



January

2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Jan 11 th	Last date for P1 application forms
Fri	Jan 13 th	Miss McMullan's Class Assembly
Wed	Jan 18 th	P7 Service of Light and Commitment in St Therese of Lisieux Church 7pm
Fri	Jan 27 th	Mrs McDaniel's P4 Class Assembly
Thur	Feb 2 nd	Sacrament of Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11 am (School Closed)
Mon-Fri	Feb 13 th -17 th	Mid- term break (School Closed)
Mon	Feb 20 th	Book Fair in school

Happy New Year to our pupils and their families from the staff and governors of St Therese of Lisieux Primary School. We look forward to a great year of learning in 2017.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations once again to all the children for their contributions to our Christmas celebrations. Their drama, singing and playing were appreciated by all who saw them. We have had so much positive feedback from parents, grandparents and community members. Matthew Mullan in P3 won the lovely Christmas Hamper donated by Mr and Mrs McCready. The school council are using the money raised from the ballot to buy resources for playtime.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

To keep the children safe the main gates are closed during the day so if you do come through the pedestrian gates, please remember to close the gates behind you. If you need to drop something to school during the day that your child has forgotten please hand it in at reception and staff will make sure your child gets it. Parents should not access classrooms during the school day, to ensure we comply with safeguarding regulations.

Dogs are not permitted in the school grounds, even on a lead. Some children are terrified of dogs and we have had dog dirt in the playground and on the steps leading to the playground, so we respectfully ask that no dogs are brought into the school grounds other than guide/ assistance dogs.

MORNING SUPERVISION

The playground is supervised from 8.45 am each morning. Parents who need to send their children to school earlier than this should use the Breakfast Club so that the children are safely supervised. The Breakfast Club does not need to be booked in advance.

Only children at the breakfast club should be in school before 8.45am

APPLICATIONS FOR SEPT 2017

Application forms are now available from the school office **The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wed Jan 11th.** Any applications received after this will be considered late. **All applications must be accompanied by proof of residence (eg utility bill).**

ASSEMBLIES

Miss McMullan's P5 will present our first assembly on Friday 13th Jan at 9.30am and Mrs McDaniel's P4 will present their assembly on Fri Jan 27th.

CHILD PROTECTION CONSULTATION

We would like to hear your views on our updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. You can read the new draft in the Policies section on our website, under the 'About' tab. Let us know what you think by completing a short questionnaire. The consultation will close on Fri Jan 20th.

Pupils will be consulted this week through our new **Pupil Forum**.

SCHOOL MEALS

The EA have informed us that the cost of a school meal is now £2.55. We really appreciate parents sending in the correct amount of money to the class teacher, in a sealed envelope marked with the child's name.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES

Breakfast Club, 123 Club and Homework club have already begun this week. Notes will be going home shortly with the children about the other after school activities which start in the week beginning Jan 23rd.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

Thank you so much for the very generous donations to the St Vincent De Paul appeal. The hampers were greatly appreciated.

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.

PTA

The PTA would like to thank all the parents and staff who helped out at the Christmas Disco. The children had a wonderful evening with their friends and some of them even got to meet Santa. A big thank you to all of you who donated the lovely home baking for sale on the night-it was very popular with adults and children.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Every year the Young Enterprise programme takes place in school and the P6 children are given the opportunity to create their own business. To develop this programme this year we would like to invite local business owners to come in and talk to the P6s about how they came to start/buy their enterprise and what it is like to run your own company. If you can help us with this or know of any local business owner who might be able to speak to our P6s please leave your name at the office and you will be contacted in the near future.

UNIFORM

Please make sure that each child's uniform is clearly marked with their name. It makes returning lost property to its rightful owner much easier.

PE uniform should be worn only on those days when your child is timetabled for PE and Swimming. PE uniform consists of **dark** trainers, **plain** navy jogging bottoms and a school sweatshirt.

POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS

Post Primary Open Days/Evenings will be taking place this month. A list has already been sent home with the P7 pupils.

SPANISH

We are delighted that our Spanish tutor, Jose, is able to continue providing tuition in 2017 for P1 – P6. Lessons will resume on Jan 23rd. Fees for Term 2 are £4 per child or £7 per family.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Confession will take place on Thurs April 6th at 1.00pm in St Therese Church and First Holy Communion will be on Sat June 3rd at 10.00am in St Therese Church.

Confirmation is earlier than usual this year and preparations for the sacrament are already underway in P7. The children will be working with their Faith Friends this month in preparation for this very important sacrament. **The Service of Light and Commitment is on Wed Jan 18th at 7pm in St Therese of Lisieux church.** During this ceremony, the children will be invited to hold their baptismal candles as an outward sign of taking greater personal responsibility for their own faith journey.

Confirmation is on Thurs Feb 2nd at 11am in Holy Family Church. The school will be closed.

BUDDY READING

The Buddy Reading Programme will begin in Feb. 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!

AUTHOR, POET AND PERFORMER PAUL COOKSON

We are delighted to announce that the popular author, poet and performer Paul Cookson will be visiting the P3-P7 children on Tuesday 24th January 2017. Paul will be holding workshops with the children to develop their poetry writing skills. This will cost £1 per child.

Learn about Paul's Poetry and workshops at www.paulcookson.co.uk

DAIRY COUNCIL

The Dairy Council will present their Food and Fitness programme to the P6s next week. The programme has been designed to help pupils explore the concept of balance; balance within their diet, based on eating a variety of foods from the five food groups, and balance within their lifestyle, focusing on the importance of accumulating at least one hour's activity each day. The interactive programme is delivered in a fun, interactive and creative way.

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.