



March

2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	March 4 th	Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Family Church, 11am (<u>School Closed</u>)
Fri	March 8 th	World Book Day Celebrations
Thur	March 14 th	St Patrick's Day Concert 10am and 1pm
Mon	March 18 th	Holiday (<u>School closed</u>)
Wed-Fri	March 20-22 nd	P7 Residential Trip to the Share Centre
Tue	March 26 th	Talking About Tough Issues –Session 1
Wed	March 27 th	P3 Sacrament of First Confession 1pm in St Therese Church
Thurs	April 18 th	The Passion Play performed by P6
Thurs	April 18 th	School closing at noon for the Easter Holidays
Mon	April 29 th	School reopening for Term 3
Thur	May 2 nd	<u>School Closed</u> for the Local Council Election
Mon	May 6 th	<u>School Closed</u> for the Bank Holiday
Sat	May 11 th	P4 First Holy Communion in St Therese of Lisieux Church at 10am
Fri	May 24 th	KS2 Sports Day (weather permitting) P5-7
Mon-Tue	May 27 th -28 th	<u>School Closed</u> for the Bank Holiday
Fri	May 31 st	FS Sports Day (weather permitting) P1-2
Wed-Thur	June 5 th -6 th	P7 Show
Fri	June 14 th	KS1 Sports Day (weather permitting) P3-4

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2019

This year's slogan "**Together for a better internet**", was a call for all stakeholders to join together and play their part in creating a better internet for everyone. As part of our Online Safety Education Programme, children took part in a series of tasks, assemblies and workshops that emphasised the importance of staying safe online. We were also very happy to host our parent workshop on 'Staying Safe Online'. Many thanks to the parents who attended and to Mr Reynolds and to Ms Marie McTaggart who hosted the presentation.

Parents are reminded that it is strongly recommended that children of primary school age should **not** have unsupervised internet access or indeed access to social media apps including Instagram, Snapchat and What's App.

Viral media scares are frequently highlighted in the news and I am sure you have heard of the current one, the "Momo Challenge". The Education Authority advises that if you think your child may have come across this, explain that although it may start off as fun, it very quickly becomes uncomfortable and scary and if they see it anywhere they should tell a trusted adult. Mr Reynolds has tweeted some information on these issues. <https://twitter.com/TheresePS>. Send a request to follow us and let Mr Reynolds know and he will accept you.

NEWINGTON CREDIT UNION

In the Canteen every Thursday at 9am for adults and children. New savers are very welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of P7 pupils will be held on **Monday March 4th at 11am** in Holy Family Church. **The school will be closed for pupils.**

TALKING ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES

Talking About Tough Issues (TATI), is an opportunity for parents of P7 pupils to come together to talk through some of the issues your children will face in their teenage years. Young people are faced with a lot more pressure, opportunities and risk in today's world. These workshops will provide information on drugs, alcohol, social media, peer pressure, adolescent trends and behaviours, mental health, well-being and relationships. Sessions are enjoyable, practical, relaxed and supportive, and will help you to prepare for some of the tricky conversations you may need to have in the near future. TATI was initiated by the Down and Connor Diocese, is funded by the Public Health Agency and will be delivered by Lisburn YMCA. The sessions take place in school on 26th March, 2nd, 9th and 16th April from 9.00-11.15am. **At the last session Pathways Activity Centre will provide fun games and activities for children whose parents attend.**

FAMILIES CONNECT PROGRAMME

Families Connect is an eight-week programme, 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 Ms Dorman, promise to be informal, relaxed and hugely beneficial to your child's learning. Only a few places left. Contact the office asap if you are interested in attending.

ILLNESS

One of our younger pupils has a compromised immune system and coming into contact with infectious conditions, especially chickenpox, may have implications for his treatment. If your child may have come into contact with chickenpox please let the office know so that we can pass this information on.

HEARTSTART EMERGENCY LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING

Congratulations to Mr Mc Ferran's class for completing their Emergency life support training. The P7 children focused on dealing with a range of emergency situations including: choking, serious bleeding, suspected heart attack, providing CPR and putting a casualty in recovery position. The resources for our school training are kindly funded by The British Heart Foundation. Mrs Mc Ilwaine's class started their training with Mrs Mc Williams just before mid-term break.

THE BIG PEDAL

The Big Pedal is back again! The UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking and scooting competition is taking place between 25th March to 5th April 2019. It works a bit like the Tour de France – each day of the race is a new stage following a different Sustrans cycle route around the UK. The format is simple. The more pupils who cycle or scoot, the quicker our school races round a "virtual" course – and it's all weighted so schools of any size have an equal chance to win. Mrs. Hamill along with Primary 7 "bike buddies" will log in to the website each day of the race and record our school's results. In previous years we always score really well in this competition so let us do even better this year! Good luck to everyone who is willing to take part and remember to stay safe on our roads!

CHINESE NEW YEAR COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to Anna and Maura who were winners in the Chinese New Year Poster Competition. There were over 5,600 entries from across Northern Ireland so to have two winners from St Therese was amazing! The girls were presented with their prizes at the Waterfront Hall and their families and teachers were entertained by a varied programme of Chinese singing, dancing and puppetry.



PUNCTUALITY MONTH

March is Punctuality Month. It is very important that children are punctual in the mornings. Latecomers miss socialising with their friends, the morning settling routines in class, as well as very important mental maths /phonics activities. We have had a lovely donation of toys and will use some of these as ballot prizes for punctual pupils during March.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs White on the safe arrival of their little boy, Leo, in February.

RAINBOW COMMUNICATIONS SHIELD

Congratulations to the P7 soccer players who won the Belfast Primary Schools' Football Association grand final this year. Their determination, teamwork and skill saw them take the Rainbow Communications Shield after a thrilling 5 a side tournament.



TIN WHISTLE CLUB

A Tin Whistle after school club will begin on Wed 20th March 3-4 pm for a 10 week block. Lessons will be taken by Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School. There are 14 places available and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The cost for the club is £40. The class is open to beginners and more experienced musicians. Children need to have their own instrument. Please email stolps.clubs@gmail.com to book a place on the club.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday March 8th. All 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 creative and inventive costumes.

BUDDY READING

The Buddy Reading Programme will begin in March 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 as well as giving a great opportunity to the P3s to develop their reading skills.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT (P2, P4 and P5)

Due to the huge numbers attending previous concerts we are going to have two concerts this year on Thur March 14th, one at 10am and the other at 1pm. P2, 4 and 5 will perform at both, so parents are most welcome to attend whichever suits best. Tickets will be on sale from Wed March 6th in the hall from 8.30-9am and 2-3pm.

ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

On February 6th, 15 of our students from years 4-6 attended an anti-bullying workshop in Newtownards. They took part in a variety of activities, workshops and discussions related to bullying. Along with our established anti-bullying ambassadors, the students are now experts in what kinds of behaviours constitute bullying. We look forward to seeing their new ideas in action over the forthcoming months!

PARKING

Please ensure that you park with consideration for our neighbours and parking regulations. Wee Care Nursery have asked that parents dropping children to St Therese do **not** use their car park.