



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers and community of Our Lady's RC Primary School,
Christmas is upon us!! I am sure you will agree that the children were simply wonderful in their performance of 'Bethlehem the Musical'! A huge thank you to the Primary 7 class and Mrs Jones for leading the show. Thanks also to Father Colin for allowing us to use the Church and to all who attended. £686 was raised for School Funds. A further £622.90 was raised through the hamper raffle and this will be banked by the parent council—the children will decide how to spend this next term. In addition to our Christmas celebrations, it has been a busy term for lots of our pupils! Some of our P6 have taken part in the Community Wardens project, our P4 pupils have been swimming at Kilgraston and many of our children have attended extra curricular activities. These have included netball, sewing club, homework club and dance with St John's Academy pupils. Thanks to all who provide these opportunities for the children. Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas. See you in the New Year!
Mrs Lynne Mendes, Headteacher



Changes to Early Learning and Childcare Provision—1140 hours

You are likely aware that the number of funded hours for early learning and childcare will increase from 640 hours to 1140 hours from August 2020. The applications process for early learning and childcare (ELC) places in Perth & Kinross Council nursery classes and early childhood centres is changing, from January 2020. With a huge increase in funded (free) ELC provision for 3-5 year olds and eligible 2 year olds, we're looking to make applying for a place for your child as simple and straightforward as possible. From 20 January 2020, you will be able to apply online via the Council website. Look out for full details coming in the New Year. Should you require further information meantime, please visit www.pkc.gov.uk/



Pitlochry Theatre Trip—A Christmas Carol

On Friday 13th December Primary 1 to Primary 7 had a lovely time at Pitlochry Theatre. Our travel to the event was covered mainly by the theatre themselves who covered £1000 of the costs as well as an anonymous donation to the school of £200. The Parent Council have covered the remainder of the cost through applying for funding. Highland Spring donated water, Tesco donated fruit and Parent Council supplied Haribo—thank you to them for their support.

We received numerous compliments on the behaviour of the children from theatre staff and members of the public—we are very proud of how well they did!



French

As well as learning about Christmas traditions in France, the children have been learning Christmas vocabulary such as:

un sapin de Noël

Père Noël

la crèche

un cadeau de Noël

From everyone at Our Lady's -
Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année!





Parish Links

Rowan from Primary 6 represented our school at Mass on Remembrance Sunday by reading 'In Flanders Fields' and laying the Poppy Wreath. Also during this Mass, our P7 pupils celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. This was a lovely service led by Bishop Robson and Fr Colin. Thank you to Mrs Jones for preparing the children and to the parents who supported them.



We have also had our Primary 5 Mass with the children reading beautifully and representing the school extremely well. Thank you to all who attended, including Class teachers and parents who supported the children with preparation.



Some of our children took part in the Parish production of 'Keeping Christmas'. It was lovely to see the parish community perform together. The children sang beautifully in front of a busy congregation—what talent! We are so proud of them.



Pope Francis Faith Award

Whilst working on their Pope Francis Faith Awards, our Primary 7 pupils have been living out the gifts of the Holy Spirit, making new friendships with the over 55's Woman's Group in Letham. The children have been joining the members of the Letham Friends Network (LFN) for fun and chat. They have experienced different activities such as chair aerobics, Boccia, board games and most recently they joined in on the fun at their Christmas Party. In the words of Pope Francis: *"How beautiful it would be if each of our children, every evening, could say: 'Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents and an older person!'"*



Dual Language Books and Stories

Our Lady's ELCC is committed to celebrating all the cultures and languages of our children. We are requesting parents to bring in and share any dual language books they feel would be suitable for our children. We would also love it if you could spare some time to read stories to our children. The more diverse the language the better! A story is the perfect way to start the day, so 10 minutes at drop off would be more than enough. If you would like to share your stories and your time with us please talk to Mrs Duncan or Mrs Scott.



PARENTAL CONSULTATION

Around the time of Parent Contact we issued a questionnaire on the work of the school. Thank you to all who took the time to complete this—we had 109 responses which is fantastic! The responses were positive and we look forward to asking the children and staff for their views early next term. We will create a 'You said ... We did...' display in the foyer area where you can see the results of the consultation and the steps we will take to improve.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On **Friday 20th December** we invite all children to wear a Christmas Jumper to school. If you do not have a Christmas Jumper children can wear some tinsel to join in the festive fun! No donation required —just some fun to finish off the term!



ATTENDANCE

Perth & Kinross Council is committed to improving the life chances of all school pupils and to working in partnership with parents to enable their children to achieve success at school and in their future lives. We have a shared duty of care and commitment to keep our children and young people safe, secure and healthy. It is a parent's legal duty to provide an efficient education, suitable to age, ability and aptitude either by sending the child to school or by other means. If your child attends school, it is an offence for him/her to be absent without reasonable excuse.

At Our Lady's we want to work with parents/carers to improve pupils' attendance and lateness at school. There are many reasons why children and young people do not attend school, but we are committed to finding solutions to any barriers. We closely monitor attendance and lateness of all children to ensure they have the best opportunity to learn and succeed for their future. **Children who currently have an attendance rate of less than 92% or a significant number of lates will receive a letter early next term alerting their parent/carer and inviting you to discuss solutions to improve attendance.** Perth & Kinross Council have an attendance target rate of 96%.

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

SEVERE WEATHER—ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY CLOSURES

In the event of continuing severe weather where conditions are hazardous, parents are advised to listen to Radio Tay to find out if the school is open or closed.

- Radio Tay	AM 1584	FM 96.4	Perth Only
	AM 1161	FM 102.8	Everywhere else

Only used for widespread weather conditions

- Perth FM		FM 106.6
- Radio Forth	AM 1548	FM 97.3
- Radio Heartland FM	FM 97.5	
- Radio Central	FM 103.1	



Only used for widespread severe weather conditions or failure of essential services:

Perth & Kinross Council Customer Service Centre

Available from 0800 hours to 1800 hours, however this line may operate from 0700 hours in exceptional circumstances. Parents/carers should dial 0845 3011100. Calls are charged at the local rate.

P1 REGISTRATION

If your child will be five before the last day of February 2021, then it will soon be time to enrol them for school.

If your child will be five on or before that date, you should register your child to start school during the January registration week, which in 2020 will be week commencing 13 January 2020.

If your child is five between 19 August 2020 and 28 February 2021 they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 19 August 2020** and you should register your child for primary school during the January 2020 registration week. However, nearer to the start of the school year you may wish to delay your child's entry to school if you think that they are not ready to start.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21478/Registration-for-new-P1-pupils-for-school-session-2020-21->

P7 RESIDENTIAL

Following parent and pupil consultation across the 4 St John's feeder primary schools, the current P6 class will attend Dalguise from 28th September to 2nd October 2020. The cost will be £230 and this will be added to ParentPay once we receive payment dates from Dalguise. Further information will follow next term.

Please take note of the following dates for Term 3. We will keep you informed of any changes and update you of new dates early in the new term.

Date	Day	Event
14.01.20	Tuesday	P5 Boys Dance Project
16.01.20	Thursday	P7 NHS Well Good Workshop
19.01.20	Sunday	P2 Mass
21.01.20	Tuesday	P5 Boys Dance Project
22.01.20	Wednesday	P4 Assembly Recycle & Rediscover Event—info to follow
02.02.20	Sunday	P4 Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation
05.02.20	Wednesday	P2 Assembly
11.02.20	Tuesday	Feast of Our Ladys of Lourdes Celebration—info to follow
12.02.20	Wednesday	In-Service Day—School closed to pupils
13 & 14.02.20	Thursday & Friday	HOLIDAY—School closed to pupils

Thank you!



A huge thank you to all of the families who have lent us props for the Christmas Show—we couldn't have done it without you and we appreciate the support!

P6 NUMERACY RANGERS

Our Primary 6 Numeracy Rangers have been working with two Education Support Officers from P&K Council to plan and organise a Parent and Families Numeracy Event which will take place in February. The children have enjoyed trying out activities such as Uno, Dominoes and different card games, developing their confidence with number in a fun and motivating way. The aim of this project is to support and encourage numeracy learning at home and in school, with the Numeracy Rangers leading and promoting how everyone can benefit from maths in their life.

PARENTPAY



A gentle reminder that Parent Pay should be checked regularly as this is where our permissions for trips, outings and clubs are to be completed. We also email the information and add it to the App to prompt you. This enables us to be more eco friendly as we aim not to issue paper permissions.

How to contact us...

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☎ 01738 477570

✉ Ourladys@pkc.gov.uk

W: <http://ourladysrcprimary.schoolwebsite.scot/home>

🐦 @OurLadysPerth