



September 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri Sept. 30th –Opening Mass P4-P7- 12.45pm in St Therese of Lisieux Church
Mon Oct. 3rd– Staff Development Day **School closed**
Thurs 6th Oct – Flu Vaccination offered to all children in school.
Mon 31st Oct – Fri 4th Nov – Halloween Break **School closed**

WELCOME BACK!

The staff are delighted to welcome everybody back to school for the start of a new school year. A particularly warm welcome to our new P1s who, like myself, are beginning their school career at St. Therese of Lisieux. Some of us were a little anxious the first day but we have all been looked after so well that we are delighted to be here. We wish all of our children a successful and happy year ahead!

P1 children are now in school each day from 9-12 and should be dropped off and collected from their classrooms through the P1 door in the main playground. Their first full day is Mon Sept 26th.

LOST PROPERTY

All of the children look so smart in their uniforms. Please make sure that each item of clothing is labelled clearly with your child's name and class.

There is a lot of lost property to be reclaimed in school from last year. The children will be given a chance to look at it on Friday Sept 16th. Parents are also welcome to come and see if any of it belongs to your child from 2-2.30pm on Fri 16th Sept.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Miss Gargan's P3 class will be presenting an assembly on Fri 30th Sept at 9.30 am all about St Therese of Lisieux. Parents and family are warmly invited to attend. The P5 year group assembly will be on Fri Oct 21st. Each class presents at least once throughout the year. We will let you know in the newsletter each month which class is presenting the next assembly.



P6 presented a wonderful assembly to help us focus on our hopes, dreams and aspirations for the year ahead.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROVISION

Extended Schools funding allows us to offer a wide range of after school clubs. Details of the clubs on offer have already been sent home.

The **Homework Club** for P4 –P7 has already begun. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4pm a teacher supervises this club. Cost is £2 or £1 for those on Free School Meals.

OPENING MASS

Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Therese and the opening of the new school year will be held in St. Therese of Lisieux church for P4-7 pupils on Friday 30th at 12.45pm. Parents and family are warmly invited to attend. The children will be dismissed from school at 2pm as usual.

NEW PE UNIFORM

The new PE uniform was very popular with staff and children last year. Please remember that jogging bottoms must be plain navy and trainers must be dark. The uniform is available from Truly Fare. You can contact them at 90614447/90236374 or email trulyfareschoolware@gmail.com
PE uniform should be worn on the day your child is timetabled for PE. **NB Normal school uniform must be worn on all other days.**

MORNING SUPERVISION

The playground is supervised from 8.45 am each morning. **Only children at the breakfast club should be in school before this time.**

BREAKFAST CLUB / '123' CLUB

Breakfast Club is open every morning at 8 am. Children must arrive by 8.30am at the latest to allow sufficient time to eat a healthy breakfast - cost £2/£1 per day. Our **'123' Club** - 2-3pm for children in P1-3, operates Mondays to Thursdays- cost £2/£1 per day.

SCHOOL SAFETY

As you know the school has had new fire doors installed over the summer. Some of these doors open into the car park so we will be closing the gates onto the Antrim Road every morning to ensure the children are safe. **If you do come through the pedestrian gates during the day, please remember to close the gates behind you.**

Parents are reminded that no cars are allowed in the school grounds after 8.20am. Please adhere to parking regulations when parking around neighbouring streets. We remain on a PSNI watching brief.

When riding or scooting to school, children should wear helmets. On arriving at the school gates, bikes/scooters should be walked to the parking areas.

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.**

MONEY – SAFE HANDLING

All money sent into school should be put in an envelope clearly marked with a child's name, class, amount and purpose. Exact amounts would be greatly appreciated.

HEALTHY LIVING

Our school operates a Healthy Eating Policy. At break time we ask that children have a small portion of either fresh fruit, vegetables, plain yogurt or cheese. Still, unflavoured water or milk is the only drink permitted during mid-morning break

St Therese was the first school in Northern Ireland to win the GOLD **'Bike It'** award and we are again encouraging children and parents to either walk, cycle or scoot to school!!

CURRICULUM TALKS

P1 – P7 curriculum talks will be held in the week beginning 19th Sept in your child's classroom. Please make every effort to attend these very important meetings. They are a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and find out about what they will be learning in the year ahead.

P2 and P3 – Mon. Sept 19th at 5pm

P4 – Wed. Sept 21st -5pm

P5-P7 – Mon. Sept 19th 5.30pm

HOLIDAYS 2016/2017

A full list of holidays for 16/17 was sent home in June and it is also available on the school website.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

School begins each morning at 8.55am with prayers in the school playground. On a wet morning children can go straight to their classrooms from 8.45am onwards. School gates and doors will close punctually after morning prayers. After that time children must enter by the main entrance.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you are able to volunteer to accompany your child's class on a school trip or swimming - even once in a year - please let your child's teacher know asap. We are always in need of your help. Thank you in anticipation!

FLU VACCINATION

All primary school children will be offered the Flu Vaccination. The School Health Immunisation Team will be here to immunise all pupils whose parents have signed consent forms on Thurs. Oct. 6th. We will send the parent consent packs home as soon as we receive them. Please return them promptly.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs White on the birth of her little boy Jude in August and to Miss Ferrin who is getting married.

JUMP, JIGGLE and JIVE

JJJ starts again on Mondays at 12noon for 0-4yrs olds in the school hall. The first session is on Monday 12th Sept. For further details contact Amanda at a.mcgall@ntlworld.com

FINALLY..

A big thank you to the whole school community for the warm welcome, encouragement and support I have received since I started here in August.