



September

2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Sept 11 th	P2 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Mon	Sept 16 th	P7 Curriculum Meeting at 4pm
Mon	Sept 16 th	P6 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Tue	Sept 24 th	P5 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Wed	Sept 18 th	P4 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Thur	Sept 19 th	P3 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Tue	Sept 24 th	P5 Curriculum Meeting at 4.30pm
Fri	Sept 27 th	Opening Mass at St Therese of Lisieux Church at 11.30am
Tue	Oct 15 th	M and M Musical Theatre present Peter Pan in school
Mon	Oct 28 th – Fri Nov 1 st	<u>School closed for the Halloween Break</u>
Mon	Nov 18 th	Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school
Mon	Dec 2 nd	Parent Teacher Meetings. <u>School closed for pupils.</u>

WELCOME BACK

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school for a new year of learning and enjoyment. A special welcome to our new P1 children beginning their school life in St Therese. We wish all of the children a very successful and happy year ahead.

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 Tue Oct 1st at 11.30am. Parents and family are warmly invited to attend. The children will be dismissed from school at 3pm as usual.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Up to date contact details are required for each child in school. If you have changed your phone number or moved house, please let the class teacher know. ***If your child has developed any medical issues over the holiday period, it is very important to share this information with the class teacher. If your child has any medication in school (inhalers/epipens) please call in and check that it is in date and that the care plan is still correct.***

KEY POLICIES

As policies are updated they are published on the school website. They include Online Safety, Complaints, Health and Safety, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, First Aid and Health and Safety Policies.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Information will be sent home next week about the afterschool activities available this year.

UNIFORMS

The children look so smart in their school uniforms. Please make sure that each item of clothing is labelled clearly so any mislaid clothing can be returned to its rightful owner quickly. It is important to check the labels regularly to ensure that names are still visible as they can wash off.

PE UNIFORMS

Please note that the **only** logo on our PE uniform is the school badge on the sweatshirt. Plain navy jogging bottoms are readily and cheaply available. Trainers should be **dark** and as plain as possible. We ask that branded sportswear is **not** worn to school as it is not part of our PE uniform. **PE kit can be purchased in school from Truly Fare on Fri Sept 6th from 8.30am until lunchtime.** You can also order and pay online at www.trulyfarebelfast.com

HEALTHY EATING

Our school operates Healthy Eating and Healthy Break Policies, which are available on the school website. At break time we ask that children have a small portion of fresh fruit, vegetables, plain yogurt or cheese. Still, unflavoured water or milk are the only drinks permitted during mid-morning break. NUTS are not allowed in any form. Information on Healthy Breaks and Lunches is available at <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Healthier%20Lunch%20Boxes.pdf>

SCHOOL DINNERS

The cost of school dinners is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Dinner money should be given to the teachers on Mondays. If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance, information is available at the school office or online at <http://www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/howtoapply/>

BREAKFAST CLUB and 123 CLUB

Breakfast Club is open every morning at 8 am. Children should arrive by 8.30am at the latest to allow sufficient time to eat a healthy breakfast - £2 per day or £1 for children entitled to free school meals. Our '**123' Club** operates Mondays to Thursdays, from 2-3pm for children in P1-3- £2 per day or £1 for children entitled to free school meals. These clubs do not need to be booked in advance.

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.**

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

School begins each morning at 8.55am with prayers in the school playground. On wet mornings 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. If your child is absent for any reason please send a note to the class teacher. Family holidays should not be arranged for term time.

SCHOOL SAFETY

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. Children cycling or scooting to school should wear helmets. On arriving at the school gates, bikes/scooters should be walked to the parking areas. No dogs are allowed on the school grounds, other than assistance/guide dogs. We also ask that dogs are not left unattended outside of the school while you collect your child, in case they are frightened if approached by excited children.

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.

PARENT/GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS

If parents or grandparents are able to volunteer to accompany your child's class on a school trip, swimming, to mass or to visit Cavehill PS (our Shared Education partner), even once in a year, please let your child's teacher know.

GDPR

Our Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice for Pupils, Parents and Families is available on the school website.

<http://stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/parents/parent-information/>

CURRICULUM TALKS

P2 – P7 curriculum talks will be held in September 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 Wed Sept 11th at 4.30pm
- P7 Mon Sept 16th at 4pm
- P6 Mon Sept 16th at 4.30pm
- P4 Wed Sept 18th at 4.30pm
- P3 Thur Sept 19th at 4.30pm
- P5 Tue Sept 24th at 4.30pm

CAPES COUNSELLING

We are very lucky to have Lynne Dornan as our school counsellor. Lynne is a fully qualified and very experienced counsellor and has been with us now for a number of years. Counselling can help children dealing with many issues including bereavement, separation, anxiety, worry, loneliness, anger and friendship issues. Counselling takes place in a private room in school and sessions last about 30 minutes. Lynne always talks to parents before starting to work with the children.

If you feel your child might benefit from counselling, please speak to your child's teacher and they will give you a permission form to fill in. Lynne will contact you when a place becomes available.

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING

Our comprehensive Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website. A summary will be sent home with the children on Mon Sept 9th. Mr Coyle is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Miss Gargan is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

MONEY

When paying for various activities in school it is a huge help to teachers 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 financial records and while we understand that parents may occasionally need to pay at the office it makes record keeping easier if money is given to teachers so that they can record this correctly.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Erin Lyttle who was highly commended in an EA Logo Design Competition in June - a very talented young artist! Congratulations also to the McFerran family on the safe arrival of baby Grace in July.

CREDIT UNION

Newington Credit Union visits the school every Thursday at 9am (from Thur Sept 19th) to facilitate regular savers. New members are very welcome, both children and adults. Application forms are available from the office.