ahead! It is also fantastic to see all of our children in school uniform. We will continue to encourage them to wear school uniform throughout the year. Information on our school uniform can be found on our website and in our school handbook.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter of the school session. In this edition, you will find a list of key dates, including the school holidays for session 2023-24.



Parent Portal / School App

Parentsportal.scot is a new digital service to help replace the traditional 'school bag run' by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services. Through parentsportal.scot parents and carers will be able to grant permissions for school trips, view school lunch menus, view attendance, complete the annual data check, book parents evening and link directly to ParentPay to make payment for school meals plus much more.

To access parentsportal.scot go to <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>, If you have a mygovscot my account click the link to Sign In or if you don't have a mygovscot my account click the link to register for a mygovscot my account.

We need all families to sign up for the service as this will be our mode of communication going forward when all families have access (we currently only have 44 accounts registered). In the meantime, we will continue to use the school app until we have fully migrated to the Parentsportal.

Please ensure that you have downloaded and are using our school app as this is where we will post most of our information.

If for any reason you do not have access to the app, please contact the school office to request a paper copy of events and newsletters.



Staffing

Staffing remains stable this session with a full complement of staff. This session our CCC Teacher will be Mrs S Docherty who will deliver Sciences/STEM and PE. We would like to welcome new additions to our teaching staff; Miss Yardley who is teaching P6 alongside Mrs S Docherty and Mrs Cooper who is teaching P3 alongside Miss Cameron. We also welcome three new members to our school support team: Mrs Jamieson, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Purdie. This session Miss Clarke will continue in her role as Acting Deputy Head Teacher for Equity and Additional Support Needs (ASN) Coordinator.

If there is anything you would like to discuss about the school or any other matter, please contact the office who will direct your call accordingly. Please note that office-opening hours are **8.30am – 3.00pm**. Outside these times, you can leave a message on the answering service or email into the school office and it will be picked up at the first available time.

PSG

Please come along and support the Parent and Staff Group (PSG) at our AGM on **Wednesday 6th September at 7.00pm in St Louise Primary**. Everyone is welcome and we really do need your help. All parents/carers are considered members of the group. St Louise PSG work extremely hard to support the school in so many different ways. Please consider coming on board. We look forward to seeing you there and will make you feel very welcome.

You can find all current details of our PSG on the school website and contact details are there if you would like more information about the group.



Parent/Carer Volunteers

We are keen to take children out of school on educational excursions and we need your help and support. Some people give freely of their time to provide valuable support for our children and school.

This session we are in **desperate need of volunteers** to help in a number of ways:

- If you are able to accompany our children on any visits out of the school, then please contact the office to provide the days/times you would be available to help.
- If you are able to provide an extra-curricular club at lunchtimes or after school this would extend the variety of options we would be able to provide for the children.

These are just a few of the ways in which you could help. If you are interested in volunteering for the first time please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01355 230804 or, by e-mail: we would love to hear from you!

Please note that all volunteers who wish to work in schools must become a **member of the PVG scheme**. Please contact the school office for more information on this.



Annual Data Checks

Every session we have to check that we have all the correct and up to date information for parents/carers and emergency contacts. Please return these to the school as soon as possible in order for all records to be updated accordingly. Please also remember to inform the school if you change your contact numbers, mobile phone or emergency contact during the session. Due to a technical issue with Parentsportal, we have been advised to provide paper copies which will be sent home with your child.



Homework at St Louise

Homework is a great way for your child to share their learning with you. You can download our homework guidance leaflet from the school website or request a paper copy from the office. The 'opt in' part of homework should make it flexible for all our busy families and give more control over when and how much homework your child engages in.

Our homework is set weekly and the class teacher will provide you with an overview of the tasks to be completed. We use a variety of digital platforms and information will be shared with children on how to access these.



Outdoor Learning and PE

Due to the unpredictable nature of our weather and to support the increased learning that will take place outdoors we would ask that all pupils bring the following to school with them on a Monday morning: A bag containing a plain white t-shirt or school logo t-shirt, plain blue or black shorts and a pair of plain black joggers or leggings. The children will keep this bag in the cloakroom all week to use as and when required and will bring it home with them on a Friday or the last day of the week to be cleaned and brought back to school on a Monday. Please ensure that bags and belongings are labelled.



Promoting Positive Behaviour and Relationships

St Louise positive behaviour policy encourages pupils to aim for high standards in behaviour, work and effort - in class, in the playground, in the dining hall and when representing St Louise as part of a team or on a class trip.

The system also encourages the children to follow our three basic school rules:

- **Do as you are asked**
- **Be kind, respectful and helpful**
- **Keep hurtful hands, feet and objects to yourself**

Our behaviour levels and responses are followed to ensure a consistent approach to promoting positive behaviours and relationships and can be downloaded from the school website.

We also have three visible consistencies that we are all using to ensure our school is a great place for all. These include:

1. Using our good manners and respectful words when speaking to each other
2. Walking around the school in a safe and quiet way
3. Listening well to others when they speak to us or visit us



School Lunches

Please note that all Primary 1-5 children are entitled to a free school lunch every day. We felt it may be useful to remind you of this in case you would like your child to benefit from this entitlement. Current menus and details of pricing can be downloaded from our website. The new 2023-24 menu starts week beginning 28th August.



Reminders

As we begin a new term, please note the following reminders:

Family Holidays

Can I ask you to avoid taking your child out of school for holidays during term time please? This can be very disruptive to your child's education as they miss valuable teaching input when they are absent. These absences are recorded as 'Unauthorised' (except in very exceptional circumstances).

Water

We wish to encourage children to drink water throughout the day as we are aware of the potential benefits of doing so. Children can bring their own full water bottle into school with them and we do have a water point where bottles can be refilled if necessary. Children should have plain water in their bottle.

Pets

Please note that pets are not permitted in South Lanarkshire school grounds. If you have a pet, and are collecting your child, we would ask you to do so from outside the school gate. We also have a number of children who are frightened of dogs and would ask that you keep clear of the main pedestrian gate to allow children to leave our school grounds without fear.

Bikes and Scooters

Please note that, if children are bringing scooters or bikes to school, they should dismount at the school gates and walk with their scooter/bike when in the school grounds. When leaving, they should walk their scooter/bike out and only get on it once out of the school gates. This is important for the health and safety of those in the playground. We would also encourage children to wear a safety helmet. We will encourage children but would appreciate your support in reminding them of it.



Breakfast Club / School Playground

Please bear in mind that our breakfast club starts at **8.15am** and is free to all pupils in our school. As the school does not open until 8.15am for breakfast club only, pupils should be dropped off as close to this time as possible. To avoid children being late for class starting, we would ask that no child is later than **8.45am** for breakfast.

Playground supervision does not start until **8.30am**, unless your child is attending breakfast club, they should not come to school before 8.30am.

Access to Sanitary Products in Schools

The Scottish Government has announced funding to provide access to sanitary products to support equality and allow for full participation in education across schools.

South Lanarkshire Council supports this commitment, and to support this our school will hold a supply of sanitary towels for those pupils who need them and such supplies will also be available in advance to support during school holidays.

Pupils will be made aware on how they can access products within school by their class teacher. Alternatively, should parents wish to discuss how they can access a supply for their child this can be done by contacting the school office.

Snacks

Due to the increase of children with severe nut allergies, **please do not provide nut products as a snack or part of a packed lunch, which include Nutella products, peanut butter or any other nut related products.**



Thank you in advance for your support with all of the above.

Termly Learning Newsletter

Each term, class teachers will issue parents/carers with a newsletter containing information on what the children will be learning across the term. Please use this as a guide when encouraging your children to extend their homework further and when using the 'opt in' part of the guidelines. A copy of this can be found in the class section of the school website.



P1 Blessing

Our P1 children will receive a blessing from our local parish priests on Tuesday 10th October at 2.30pm in our school. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

P3, P4 and P7 Sacramental Meeting

If your child is making their First Reconciliation (P3), First Communion (P4) or Confirmation (P7) this year, please come along to our sacramental meeting in the school on Thursday 9th November at 5.00pm for further information. Please note the meeting is for parents/carers only.

St Louise Website

A range of information concerning school life is available via our school website www.st-louises-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk you can also follow our school life on our Twitter feed @stlouiseprimary



Holiday Dates 2023-24



Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
August 2023	
Teachers return on Monday 14 August 2023	
In-service days - all schools	Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 August 2023
Pupils return to school	Wednesday 16 August 2023
September 2023	
September weekend	Friday 22 and Monday 25 September 2023
October 2023	
October break	Monday 16 to Friday 20 October 2023 Pupils return on Monday 23 October 2023
November 2023	
In-service day - all schools	Monday 13 November 2023
December 2023 and January 2024	
Christmas/New Year	Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 22 December 2023 Schools re-open on Monday 8 January 2024
February 2024	
February break	Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 February 2024
In-service day - all schools	Wednesday 14 February 2024
March/April 2024	
Spring break/Easter	Schools close at 2.30pm on Thursday 28 March 2024* Schools re-open on Monday 15 April 2024
May 2024	
In-service day - all schools	Thursday 2 May 2024
May day	Monday 6 May 2024
Local holiday	Friday 24 and Monday 27 May 2024**
June 2024	
Summer break	Schools close at 1pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024

* Good Friday falls on Friday 29 March 2024

** Lanark schools will close on 6 and 7 June 2024

Pupils attend school for 190 days and teachers attend for 195 days.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 28 th August	3.15pm New S1s Drop In Session – Dining Hall (4 weeks)
Friday 1 st September	11.25am P5 Youth Music Initiative Lessons (19 weeks)
Wednesday 6 th September	7.00pm Parent and Staff Group (PSG) AGM (Parent Council)
Friday 15 th September	10.00am Beginning of New School Year Mass – Our Lady of Lourdes
Monday 2 nd October	1.00pm P6 Mission Mass – Carfin Grotto (Missio Champions)
Tuesday 10 th October	2.30pm P1 Blessing – (parents/carers welcome) 6.30pm P7 Welcome Mass – STA&STBs
Thursday 12 th October	3.30 – 6.30pm Parents' Open Evening
Tuesday 24 th October	1.30pm P6 Pope Francis Faith Award Service (pupils only)
Wednesday 1 st November	10.00am All Saints' Day Mass – Our Lady of Lourdes
Thursday 9 th November	5.00pm P3, P4 and P7 Sacramental Meeting – St Louise Primary
Friday 17 th November	9.15am Find Out Friday
16 th – 30 th November	Catholic Education Weeks
Friday 8 th December	Dress Rehearsals
Monday 11 th December	P1&2 Nativity morning (10.00am) and evening performance (7.00pm)
Tuesday 12 th December	10.45am P4-7 Confessions P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Wednesday 13 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon (1.15pm) and evening performance (7.00pm)
Monday 18 th December	Pm P1&2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	Pm P3&4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Pm P5&6 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st December	Pm P7 Christmas Party
Friday 22 nd December	2.30pm School Closes
Monday 8 th January	Pupils Return
Sunday 21 st January	11.00am Enrolment Mass for First Communion and First Confession - OLOL (P3 and P4 pupils)
Thursday 8 th February	9.15am Find Out Thursday
Wednesday 21 st February	6.00pm P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation – OLOL
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	10.30 P6 Swimming Session 1 (12 weeks)
Tuesday 19 th March	10.45am P3-7 Confessions
Thursday 28 th March	2.30pm School Closes
Monday 15 th April	Pupils Return
Friday 3 rd May	10.00am St Louise Feast Day Mass - OLOL
Thursday 9 th May	10.00am Ascension Thursday Mass - OLOL
Tuesday 14 th May	11.00am P7 PFFA Mass – St Vincent's Church 1.20pm P4 First Communion Practice - OLOL
Thursday 16 th May	3.15pm Parents' Evening
Saturday 18 th May	12noon P4 First Communion - OLOL
Wednesday 29 th May	9.15am Find Out Wednesday
Week beginning 3 rd June	St Louise Sports Day (Day TBC)
Tuesday 11 th June	1.30pm P7 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 18 th June	1.30pm P7 Leavers' Mass
Wednesday 26 th June	1.00pm School Closes

** Please note that these are proposed dates and may be subject to change. We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if dates need to be changed**

We always welcome the views of all our stakeholders and if anyone has any ideas or suggestions they wish to raise with us please send these in writing or by email gw14stlouiseoffice@glow.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Siobhan Mooty

Siobhan Mooty
Head Teacher