



October

2023



1973-2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	Oct 2 nd
Tue	Oct 3 rd
Wed	Oct 4 th
Thurs	Oct 5 th
Thur	Oct 26 th
Fri	Oct 27 th
Mon-Fri	Oct 30 th – Nov 3 rd (inclusive)
Thur	Nov 30 th
Fri	Dec 22 nd
Fri	Jan 5 th
Sat	June 1 st

FEAST OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Congratulations to our P4-7 children who attended the opening mass in St Therese Church, celebrating our 50th anniversary. Their prayerful, respectful attitude and outstanding singing made it a wonderful and inspiring celebration where we gave thanks for 50 years of education and prayed for all those associated with the school over the decades.

The P3 year group reminded us of the life of St Therese of Lisieux in their assembly and why she is such a wonderful role model for all of us. Our 'Little Way' awards encourage us to try to live like St Therese every day by being kind and caring, and always doing our best.

MORNING DROP OFF

Thanks to all our families for cooperating with the morning arrangements and dropping children at the school gates. This system has helped to create a calmer, safer and much less stressful start to the day for our pupils. Staff are on duty from 8.45-9am every morning. Gates are locked at 9am and children arriving later need to come in via the Antrim Road entrance.

We really appreciate the children arriving punctually in the mornings so that administration tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently, and to ensure children do not miss out on learning opportunities. However, we do understand that occasionally families get delayed and may be a little late. If children are absent from school, parents should let us know on ClassDojo or by telephone so that the absences are coded correctly for DE.

HOLIDAY LIST

The holiday list for 2023/24 is available [here](#) on our website.

Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
50th Anniversary Fun Day
Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school
PTA AGM 7pm at school
Halloween Disco -details to follow
Halloween Dressing Up Day/Spooky Cycle
School closed for the Halloween Break
Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2
P4 First Holy Communion

ATTENDANCE

DE advise that it is essential that children attend school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child to fulfil their potential. Children who regularly miss school **without good reason** are more likely to become isolated from their friends and to underachieve in examinations. Please see DE leaflets on the importance of good attendance [here](#) and [here](#).

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed

50th ANNIVERSARY

St Therese of Lisieux PS opened 50 years ago on the Somerton Road. See further information [here](#) on the growth and development of the school over the years. Thanks to everyone who has dropped in photos/newspapers/mementos associated with the school. We are hoping to have a Community Open Day in 2024 where these will be on display, so please keep them coming! See the magazine produced for the 25th anniversary [here](#).

50th ANNIVERSARY FUN DAY

Our Fun Day on Tue Oct 3rd promises great excitement. Children should wear their PE uniform. Usual finish times apply. Please fill in the Gift Aid details on the flyer sent home this week and send it in with your donation!!

UK PRIZEWINNERS

A huge **congratulations** to our winners of the Chinese Bridge Competition. Eleven children from P6, 7 and last year's P7 were invited to London to receive their award in September. They had a wonderful time at the ceremony and had time to see the sights of London. What a fantastic experience!! They were also interviewed by John Toal on Radio Ulster on 30th Sept-if you missed it, you can listen back on the BBC Sounds app. We look forward to welcoming our new Mandarin tutor later this month.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

If you submitted your application more than four weeks ago but have not received confirmation that your child/children will receive Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance, please check your email including your junk folder. If you have not received an email, contact the EA at urgently, quoting your National Insurance Number and your submission ID.

SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP

The 'Safer Schools NI' app, funded by DE, helps parents navigate the digital world with tools to protect children when they are online. The 'Safer Schools NI' app is available in the App/Play Store. Follow the instructions to register and create an account, select St Therese of Lisieux PS and input 2030 when asked for a code to access content specific to our school.

CYCLING/SCOOTING TO SCHOOL

We are delighted to see so many children already cycling and scooting safely to and from school. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of a few safety tips:

- Please ensure your bike/scooter is locked.
- Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting.
- Please be aware of traffic.
- Please wear reflective clothing.
- Please remember that school is a pedestrian zone, therefore **nobody should be cycling or scooting in school grounds.**

We will be arranging several cycling fun days; the first one will be our spooky cycle on Friday Oct 27th. Good luck and happy cycling ☺

PTA

The PTA AGM is on Thur Oct 5th at 7pm in the school. New members are needed and very welcome. The work of the PTA is much appreciated by the staff and the children but organising the various events takes time so additional members and volunteers are always appreciated. As you know school budgets are under huge pressure at the moment and we are very grateful for the work of the PTA for the fundraising they do, as well as sourcing funding through grant applications. Over the past seven years they have funded our stage, a set of ipads, two sets of Lenovo tablets, £6000 of literacy resources, the Born2Move Track, Circuit Track, Sensory Room, sports equipment, outdoor play equipment and a huge amount of work in our garden. They also organise refreshments after the Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies as well as Halloween, Christmas and Leavers' discos. Ensuring the various events take place safely, requires lots of willing helpers! It's also a great way to get to know other parents and make new friendships. Please come along to the AGM!

SCHOOL DINNERS

The menu is available on the school website in the Parent Information Tab. It operates on a four week cycle. Click [here](#) to view at any time. The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Money will only be accepted in a labelled and sealed envelope or plastic bag. No change can be given.

KEY POLICIES

As policies are updated they are published on our website. They include Online Safety, Complaints, Health and Safety, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, First Aid, Health and Safety as well as Child Protection/Safeguarding Policies.

WEBSITE APP

Our website has a free app called 'Schools NI'. This app enables us to send messages and updates directly to your phone. It also allows users to quickly access key documents, including the Dinner Menu/Holiday lists as well as any well as newly uploaded photos and news items. Once you have the app, search for St Therese of Therese of Lisieux PS.

FAMILY SUPPORT NI

Family Support NI website have a directory of support services and organisations, including childcare services, that are available locally and across Northern Ireland.

<http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/>

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm Fri: 8.30am-3.15pm



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND

