



November

2023



1973-2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon-Fri	Oct 30 th – Nov 3 rd (inclusive)
Thur	Nov 30 th
Wed	Dec 6 th
Wed	Dec 13 th
Thurs	Dec 14 th
Wed	Dec 20 th
Thur	Dec 21 st
Fri	Dec 22 nd
Fri	Jan 5 th
Wed-Fri	Feb 14 th -16 th
Mon	Mar 18 th
Thur	Mar 28 th
Sat	June 1 st

School closed for the Halloween Break
Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
P2 Christmas Show 10.30am
P3 Christmas Show 10.30am
Open Day for prospective P1s starting in Sept 2024
KS2 Carol Service in St Therese Church at 1.30pm
Children's Christmas Dinner day
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2
School closed for Spring Half Term
School closed for St Patrick's Day holiday
School closing at noon for the Easter holidays
P4 First Holy Communion

P7 PUPILS

We wish all our boys and girls who are sitting the transfer tests over the next few weeks every success. Our thoughts and prayers will be with them all during this time.

Parents/carers of P7 children should look out for information in the local press/social media on Post Primary Open Days which will be taking place over the next few months and attend as many as possible to get a flavour of the different schools in the locality. Information will be sent home as we receive it.

Parents of P6 pupils should strongly consider attending some Open Days this year, to ensure a range of schools are considered.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Thur Nov 30th. **The school will be closed for pupils.** We know that many parents found the phone consultations very convenient over the past two years, so we are giving parents the option of a face to face or telephone consultation again this year. A form will be sent home for parents to indicate their preference.

50th ANNIVERSARY FUN DAY

Our Fun Day on Tue Oct 3rd to mark the 50th Anniversary was a wonderful success. Huge thanks to our families for the financial donations, to the PTA who paid the balance of the costs, to Pathways Adventure Activities, Wee Bugs and Beasties, Colin's Ice cream and all the staff for their work making this such a memorable occasion!!

MATHS WEEK IRELAND

Well done to everyone who participated enthusiastically in activities for **Maths Week Ireland**. The P4 and P7 children enjoyed participating in online quizzes – working in teams to solve challenging mathematical problems, competing against hundreds of other children across the country. All the pupils were actively involved discussing possible strategies they could use to solve problems for a range of mathematical concepts. The P6 children took part in an **Izak9** event and worked collaboratively to solve number problems using Izak9 cubes- very enjoyable challenges! The work completed throughout the school for the mathematics art competition was outstanding this year! Congratulations to all! To end the celebrations, we had a draw for a **'Madlug' backpack**. Congratulations to Eireann in P5 who won the backpack! A lovely prize to acknowledge the great work going on in the school!

'Madlug' has a 'Buy one Give one' approach so for every 'Madlug' backpack purchased, one will be given to a child in care. Most children in care transport their worldly belongings in a plastic bag. Every bag purchased helps a child in care carry their lives with dignity. (madlug.com)

UNION ACTION SHORT OF STRIKE

The EA is working to minimise any disruption to schools caused by the industrial action but unfortunately, they were not able to deliver school meals on Fri 27th Oct. The 'action short of strike' by UNISON/UNITE etc is due to continue until 20th November, so there may well be further impact on schools including a full day strike. We will let you know as soon as possible but due to the nature of the action, there may be little advance notice given.

PTA

The PTA held a very successful AGM in Oct. Huge thanks to Chris Brett, who stepped down as 'Chair' after eleven years of service. Thanks also to the new members who have taken on the various committee roles and to all those who have volunteered to help at the events. The two Halloween discos were very successful and enjoyable community events. This year, as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, the PTA are donating 50% of the takings from the discos to Action Cancer, who are also celebrating their 50th year helping local people affected by cancer – a very worthwhile local charity.

GARDENING LESSONS

Our P3 and P6 children recently participated in both indoor and outdoor gardening lessons led by Kindergardencooks. The P6 children prepared 'no dig' beds and the P3s then used the beds to plant garlic and onion. The children also got to explore some foods that could be grown in their own gardens at home as well linking these foods to their Healthy Living and Vikings topics. Kindergardencooks will be back in the spring to work with the other year groups. We hope to give all children an opportunity to plant and harvest throughout the year.



SPOOKY CYCLE

Huge congratulations to everyone who got involved in this year's spooky cycle. It was very difficult to pick the winners. We were particularly delighted with our new P1 children who made a huge effort decorating their scooters and bikes- they were all spooktacular!

NEW LODGE ARTS

Our P4 children worked with artists from New Lodge Arts to design and create Halloween monster masks. They made some spooky and scary creatures and gave our P4 parents a fright at home time. They can wear their monster masks to the New Lodge Arts Festival on Saturday 28th October in Alexandra Park.

Family Fun Day 12pm - 3pm

Main Event 5:30pm - 8pm

SPORTING NEWS

October was a very busy month in the sporting calendar for St Therese. The boys and girls from P6/7 took part in the first Belfast City Council relay middle distance race at Victoria Park. In Gaelic football, the Cumann Na mBunscol Leagues took place for our P7 boys and girls at Naomh Eanna CLG and Fennel Park respectively. The boys qualified for the semi-finals where they were pipped in the last few minutes by Scoil na Fuisseoige. October also saw the beginning of the boys' and girls' knockout football competitions. In the U11 Edco Cup, the boys were victorious against Seaview PS and St Paul's PS, progressing to the quarter finals where they now await their next opponent. In the girls' Liz Bryson U11 Cup, we secured a very competitive victory against a strong Stranmillis PS side to progress to the next round. Well done to all the boys and girls who were wonderful representatives for the school.

FAMILIES IN NEED

We know that the cost of basic goods and services are extremely high currently and that many families are struggling to make ends meet. As the cold weather sets in we realise that some parents are frequently making difficult decisions about 'eating or heating'. The local office of St Vincent de Paul can also help any families in need- supplying food vouchers, household goods, money for heating and can also help provide toys for Christmas. If you would benefit from this support, please ring 028 90351561.

As a referral agency for the North Belfast Foodbank we can issue foodbank vouchers. If your family needs this support, please email Mrs McTaggart in confidence at info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND

