

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 our children in school uniform. Please see below information about our school uniform.

We have a beautiful uniform at St Louise:

Inverness Royal Blue blazer with Royal Blue Ribbon Piping,

White shirt/blouse

Plain Grey skirt//pinafore/trousers, (Please note our uniform is plain grey and not chequered, navy or black)

Grey v-neck jumper/cardigan with/without school badge,

The school tie may be purchased from ParentPay and collected from the school.

The PE Kit is White T shirt and Royal blue shorts with/without school badge or plain grey, blue or black leggings or jogging bottoms. All children must change out of their PE clothes following their lesson. Pupils should bring their PE kit into school at the start of the week and it will be kept here and returned at the end of the week.

We have a bank of pre-loved, great condition uniform within the school and please contact us if there are any items you are in need of throughout the school session.

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 2024-25. The first edition of our newsletter is sent out in paper format but please note that going forward all other newsletters and communication will be sent out through our Parents Portal system.



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. Parents Portal also provide a school app through the mobile app store as this is where we will post all of our information.

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.

If there is anything you would like to discuss about the school or any other matter, please contact the school office who will direct your call accordingly. Please note that office-opening hours are **8.30am – 3.00pm**. Outside of 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 opportunity.

PSG

Please come along and support the Parent and Staff Group (PSG) at our AGM on **Wednesday 18th 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. Throughout the school session, we will ask for volunteers via the Parents Portal notification and would be grateful to those who can offer their time to accompany the staff and pupils on their excursions. If we do not have the correct adult to pupil ratio then we may not be able to attend the various festivals and events which are planned each session.



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 ensure you have checked your details on Parents Portal for the school session ahead. Please also remember to inform the school if you change your contact numbers, mobile phone or emergency contact during the session.



Medication



If your child requires to take any medicine during the course of the school day you must complete a consent/request pro-forma which will ensure that all medicines are administered safely. No child should be given medicine to take without the school having been informed. Children should not carry medication in their school bag. The form can be collected from our school office and medicine can only be administered when the appropriate forms are filled in. All medicines must be prescribed for your child, clearly labelled and in date.

Improvement Priorities for Session 2024-25

Every session we write a school improvement plan. This helps us to continue to move forward in a structured and focused way. The key outcome is to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our children.

This session we are focusing on the following:

Strategic Priorities

1. Improving our Schools Programme (with a focus on raising attainment in Numeracy)
2. Developing Play Based Learning at First Level
3. Enhancing Parental Engagement with a Focus on Children’s Rights
4. Honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life

We will continue to work with all establishments in the St Andrew’s and St Bride’s Learning Community on transition, parish and community involvement and moderation.

A more detailed version of our School Improvement Plan for session 2024-25 and our Standards and Quality Report for session 2023-24 will be available in the ‘About Us’ section of the school website from 31st August.



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.

Please remind children that if they are dropped off in the main car park, they must follow the safe route round to the school using the zebra crossings - **they should not walk across the car park.**

Parents/Carers are encouraged to use the one-way drop off system but if you do need to use the school car park, please note that the parent/carers car park is located at the front of the school. The rear car park is for staff only.

In the morning children should be dropped at the main gate or walked to the main crossing. For the safety of all pupils, parents/carers should use the main pedestrian gate and not the two vehicle entrances.

For security reasons, no parents/carers are permitted to be in the school playgrounds and entry to the school for parents/carers is through the main office door. If you need to speak with the office staff or have an appointment with the school, please let a member of staff know and they will direct you to the main office door.

At the end of the school day, all parents/carers should wait in the designated pick-up area of the playground at the front of the school or stand beside your car. Please **do not congregate around the front of the school**, as this is the collection point for after school care staff and children in receipt of a blue badge. All children will be brought to the zebra crossing and will make their way across to the adult who is collecting them.



Wider Achievements

Remember if your child has done something out with school which you feel deserves recognition, please fill in the online wider achievements form and send in any pictures to the school office email.



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. Homework will begin **week beginning 2nd September**.



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 blue, grey or 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 2024-25 menu starts week beginning 26th 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 8th October at 2.30pm in our school. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

P3, P4 and P7 Sacraments

If your child is making their First Reconciliation (P3), First Communion (P4) or Confirmation (P7) this year, please come complete the online Google form which will be sent out next week to help in the planning and preparation of this. We are currently finalising the dates for these and will keep you up to date with this. This session Confirmation will be celebrated in Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Reconciliation and First Communion will be celebrated in St Vincent's Church.

St Louise Website

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



Holiday Dates 2024-25



Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
August 2024	
Teachers return on Monday 12 August 2024	
In-service days - all schools	Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 August 2024
Pupils return to school	Wednesday 14 August 2024
September 2024	
September weekend	Friday 27 and Monday 30 September 2024
October 2024	
October break	Monday 14 to Friday 18 October 2024 Pupils return on Monday 21 October 2024
November 2024	
In-service day - all schools	Monday 11 November 2024
December 2024 and January 2025	
Christmas/New Year	Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024 Schools re-open on Monday 6 January 2025
February 2025	

Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
February break	Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February 2025
In-service day - all schools	Wednesday 19 February 2025
March/April 2025	
Spring break/Easter	Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 4 April 2025* Schools re-open on Tuesday 22 April 2025
May 2025	
In-service day - all schools	Thursday 1 May 2025
May day	Monday 5 May 2025
Local holiday	Friday 23 and Monday 26 May 2025**
June 2025	
Summer break	Schools close at 1pm on Wednesday 25 June 2025

* Good Friday falls on Friday 18 April 2025

** Lanark schools will close on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 June 2025

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 17 th September	P7 visit to Sky Academy
Friday 20 th September	10.00am Beginning of New School Year Mass – Our Lady of Lourdes
Thursday 26 th September	P1 Photo for Glasgow Times
Tuesday 8 th October	2.30pm P1 Blessing – (parents/carers welcome)
Thursday 10 th October	3.30 – 6.30pm Parents’ Open Evening
Week beginning 21 st October	Travelling Book Fair
Thursday 24 th October	1.30pm P6 Pope Francis Faith Award Service (pupils only)
Friday 1 st November	All Saints’ Day Mass – Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday 15 th November	9.15am Find Out Friday Session
16 th – 30 th November	Catholic Education Weeks
Wednesday 27 th November	P7 Confirmation – 7pm OLOL Church
Friday 6 th December	Dress Rehearsals
Monday 9 th December	P1&2 Nativity morning (10.00am) and evening performance (7.00pm)
Tuesday 10 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Wednesday 11 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon (1.15pm) and evening performance (7.00pm)
Monday 16 th December	Pm P1&2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 th December	Pm P3&4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 th December	Pm P5&6 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 th December	Pm P7 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December	2.30pm School Closes
Monday 6 th January	Pupils Return
Week beginning 13 th January	P1 Enrolments for August 2025
Thursday 6 th February	9.15am Find Out Thursday Session
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass - OLOL
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March	1.30pm P6 Swimming Session 1 (12 weeks)
Friday 4 th April	2.30pm School Closes
Tuesday 22 nd April	Pupils Return
Friday 9 th May	10.00am St Louise Feast Day Mass - OLOL
Thursday 15 th May	3.15pm Parents’ Evening
Wednesday 28 th May	9.15am Find Out Wednesday
Thursday 29 th May	Ascension Thursday Mass - OLOL
Week beginning 2 nd June	St Louise Sports Day (Day TBC)
Tuesday 10 th June	1.30pm P7 Leavers’ Mass
Tuesday 17 th June	1.15pm P7 Leavers’ Assembly
Wednesday 25 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