



December

2023



1973-2023

IMPORTANT DATES

	Wed	Dec 6 th
	Thur	Dec 7 th
	Wed	Dec 13 th
	Thurs	Dec 14 th
	Fri	Dec 15 th
	Fri	Dec 15 th
	Wed	Dec 20 th
	Thur	Dec 21 st
	Fri	Dec 22 nd
	Fri	Jan 5 th
	Tue	Feb 13 th
	Wed-Fri	Feb 14 th -16 th
	Mon	Mar 18 th
	Thur	Mar 28 th
	Sat	June 1 st

P7 ENROLMENT

Congratulations to all the P7 girls and boys who celebrated their enrolment ceremony today in St. Therese Church. Many thanks to Fr John and Fr Michael who led the children in a very prayerful ceremony as they embark on their preparations for Confirmation in the second term. We offer the children our prayerful support as they continue to get to know the wonderful works of God's Holy Spirit in their lives.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December is a really busy month with children taking part in different celebrations as we move towards Christmas. Our P2 and P3 children are putting the final touches to their Christmas shows and their parents are warmly invited to come along to see the performances. Parents of children in P5–P7 are also invited to our KS2 Carol Service in St Therese of Lisieux Church on Wednesday 20th December at 1.30pm. The wonderful music and singing from the children is always an uplifting experience and a beautiful way to prepare for a really meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. Some of the children will also perform at local Nursing Homes to entertain the residents during the festive season.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our school canteen is offering children a Christmas dinner on Thur Dec 21st including turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the usual price of £2.60.

P2 Christmas Show 10.30am
Mr Hullabaloo and Friends visiting P1-3
P3 Christmas Show 10.30am
Open Day for prospective P1s starting in Sept 2024
P1-3 visiting the Christmas trail at Seaview
P4-7 Cinema Trip
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
P7 Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11am
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

OPEN DAY

Parents of prospective P1 children are invited to our Open Day on Thur Dec 14th at 10am to meet the staff and have a tour of the school. Applications for P1 must be made online from Jan 9th at noon, on EA Connect. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 26th. Any applications made after this will be considered as late. The child's long birth cert must be provided to the school, along with proof of residence (eg recent utility bill). More information is available on the EA website

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

Every year the school community takes part in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal, to support those in need in our local community. We will be sending home SVP envelopes next week with the children. All donations are welcome. If you are a tax payer, please complete the relevant gift aid details on the envelope so that your donation is worth 25% more.

POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS

Please look out for information in the local press on the Post Primary Open Days which will be taking place over the next few months. We will send information home when we receive it.

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

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations took place in November. If any parent has not had their meeting, please contact the teacher on ClassDojo or phone the school as soon as possible so an appointment can be made.

PTA

Thanks to the PTA for arranging the Christmas Jumper and Winter Coat Swapshop, which fits in so well with our efforts to be as eco-friendly as we can. Thanks also to the PTA for subsidising the buses by 50% for our P1-3 trip to the Santa Trail and the P4-7 cinema trip. They are also providing treats for the children.

ILLNESS

Some of our pupils have compromised immune systems and coming into contact with infectious illness/conditions, especially chickenpox, mumps, stomach bugs etc. can have serious implications. Advice on children returning to school after illness is available at

http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE

C2k (who provide IT and internet services to schools) have a licence agreement with MICROSOFT that all school users (including pupils) can download, free of charge, full copies of MS Office for PC or Mac for use on up to 5 devices. A helpsheet explaining how to do this is available [here](#).

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After-School Clubs will finish on Fri Dec 15th. 123 Club will continue until Thur Dec 21st. Breakfast Club will continue until Fri Dec 22nd.

ULSTER ORCHESTRA

Our P5-7 orchestra had a fantastic trip to the Waterfront Hall to see the Ulster Orchestra perform-a wonderful opportunity for the children to be inspired by local professional musicians. We are looking forward to hearing our own musicians play at the P2 and 3 nativities!

FAMILIES CONNECT PROGRAMME

Families Connect is a six-week programme taking place next term, aimed at parents of P1 and P2 pupils. Each workshop lasts 2 hours and focuses on language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy as well as social and emotional development. The sessions, delivered by our teachers and classroom assistants, are informal, relaxed and hugely beneficial to your child's learning. Please look out for further information in Jan and book a place asap, if interested, as numbers are very limited.

CHRISTMAS BALLOT FUNDRAISING

To raise much needed money for the school we are having a Christmas Ballot this year with lovely prizes donated by the staff and some local businesses. Do you own a business or work for someone who would be able to offer a prize? We would love to hear from you as soon as possible!

Thanks to the McCreedy family who donated a lovely Christmas Hamper to be raffled among the children. The School Council will be selling tickets at 50p each and they will use the money raised to top up our lunchtime activities.

SPORTING NEWS

The boys and girls football teams took part in the quarter-finals and semi-finals of their respective cup competitions. In the U11 Edco Cup, the boys pushed the favourites, Holy Child, all the way to the last minute but unfortunately lost the game 1-0. High praise for the team as their opponents have been undefeated all year. In the Liz Bryson U11 Girls' Cup, the girls came up against a well-organised and highly skilled Lisnasharragh PS who proved too much on the day. Excellent performances from both teams and a fabulous achievement to get so far in both competitions.

In the first hurling tournament of the year, the P7 boys took part in the round robin tournament at the Colin Park Dome. Up against St Theresa's and St Anne's they played two extremely competitive matches and demonstrated some excellent hurling skills from goalkeeper to full forward.

Well done to all the boys and girls who took part in the games. Many thanks to the parents who helped with transport and those who offered.

FAMILIES IN NEED

We are expecting a delivery of new toys/games from Cash For Kids in the next few weeks-any family who need help with gifts for Christmas please contact us.

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

