

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/Royal Blue 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 plain blue/black/grey 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 2026-27. **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. Please ensure you are signed up for this and contact the school office if you are having any difficulties setting it up.**



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 Miss Yardley who will deliver PE and STEM/Science.

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 or email accordingly. Please refer to the guidance sent home with full details of the procedures for communicating with the school.

Please note that office-opening hours are **8.45am – 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.

Parent Council

Please come along and support the school Parent Council at our AGM on **Wednesday 16th 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 Parent Council 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 Parent Council 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. Volunteers must hold a valid PVG for the school. These can be applied for through our Parent Council.



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.



Medical and Extra Curricular Forms

Throughout the school session you will receive notification of organised excursions for your child. Please ensure that you complete the relevant online permissions and forms so that your child is able to attend these visits.



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.



Absences

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. If we are unable to make contact with a family and we are concerned for the safety of the pupil, we may have to notify Social Work or the Police. All of 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.



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/tape to cover them.



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 2026-27

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. Learning for Sustainability
2. Digital Tools and AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Education
3. Celebrating and Worshipping with a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes.

We will continue to work with all establishments in the St Andrew's and St Bride's Learning Community on transition, skills development and questioning techniques.

A more detailed version of our School Improvement Plan for session 2026-27 and our Standards and Quality Report for session 2025-26 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 refer to the guidance sent home for full details.

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/carer car park is located at the front of the school and all cars should park in a designated space. **The rear car park and spaces next to the disabled bays are for staff only.**

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 office area of the school, as this is the collection point for after school care staff.



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 on the school website 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 from week beginning 31st August.



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 and relationships 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 2026-27 menu starts week beginning 24th 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 this time.

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.



P3, P4 and P7 Sacraments

If your child is making their First Reconciliation (P3), First Communion (P4) or Confirmation (P7) this year, information will be sent out to help in the planning and preparation of this. Please complete the online form recently issued to let us know. This session Confirmation will be celebrated in Our Lady of Lourdes Church with Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be celebrated in St Vincent's Church. Please see below dates for the sacraments.

P7 Confirmation	Thursday 12 th November 7pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Enrolment Mass	Sunday 24 th January 11.30am	St Vincent's Church
P3 Reconciliation (First Confession)	Monday 15 th March 6pm	St Vincent's Church
P4 First Holy Communion	Saturday 15 th May 10am	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 Blue Sky platform @stlouiseprimary.



Holiday Dates 2026-27

School holidays 2026/27

August 2026

- Tuesday 11 August - teachers return
- Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 August - in-service days (all schools)
- Thursday 13 August - pupils return to school

September 2026

- Friday 25 September and Monday 28 September (September weekend holiday)

October 2026

- Monday 12 October to Friday 16 October (October break)

November 2026

- Monday 9 November (in-service day)

December 2026 and January 2027

- Tuesday 22 December (schools close at 2.30pm)
- Wednesday 6 January 2027 - pupils return to school

February 2027

- Monday 15 February and Tuesday 16 February (February break)
- Wednesday 17 February (in-service day)

March 2027

- Friday 26 March (Good Friday)
- Monday 29 March (Easter Monday)

April 2027

- Friday 2 April (schools close at 2.30pm)
- Monday 5 April to Friday 16 April (Spring break)
- Monday 19 April - pupils return to school

May 2027

- Monday 3 May (May day)
- Thursday 6 May (in-service day - all schools)
- Friday 28 May and Monday 31 May* (Local holiday)

June 2027

- Friday 25 June (schools close at 1pm for summer break)

*Lanark schools will close on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June 2027

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

Dates for your Diary

Friday 28 th August	P5 YMI Lessons (19 weeks)
Thursday 17 th September	3.15-4.45pm Neurodevelopmental Service Drop-In for Parents/Carers – Heathery Knowe Primary
Monday 21 st September	10.00 Beginning of School Year Mass – OLOL Church
Thursday 24 th August	3.15-4.45pm Neurodevelopmental Service Drop-In for Parents/Carers – Heathery Knowe Primary
Wednesday 16 th September	1.15 P1 Glasgow Times Photograph 7.00 Parent Council AGM
Tuesday 29 th September	2.30pm P1 Blessing – St Louise Primary
Wednesday 30 th September	P1 – P4 Childsmile
Tuesday 6 th October	9.30 Bishop Toal Visit to School
Thursday 8 th October	3.30 – 6.30pm Parent/Carers' Open Evening
Monday 19 th October	1.30 P6 PFFA Enrolment Service (Pupils Only)
Tuesday 27 th October	School Photographs
TBC	Halloween Discos 6.00-7.00pm P1 – P4 7.15-8.15pm P5 – P7
Wednesday 4 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 12 th November	7.00 P7 Confirmation – Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Friday 13 th November	Dress Down Day – Parent Council Christmas Fayre Raffle Donations 9.15am Find Out Friday Session
16 th – 30 th November	Catholic Education Weeks
Friday 27 th November	3.30-5.30 St Louise Christmas Fayre
Friday 4 th December	Dress Rehearsals for Shows
Monday 7 th December	P1&2 Nativity morning (10.00am) and afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Tuesday 8 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Wednesday 9 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Thursday 10 th December	P3-7 Christmas Show afternoon performance (1.15pm)
Tuesday 15 th December	Pm P1&2 Christmas Party

Wednesday 16th December	Pm P3&4 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	Pm P5&6 Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	Pm P7 Christmas Party
Tuesday 22nd December	2.30pm School Closes
Wednesday 6th January	Pupils Return
Thursday 7th January	Flu Vaccination Catch Up
Week beginning 11th January	P1 Enrolments for August 2027
Sunday 24th January	11.30am First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Enrolment Mass – St Vincent's Church
Wednesday 10th February	10.00 Ash Wednesday Mass – OLOL Church
Monday 22nd February	PM P6 Swimming Session 1 (12 weeks)
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
Monday 15th March	6.00pm P3 Reconciliation – St Vincent's Church
Thursday 18th March	9.15am Find Out Thursday Session
Friday 26th March Monday 29th March	Schools Closed – Easter Weekend
Friday 2nd April	2.30pm School Closes
Monday 19th April	Pupils Return
TBC	P4 First Communion – St Vincent's Church
Thursday 13th May	3.15pm Parents/Carers' Evening
Saturday 15th May	10.00am First Holy Communion – St Vincent's Church
Friday 21st May	Dress Down Day – donations for Parent Council Summer Fayre Raffle
Friday 5th June	6.00 – 8.00 St Louise Summer Fayre
Week beginning 7th June	St Louise Sports Day (Day TBC)
Tuesday 15th June	1.15pm P7 Leavers' Mass
Tuesday 22nd June	1.30pm P7 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 25th 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

Head Teacher