

# St Louise Primary School

## Spring Newsletter



### Adverse Weather

As you know we have now entered the colder months of the year with the possibility of adverse weather. Please refer to the school's adverse weather plan, which has been sent home via pupil post and is also available to download from the school website. We will endeavour to notify parents as soon as possible of any school closures or disruption to the normal school day through our Twitter, school website and texting service. You can also keep up to date with information relating to schools on South Lanarkshire Council's website and Twitter feed.

### Going Digital

As part of the council's paper free agenda and to improve further communication from the school, we will be going digital from next term with all newsletters and communication. We will only send home a paper copy if there is a need for a response.

We will shortly be issuing a letter to ask you to provide an email address for all communication to be sent to.

The school office will continue to keep a copy of all letters sent home and a paper copy will always be available on request.

### Lent

During Lent we will take part in many fundraising activities to support our usual charities of Let the Children Live, SCIAF and Missio. Information will be sent out in relation to each event.

We are hoping once again to have a mass in the morning during Lent and will send out more information on this when details are confirmed. All parents, carers, pupils and the local community are welcome to join us.

### PSG

Please come along and support the Parent and Staff Group at our next meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7pm in the school. Everyone is welcome, and we really do need your help. All parents/carers are considered to be members of the group. We look forward to seeing you there and will make you feel very welcome.

Minutes of all meetings and important dates can be found on the school website under the parents section.

Our Parent Staff Group are currently trying to organise new school tracksuits for the children to wear when they attend any festivals. If you have a business or know of anyone who might be willing to sponsor this, please contact a member of the group.

If interested, please contact [St.LouisePSG@gmail.com](mailto:St.LouisePSG@gmail.com) for more information.



### Gym Shoes

To ensure children are able to fully participate in PE lessons and from a safety aspect, could I please ask that you check your children's gym shoes throughout the school session and replace them when they have become too small or have become damaged from wear and tear. Teaching staff will also encourage children to bring them home and to let you know when new shoes are needed.

### Safety First

For Health & Safety reasons jewellery should not be worn on gym days. If you cannot remove your child's earrings could I ask that you provide him/her with plasters to cover them. Also a gentle reminder that our PE kit is a white t-shirt and royal blue shorts.



### Wider Achievement Wall

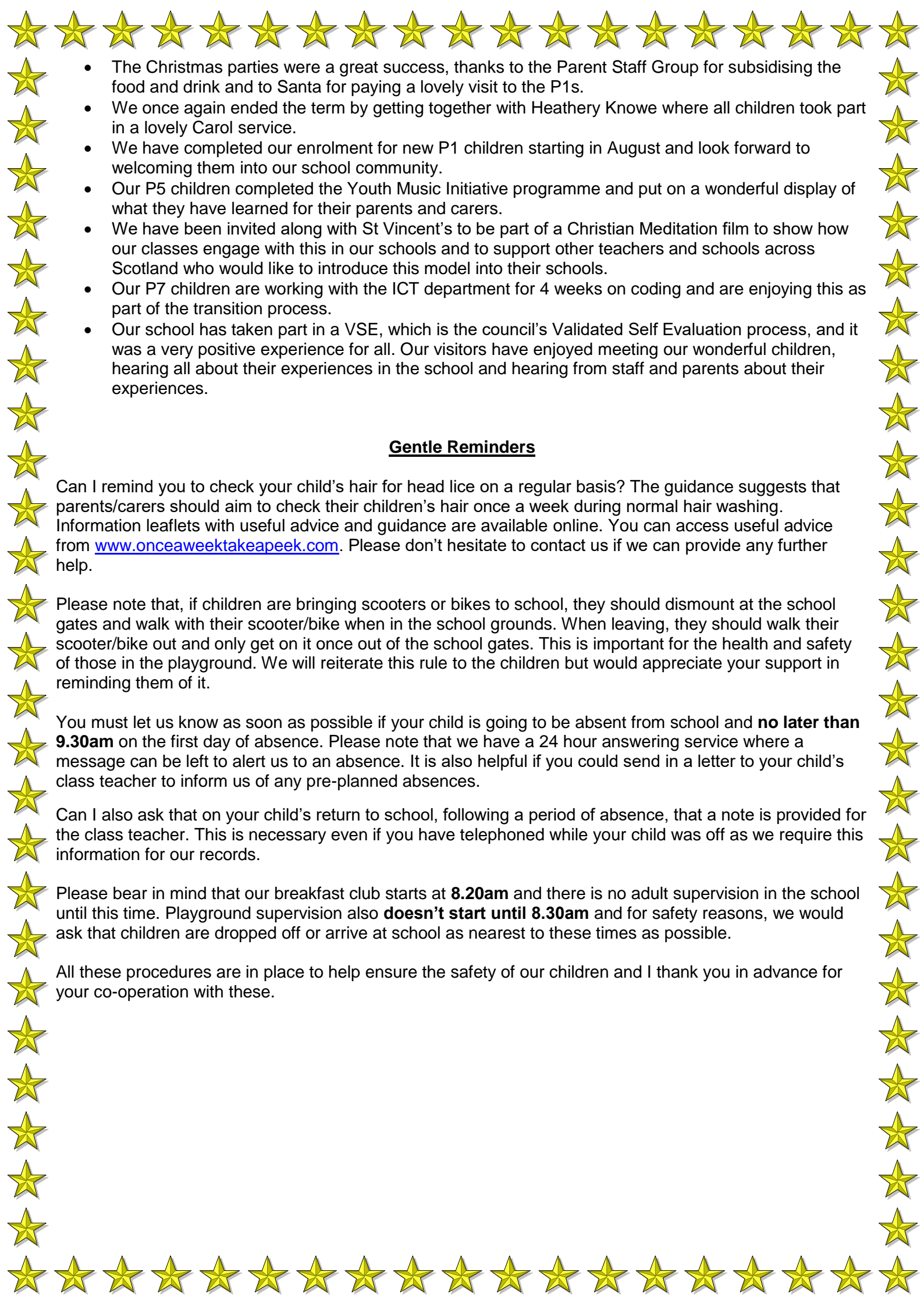
Thank you for your support in continuing to build our St Louise Wider Achievement Wall. The children are enjoying seeing the wall being built brick by brick every time one of their achievements is put on. We are all very proud of their achievements. **Remember if your child has done something out with school which you feel deserves recognition please see the office for an achievement form.**



### School News

- All of our classes have now had a visit to the local library and this has supported the school's priority this year on reading and the First Minister's Reading Challenge. It is hoped that we will organise a return visit for all classes in the final term. All classes have also engaged in an author visit and there will be further input through the author's live programme for our P4-7 children.
- The Art Department from STA&STB's worked with our children before Christmas and have continued their links with the school.
- The children thoroughly enjoyed the Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast – in the school at the end of November.
- Our P6 and P7 children attended Sports Hall athletics and have done very well over the sessions. Unfortunately, we did not get very far with the after school club we tried to organise but have now been given permission from parents and the high school for two former pupils to take the club every second week and we just need to get this organised going forward. The next event for the children will be the cross-country.
- Clubs running throughout the school last term and some into this term have included; Choir, Reading, Film, Netball, Football, Acting, Multi-sports and Games.
- P4, 5 and 6 completed the air quality workshops and feedback as usual shows that our children enjoy working on projects with outside agencies and contribute positively to the experience.
- Children have attended the football and netball festivals.
- The Salvation Army and the East Kilbride Community Trust kindly donated toys to the school at Christmas and we were able to re-distribute these to our children.
- Our Christmas Fayre was a great success, thank you to all and the children were complimented once again for their craft efforts, their singing and their staffing of the stalls.
- I think you will agree that both the nativity – Babushka – and the Christmas show – Baltic – were wonderful, the children once again showcased their fabulous talents, and skills as well as the hard work put in to support this from parents, carers and staff.



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- The Christmas parties were a great success, thanks to the Parent Staff Group for subsidising the food and drink and to Santa for paying a lovely visit to the P1s.
  - We once again ended the term by getting together with Heathery Knowe where all children took part in a lovely Carol service.
  - We have completed our enrolment for new P1 children starting in August and look forward to welcoming them into our school community.
  - Our P5 children completed the Youth Music Initiative programme and put on a wonderful display of what they have learned for their parents and carers.
  - We have been invited along with St Vincent's to be part of a Christian Meditation film to show how our classes engage with this in our schools and to support other teachers and schools across Scotland who would like to introduce this model into their schools.
  - Our P7 children are working with the ICT department for 4 weeks on coding and are enjoying this as part of the transition process.
  - Our school has taken part in a VSE, which is the council's Validated Self Evaluation process, and it was a very positive experience for all. Our visitors have enjoyed meeting our wonderful children, hearing all about their experiences in the school and hearing from staff and parents about their experiences.

### Gentle Reminders

Can I remind you to check your child's hair for head lice on a regular basis? The guidance suggests that parents/carers should aim to check their children's hair once a week during normal hair washing. Information leaflets with useful advice and guidance are available online. You can access useful advice from [www.onceaweektakeapeek.com](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com). Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further help.

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 will reiterate this rule to the children but would appreciate your support in reminding them of it.

You must let us know as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent from school and **no later than 9.30am** on the first day of absence. Please note that we have a 24 hour answering service where a message can be left to alert us to an absence. It is also helpful if you could send in a letter to your child's class teacher to inform us of any pre-planned absences.

Can I also ask that on your child's return to school, following a period of absence, that a note is provided for the class teacher. This is necessary even if you have telephoned while your child was off as we require this information for our records.

Please bear in mind that our breakfast club starts at **8.20am** and there is no adult supervision in the school until this time. Playground supervision also **doesn't start until 8.30am** and for safety reasons, we would ask that children are dropped off or arrive at school as nearest to these times as possible.

All these procedures are in place to help ensure the safety of our children and I thank you in advance for your co-operation with these.

## Road Safety

Thank you for your continued support in making the journey to and from school as safe as it can be for all our children. Unfortunately, there continues to be a number of issues around the parking in the school car park and out on Whitehills Terrace. Please see below all road safety rules the school has put in place to minimise these issues. Could you also share this with anyone who drops off or picks up your child.

### Engine Idling

All schools in South Lanarkshire Council are 'No Idling Zones' and drivers are not permitted to park in the car park or leave a car with its engine running to drop off or pick up children.

Idling harms our health: vehicle exhaust fumes are damaging to everyone's health, but it especially affects children, who breathe more and at a faster rate than adults. By turning off your engine, you can improve the quality of air pupils, parents and teachers breathe while they are at school.

Idling pollutes the air we breathe: an idling engine produces unnecessary pollution and can produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion. By not idling, you reduce the level of harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere.

Keep money in your wallet and save fuel: despite the popular story that idling your car uses less fuel than turning it off and restarting – idling actually costs you money. It is more fuel efficient to turn off your engine and this will also reduce the wear and tear on your engine.

Please support St Louise Primary's No Idling campaign and turn off your car while waiting to drop off or pick up your child. Together, we can make a real difference and improve the quality of air we all breathe.

### Parking

Could I please remind you that the staff car park is for staff only and for safety and insurance purposes we only permit school staff to park beyond the designated staff parking sign. I would also ask that you don't stand in the car park or obstruct the entrance as staff need access in and out of the car park at all times.

To further ensure the safety of all children in the school car park at drop off and pick up times, we will be using cones to mark areas that are not designated for parking.

Please note that the area to the front of the school where children use the zebra crossing is not a parking area and because there is a zebra crossing there we need to maintain a safe distance for all children when using the crossing.



As you know pupil safety is a high priority for us and we would ask that you keep this in mind when dropping off or picking up your child at school.

It is essential that parents/carers do not park or wait on the yellow zig-zag lines to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Please note that the zig-zag markings are there to indicate the length of road where you should not stop, not even to pick up or drop off children. These markings are provided outside schools to ensure our children can see and be seen clearly when crossing the road.

Please also consider parking out with the school car park and walking part of the journey to help ease congestion. Thank you for your continued support with this.

As you know a number of places for dropping off pupils have been made available at the front of the school car park and the ramp which we open at the end of the school day has enabled us to provide more parking opportunities. This is one-way only and we would ask that no one reverses out of the school if they are at the back of the queue. Please can I ask that you only park in appropriate places and always be vigilant about pupil safety. I would also ask that if you are using the **Disabled Parking bays** at the front of the school you are displaying your **Blue Badge clearly in the front window of your car**.



Please do not walk your child through the vehicular entrance or across the car park. Always use the pathways and zebra crossings. Over the summer the yellow zig zag lines and boxes were re-painted to show clearly the areas that cars cannot park on or wait in. Unless you are parked on the ramp and making your way back to your parked car it is safer to use the main walking entrance next to the main gate. Could I please ask that whoever drops your child off and picks them up from school follows the safety guidance in place. This includes children following the safest route around the car park and into the school as some children are still being walked across the car park and this is extremely dangerous.

I would also ask that you limit your speed while in the school car park and be mindful of cars coming in or leaving the school. As our entrance is only able to permit one vehicle at a time, we need to adopt a give way procedure here. As you approach the school, I would ask that you stop and look into the car park to ensure that no one is coming out and if they are, you wait until the route is clear before entering the car park.

Staff will politely remind parents and carers if they are parked illegally or in an unsafe manner. If someone refuses to comply then the Police will be alerted. Recently, the Police have had a presence at the school due to our parking issues and will continue to do this to support our measures.

We would appreciate your support with our road safety measures and school rules regarding parking.



### Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	P1 – 7 Workshops on Handwashing
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	12.00 Netball Festival
	10.40am P6 Nil by Mouth Workshop 1
	1.20pm P6 Nil by Mouth Workshop 2
	10.00am OLOL Confirmation Retreat
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	3.15pm Parent/Carer Information Session for P6 Nil by Mouth Project – Heathery Knowe Primary School
	P1 Health Forms due to School
	P7 with STA&STB ICT Dept
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	1.15pm Travel Plan launch at Assembly
	P3 Multi-sports – every Mon until 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	12.15pm Football Festival
	3.00pm Athletics Club – every Wednesday until further notice
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	1.30pm P6 & P7 Road Safety Play
	7.00pm Confirmation – St Vincent's Church
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	P6 to Cathedral Visit
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	School Holidays
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	In-service Day
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	10.40am P6 Nil by Mouth Workshop 1
	1.20pm P6 Nil by Mouth Workshop 2
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	9.30am P6 Eczema Outreach Workshop
	2.00pm Whole School Focus Groups
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	St Vincent's Reconciliation – Day of Preparation
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Fairtrade Fortnight
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	1.30pm P7s Spanish Café for OLOL PS
	7.00pm PSG Meeting
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	9.25am Find Out Thursday & World Book Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Respect Me Week – Building Empathy
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Fairtrade Café
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Wednesday
	12.15pm Football Festival
	6.30pm P7 Auchengillan Information Evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00 Netball Festival
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm St Vincent's Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am P7s Spanish Café for OLOL PS
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am P4&P5 to OLOL for Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am P6&P7 to OLOL for Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	6.00pm OLOL Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	P4-7 Confessions
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm PSG Meeting
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>2.30pm</b> School Closes
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	P7 to Auchengillan
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	12.15pm Football Festival
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Holidays
Thursday 18/25 <sup>th</sup> April	Netball Festival
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	St Vincent's First Communion Preparation Day
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.25am Find Out Wednesday
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	P7 Drama Input from STA&STB's
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	PSG Race Night (TBC)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	School Holiday Respect Me Week – Positive Relationships
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	In-service Day
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm St Louise Feast Day Mass P7 Drama Input from STA&STB's
	PSG St Louise Disco (6.30-7.30pm P1-3) (7.45-8.45pm P4-7)
Thursday 9/16 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball Tournament
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	1.00pm OLOL First Communion
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm P5 to OLOL for Spanish Café 7.00pm PSG Meeting
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	P7 Drama Input from STA&STB's 3.30pm Parents' Evening
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am St Vincent's First Communion
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	7.00pm P7 Parent Information Evening 2 – STA&STB's (Parents and Pupils)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	P7 Induction Day 1
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	P7 Induction Day 2
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	School Holidays
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm Ascension Thursday Mass
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	6.30pm Summer Fair
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	St Louise Sports Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Netball Festival 2.00pm Whole School Focus Groups
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass for PFFA (TBC)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm P7 Leavers' Mass
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm P7 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> 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\*\*

### Holiday

Please note that the school will close on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**. On behalf of all the pupils and staff here at St Louise Primary we wish you a Happy and Holy Easter break when it comes.

Yours sincerely

*Siobhan Mooty*

Siobhan Mooty  
Head Teacher

