

St. Helen's Primary School

Our vision, as a Catholic School, is that St. Helen's Primary School will be an ambitious Community of Faith and Learning where mutual respect and tolerance are expected and encouraged.

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**ST HELEN'S PS:
8TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely start to our new session. We have welcomed our new Primary 1 children and their parents and they are settling well into our St Helen's family. We have enjoyed some lovely weather giving everyone an opportunity to get out and play together. We look forward to an exciting year of learning, fun and friendship.

This is our first full monthly newsletter of the session and as such there is a lot of information and reminders included in it. My apologies for its extended length but it is important to share this information to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our children and whole community.

Arrangements for session 2023-24

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we have been settling back into school routines. The children have adapted well to the morning routine helped by the 'get ready' bell at 8.57am which lets them get to the class line ready to get into class at 9am. Thank you parents and carers for moving to the back of the yard at this time to allow the Class Teachers a clear view of the children as they



organise them and move into school. It is fabulous to see our children from Primary 1- 7 socialising with each other in the playground before school!

One important matter - can I please ask that you do not bring your child into school by the main driveway as this is a busy area with cars and no pedestrian path. Please use the Gates at Wester Cleddens Rd and Pentland Drive.

If you are coming into school late or at any other time you would use the main drive to access the school office and main entrance. Thank you.

School Uniform and PE Days

Thank you so much for your continued support of the school uniform. The children all look so smart and proudly wearing their uniform. The school uniform helps to develop a sense of community and promotes inclusion as well as removing the peer pressure for expensive branded items. The children should wear their full school uniform on the 3 days that they do not have Physical Education.

PE days have now been set and the children should wear their PE uniform to school on those 2 days only.

On PE days can I ask you to please remove all jewellery before coming to school, in particular earrings. East Dunbartonshire Council policy does not allow jewellery to be worn or earrings to be covered with tape during PE.



Also, can I remind you to **write/put your child's name on all items of clothing and bags**. It is often a good idea to personalise blazers and school waterproofs with a badge or key ring on the zip also. It is almost impossible to find/return lost items when there is no name on them and it can be expensive to replace these items. We are already gathering quite a lot of lost property that cannot be identified as there are no names on them.

Health and Safety

Water in school

Can I remind you that children are not allowed cans or glass bottles in school. We do encourage all children to bring a refillable water bottle to use in class. During class time children can become thirsty which can affect their concentration thus it is advised that each child brings a **bottle of plain water** to school which can be replenished throughout the day. They can have a flavoured drink or milk as part of their lunch/packed lunch but it should not be a fizzy, sugary or energy drink. Thank you



Allergies

Several children in the school suffer from various allergies. Can I ask that you support us in keeping them safe by not giving your children anything that contains

nuts such as peanut butter and chocolate nut spread. The school needs to be a nut-free zone. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Parking in and around the school

Parking is a difficulty at the school. Can I remind you that the parking spaces at the flats at Palmer Court are private. Please avoid parking in this area and park responsibly with consideration for our neighbours.



Parents are welcome to park at the car park at **St Dominic's Church** and walk the short distance into school.

Very importantly - No cars are allowed to park in the school car parks except where there are notified medical reasons and you are displaying a Blue Badge (Disability). In such cases you should contact Mrs O'Connor to make this arrangement.

Furthermore, we ask that you do not stop or turn at the entrance/gate to the school as this causes congestion and endangers our staff and children.

Head Lice



Head lice can be a constant problem in schools. It is advisable to routinely check your children's hair each week. Please also let the school know so that we can be aware of any outbreak. Thank you.

Media Devices

Does your child have a mobile phone, smart watch or games console? The following website will help you to set up parental controls which can help avoid unsuitable content being accessed by your child, no matter their age, www.internetmatters.org. has a list of all the latest devices, how to set them up and is easy to follow.



Can I also ask you to remind your children that if they have a mobile phone at school it must remain switched off and in their bags while on school premises- including in the school yard- throughout the day. Furthermore, Smart watches should absolutely not be used for calls, messaging or photographs within school. Thank you.

Sharing Learning with Parents and Carers

Meet the Staff



Thank you to everyone who managed along to our Meet the Staff events this week. It was lovely to see so many of you and hope you also welcomed being able to meet informally with your child's teacher and see their classroom and resources.

Parents Evening Meetings

Parents Evening meetings will take place on Thursday 5th October 6.30-8.30pm and Wednesday 11th October 3.30-5.30pm. Further information to book an appointment will be sent out nearer the time.



School Photographs



Information from John Wilson the school photographer has been sent out to parents last week. The instructions of how to view your child's photograph are on this information. If you have not received this information, please contact the school office.

Primary 1 -Welcome Mass

To celebrate the beginning of their time in Catholic education at St. Helen's PS, our new parish priest Fr Chido is inviting you a welcome service which will take place immediately after the 10am Mass in St Dominic's Church on Sunday 8th October to which all Primary 1 pupils and families are invited.



October Rosary



The Family Rosary will begin again during October. This will take place in Rm. 13 at 8.40am on Wednesdays 4th, 11th and 25th October. The school gates at Wester Cleddens Rd and Pentland Drive will be open to allow access.

It is followed by a continental breakfast snack before the children go into class.

If you can manage along to any of these prayer times I would recommend it. It is a lovely, peaceful and prayerful way to start your day.

St. Helen's Feast Day

St Helen's Feast Day is on 18 August, thus in previous years it has been difficult for the school to celebrate this feast as we have usually just returned to school after the summer break. However, we now commute our celebration of the Feast Day to the end of Term 1. Therefore, on **Thursday 12th October** we will take part in an Assembly and other events to mark and celebrate our patron saint: St. Helen.



As a Roman Catholic school we will also use this opportunity to raise money for charity in our communities as *Serving the Common Good* is very much part of our values, ethos and Catholic social teaching. We will send out further information nearer the time.

St Vincent de Paul Association- St Dominic's Parish



SVDP group from our parish of St Dominic's have contacted the school to ask us to remind our school community that they are able to provide practical help - they

have access to a small monetary fund - for anyone in need at this time. You can contact them directly through Fr Chido or by contacting me - Mrs O'Connor.

Contacting the school/sharing concerns

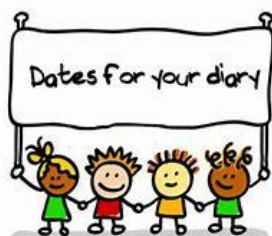
Please remember that you can contact/speak with the school office or a member of the School Leadership Team - Mrs O'Connor - HT, Mrs McWilliams - DHT, Mrs Murray - DHT - at any point by email or phone if you would like to discuss any matter pertaining to your child or the school. If there is a matter concerning you about your child or anyone/anything else, please speak directly with the school staff who will take action to resolve any issues. Thank you

Take care and God bless.

Yours sincerely

Maureen O'Connor

Head Teacher



19.09.23	Parent Council and Parent Association Joint Annual General Meeting- 6pm
22.09.23	Holiday
25.09.23	Holiday
05.10.23 & 11.10.23.	Parent Evenings -St Helen's PS
06.10.23	First Friday Mass- P7/14 preparing the Mass
08.10.23	Primary 1 Welcome Mass 10am - St Dominic's Church
13.10.23	In-Service Day
16-20.10.23	October Week Holiday
23.10.23	Children return to school

**St. Helen's Parent Council
&
Parents' Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 6pm**

All parents and carers are welcome and encouraged to attend this Meeting.

PA-the AGM will give you an insight into the work we undertake to raise money to support the school and to organise events and activities for your children.

We have lots of fun but we are always looking for new ideas. Not only are new parents welcome but you are NEEDED.

Please join us for tea, coffee and nibbles and consider joining us.

School Uniforms Suppliers

To purchase St. Helen's branded uniform please
click on link below

<https://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk>