



February

2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Feb 1 st	Grandparents' Day
Thur	Feb 2 nd	<u>Sacrament of Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11 am (School Closed)</u>
Tue	Feb 7 th	Internet Safety Day –Parent Workshop on Keeping Children Safe Online
Mon-Fri	Feb 13 th -17 th	<u>Mid- term break (School Closed)</u>
Tue	Feb 21 st	Book Fair in school
Tue	Feb 21 st	Photographer for P1 and P7 classes.
Wed	Feb 22 nd	Translink Safety Bus visiting P5s, P6s and P7s
Wed	Mar 1 st	Ash Wednesday
Thur	Mar 2 nd	<u>Assembly Elections- School Closed</u>
Fri	Mar 3 rd	World Book Day
Mon	Mar 6 th	NSPCC assemblies for all children
Tue	Mar 7 th	NSPCC workshop for P6
Tue	Mar 7 th	Pre –sacramental meeting for P3 parents in school at 5pm. <u>Please note new date.</u>
Wed	Mar 8 th	NSPCC workshop for P7
Thur	Mar 16 th	St Patrick's Day Concert by P2, P4 and P5 children in school at 1pm

UPCOMING ASSEMBLIES

Mr Reynolds' P6 class will present their assembly on **Tue Feb 7th**. Mrs Quinn and Mrs Mulholland's assembly on St Bridget is on **Fri Feb 10th**. Mr Coyle's P5 class will present their Lenten assembly on **Feb 24th** and Miss O'Rourke's is on **March 10th**

CONFIRMATION

Our Primary 7 children will be celebrating their Confirmation on Thursday 2nd February in Holy Family Church. The confirming prelate will be Bishop Noel Treanor. We wish the children well with their final preparations and pray that God's Holy Spirit will inspire them as they grow in faith.

P3 FIRST CONFESSION

The girls and boys in Primary 3 are currently working extremely hard in preparation for their First Confession in March. By way of supporting the children in these preparations, a special pre-sacramental meeting for parents only will take place in the school hall on Tuesday 7th March at 5pm. **Please note, this date was changed because of the assembly elections.** We hope that each child can be represented at this important meeting before the sacrament.

First Confession has been scheduled for Thursday 6th April at 1pm in St. Therese Church.

CHILD PROTECTION CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation process. Pupils from P4 –P7 were also consulted in our Pupil Forum. The policy will have a couple of minor alterations and will be considered by the Board of Governors at the next meeting. The new policy will be available on the website as soon as it is ratified and a short summary will be sent home.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Today, Wednesday 1st February 2017, the children welcomed their wonderful grandparents into the school for Grandparents' Day. The day provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to celebrate the role their grandparents play in handing on to them the precious gift of our faith. We have been simply overwhelmed by the kind words and good wishes expressed by our grandparents during their visit and we thank them for their warmth and the love they have for the children. We hope that their gift from the children will blossom and bloom and bring a sharing in God's richest blessings upon our grandparents, now and always. Many thanks to all for a fabulous day in our school!

EXTENDED SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Afterschool activities have already begun. **Some places are available in Judo for P4-P7 from 4-5pm on Mondays.** If your child is interested please let their teacher know.

Flower Arranging and Knit and Chat are on Tue evenings. Bootcamp will be starting soon. Information will be sent home shortly.

INTERNET SAFETY WEEK FEB 6th -10th

During internet safety week we will be raising awareness with all of the children about the importance of staying safe online. Through stories, discussions, games, assemblies and competitions the children will learn how to stay safe online. A **Parents Workshop** will be held in Mr Reynolds' room on Tue Feb 7th at 8.30am and repeated at 5.30pm to raise awareness of some of the online dangers our children may face and how to manage these issues.

LIBRARY VISITS

During this term some of the classes will be visiting Chichester Library to learn about what is on offer there. We strongly recommend that all of the children are taken to the library regularly outside of the school day.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 3rd March 2017 and all of the children will be taking part in activities to celebrate their love of reading on this day. To mark the occasion we also ask everyone to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There will be prizes for the most inventive costumes. Have fun everyone!

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Our annual book fair has been organised to run from Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th February and will give your child an opportunity to discover a range of exciting books and continue our school tradition of promoting a love of reading. Parents are invited to attend our fair, details to follow.

AUTHOR, POET AND PERFORMER PAUL COOKSON

We were delighted to welcome author, poet and performer Paul Cookson to St Therese in January. Paul's workshop was very funny and hopefully will inspire some great poetry from our budding writers!

BUDDY READING

The Buddy Reading Programme will begin after half term for all P3 and P7 children. This is an excellent programme which encourages and establishes good reading practices among all of the participants. Always a very enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Happy reading, everyone!

BOOK AMNESTY

If you have any unreturned reading books or school library books on your bookshelves, behind the sofa or under the bed we would love to get them back! Please have a look over half term and return any school books as some sets of reading books are quite depleted. Each child who returns a book will be entered into a ballot for a £5 book fair voucher!

MONEY

Thank you to everyone who has sent in fees for Spanish, Music and the various after schools clubs and activities. It is a huge help to teachers and office staff when you send in the exact amount of money in an envelope, with all the details written on it.

We are required to keep accurate records of who has paid for the various activities and while we understand that parents may occasionally need to pay at the office it is a huge help if money can be given to class teachers so that they can record this correctly.

DAIRY COUNCIL

The P6 children received a visit from the Dairy Council NI which focused on the importance of a balanced and healthy diet. The children engaged in a range of active learning games which allowed them to display their knowledge whilst being active. The children were very grateful for the opportunity and the activity leaders were encouraged by the children's enthusiasm and knowledge.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

On Tue Feb 21st the school photographer will take individual and family photographs of our P1 and P7 children and their siblings. If parents of pupils in other year groups would like individual or family photographs taken please let your child's teacher know.

NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The school will be used as a polling station for the assembly election on Thur March 2nd and will be closed for pupils and staff.

JUMP, JIGGLE AND JIVE

Everyone is welcome to join our Jump, Jiggle and Jive parent and toddler dance classes every Monday at 12pm in the school hall. As a school we are supporting these classes. **THERE IS NO MEMBERSHIP FEE** if you join in Feb 2017. Our support also means that instead of paying the full price of £6 per child the cost to you is only £4.00 per child (£1.00 for additional sibling). Highly recommended by our parents.

For more information contact Amanda 079 77113490

CREDIT UNION

Newington Credit Union visits the school every Thursday morning. We have a number of children who are Credit Union members and save regularly each week. New members are very welcome, both children and adults. Anyone wanting to join can pick up an application form from the office.

NORTH BELFAST ADVICE PARTNERSHIP

The North Belfast Advice Partnership provides free, independent, confidential advice on debt management, welfare rights and benefits. They can be contacted on 90391225.