

St Louise Primary

Autumn Newsletter

2020

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to everyone to a new academic year at St Louise Primary School. It is fantastic to see all the children back looking so well and rested. They look ready for the new session ahead! I hope you had a pleasant summer holiday. I would especially like to wish a warm welcome to all our new children and their families who have joined us in P1 and other stages across the school. It is also fantastic to see all of our children in school uniform. We will be encouraging them to wear school uniform throughout the year. Information on our school uniform can be found on our website and in our school handbook.

Please find below information which I hope you find useful.



Return to School

I would like to thank you all for your support in ensuring such a smooth return to school for the children. The children have been fantastic and settled in well. I appreciate these are challenging times and through working together we will continue to make St Louise as safe as possible for everyone. Please keep checking our School App, Twitter and School Website for updates in these ever changing times.



www.st-louises-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

@stlouiseprimary

Pupil Attendance

You can help us tremendously by letting us know as soon as possible if your child is absent from school. Please note that if we have not heard from you the school office will contact you asking you to let us know the reason for your child's absence.

- On the morning when the absence starts please telephone the school on 230804 to inform us. You will be asked the nature of the illness to ensure we use the correct code to record the absence.
- When your child returns to school please send a signed letter explaining the reason for your child's absence for our records.

- If no contact is made the office will call to establish the reason for the child's absence. If we are unable to make contact we will need to record the child as missing and may need to alert the relevant authorities.

Until further notice we will continue to implement a staggered drop off in the morning and children can come into school **between 8.45am and 9.05am.**



Drop Off and Pick Up

To support our effort to reduce congestion in and around the school I ask you to continue to follow the guidance in place:

Drop Off

In the first instance we are asking that where possible families make arrangements for children to walk to school or to be dropped off near the school where they can make their way to school on foot to try and avoid any large gatherings within/near the school grounds.

- Only staff and people who have an appointment with the school will be allowed to enter the car park, along with any authorised vehicles responsible for transporting children to school (such as taxis organised by SLC and those in receipt of a blue badge)
- Parents/Carers who are in receipt of a blue badge which is clearly displayed in their car should follow the one way system in the morning and will be permitted to park in one of the spaces in the car park
- If you are travelling by car and using the drop off system on the ramp, I would ask that you are patient. Please ensure that you have passed the second gate before allowing your child to exit the vehicle next to the main office door, **for safety reasons we also ask that you do not overtake other drivers on the ramp at any time**
- We need you to be vigilant and remember that there is a pedestrian crossing at this ramp and children will be crossing frequently
- In order to allow a steady flow and to avoid congestion, we would ask that cars are not double parked on Whitehills Terrace
- As children arrive at school staff will be on hand to direct them

Pick Up

At the end of the school day we would advise that parents/carers where possible arrange to meet their children outside of the school grounds and walk to and from school.

For those who this is not possible, we would ask that in the first instance you park in car parks away from the school and arrange to meet or walk to the school.

If you need to use the school grounds to pick up your child please only send 1 adult to do this, **remembering to keep 2m apart from others.**

- At the end of the school day there will be a one-way flow in to and out of the playground for pick up. Parents/carers should enter by the top gate, make their way into the playground area opposite the main entrance and stand in one of the markings. Once you have collected your child you should then make your way out of the exit gate next to the main car park gate.
- We will open the school car park and ramp to allow some cars to park but ask that you remain next to your vehicle or wait in the designated pick up area and when your child is leaving the building you indicate to them where you are.
- All children will be dismissed through the dining room door with the exception of P6 and P7 and a staggered approach used to enable continued adherence to the social distancing rules.

- 2.45pm All family groups, taxi groups and those attending a child minder will be dismissed along with P1 children
- 2.50pm P2 and P3 will be dismissed
- 2.55pm P4 and P5 will be dismissed
- 2.55pm P6 and P7 will be dismissed from their own door and will make their way round to the front door
- All children will use the safe crossings to make their way to their parents – **children should not cross the main car park**
- It is important that children have a clear understanding of the arrangements for pick up at home time

All school policies, guidance and maps can be downloaded from the 'About Us' section of the school website.

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 forms 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.



Flu Immunisation

All children have brought home their flu immunisation letter and will receive immunisations on Friday 4th December. NHS Staff will visit the school and administer the vaccine to the children. If you haven't returned the letter, please do so as soon as possible.

Parent Pay

We are now operating a cashless payment system and all families must activate their Parent Pay account. Please contact the school office if you are having any difficulties doing this.

Labels

Can we ask you to ensure your child's belongings are labelled please e.g. jackets, packed lunch boxes etc. There are many similar, if not identical items, so a label helps them and us to keep track of their belongings.



Medicine

If your child has medication that requires administered in school you must complete a medical form for this session. A form can be downloaded from the school website or contact the school office who will send one

home with your child. Once the form is filled in and signed it can be returned to the school with the medicine.

Please note we cannot administer any medication without a completed form and all medication must be in date and prescribed to your child.



Homework at St Louise

Homework plays a crucial part in your child's education. 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 homework flexible for all our busy families and give more control over when and how much homework your child engages in.



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 drawstring bag containing a plain white t-shirt or school logo t-shirt, a pair of plain black joggers or leggings and a waterproof jacket with a hood.

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 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 Primary's positive behaviour policy encourages pupils to aim for high standards in behaviour, work and effort - in class, in the playground, in the cafeteria 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 your hands and feet 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.



School Lunches

Please note that all Primary 1, 2 and 3 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.

Families who are in receipt of benefits are entitled to a free school meal and/or a clothing grant. Please see South Lanarkshire Council's website for further information and to make an application:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals



Other Information

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

If your child is being collected by a child-minder or after school club, it is important to contact the school office to advise of this and the days of pick-up.

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 at your local pharmacy. You can also access useful advice from www.onceaweektakeapeek.com. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further help.

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).

We want 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.

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.

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.



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 - Allergies

We have children in school who have a range of medical conditions and some are of a severe allergic nature. We ask you not to send your child to school with any products containing nuts as a snack or part of a packed lunch, which include Nutella products, peanut butter, chocolate spread or any other nut related products. Please also refrain from sending in a birthday cake or any other sweet treats when it is your child's birthday as we will not be able to share these with the children.



We appreciate your cooperation and support with these sensitive and important matters of child safety and in ensuring that no child is made to feel excluded.

Holiday Dates



Education Resources School holiday Dates Session 2020-21

Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
August 2020	
Teachers return on Tuesday 11 August 2020	Pupils begin returning on Wednesday 12 August 2020 There will be a phased return, with all pupils in school from Monday 17 August 2020. Schools will let parents know on what days pupils will attend from Wednesday 12 August until Friday 14 August 2020.
In-service day - all schools	Tuesday 11 August 2020
September 2020	
September weekend	Friday 25 and Monday 28 September 2020 Pupils return on Tuesday 29 September 2020
October 2020	
October break	Monday 12 to Friday 16 October 2020 Pupils return on Monday 19 October 2020
November 2020	
In-service day - all schools	Monday 16 November 2020
December 2020 and January 2021	
Christmas/New Year	Schools close at 2.30pm on Tuesday 22 December 2020 Schools re-open on Wednesday 6 January 2021
February 2021	

Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
February break	Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February 2021
In-service day - all schools	Wednesday 10 February 2021
March/April 2021	
Spring break/Easter	Schools close at 2.30pm on Thursday 1 April 2021* Schools re-open on Monday 19 April 2021
May 2021	
May Day	Monday 3 May 2021
In-service day - all schools	Thursday 6 May 2021
Local holiday	Friday 28 and Monday 31 May 2021**
June 2021	
Summer break	Schools close at 1pm on Thursday 24 June 2021
Proposed teacher return - 2021/22 session Tuesday 10 August 2021	Proposed pupil return - 2021/22 session Thursday 12 August 2021

* Good Friday falls on Friday 2 April 2021

** Lanark schools will close on 10 and 11 June 2021

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

In line with current guidance, parents/carers are not permitted to enter the school building and we would ask that you follow the Government's advice on social distancing when collecting your child at the end of the school day.

Any questions or queries should be sent in to the school by letter or email or alternatively you can call the school office, where someone will get back to as soon as they can.

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, by email gw14stlouisepsoffice@glow.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Siobhan Mooty

Siobhan Mooty
Head Teacher