



May

2021

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	May 3 rd	Bank Holiday –school closed
Tue	May 18 th	Photographer for P1 and P7 photos
Wed	May 19 th	P4 First Confession (CMcC) 11am in school
Thur	May 20 th	P4 First Confession (SO'N/PM) 11am in school
Mon- Fri	May 24 th -28 th	<u>Summer mid-term</u>
Mon	May 31 st	Bank Holiday –school closed
Sat	June 5 th	P4 First Holy Communion 10am (CMcC) and noon (SON/PM)
Wed	June 30 th	School closing at noon for the summer break

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to our P7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. Their Services of Light and Confirmation Ceremonies were intimate, prayerful and reverent and the children were a credit to their families. Please keep them in your prayers and also our P4s who will be making their First Confession and their First Holy Communion in the next few weeks. Thanks to the PTA who organised a lovely treat for the P7s after the Confirmations.

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

Thank you to all our staff and families for working so hard to keep everyone safe. Please continue to be cautious and continue to follow PHA guidance to minimise Covid transmission. We really do not want another class to have to isolate this term.

In particular, any pupil who is ill should not come to school. If your child, or any member of your household, displays any symptoms of Covid-19, everyone in the household must stay at home and the symptomatic person should be tested. Advice from DE available at

https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-09-30_13_18_24/012176_Department_of_Education_Parent_Carer_Information_A4_NEW_HR.PDF

When collecting your children at hometime, please remember the following:

- Wear a face covering in the playground, unless exempt
- Keep 2m distance from other adults
- Only one adult per household should be in the playground.
- Leave the playground as soon as you collect your child.
- Do not congregate at the entrances/gates.

If your child tests positive please email the school at info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk, so that we can assist the PHA in contact tracing.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm

OTHER ILLNESS

We have a number of pupils with compromised immune systems. Contact with common infectious conditions, especially chickenpox, measles, shingles or stomach bugs, may have serious implications for their treatment. If you think your own child may have come into contact with chickenpox please let the class teacher know so that we can pass this information on. Please note that children with a tummy bug should not return to school until they have been well for 48 hours. Advice on children returning to school after illness is available at http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

SAFETY ISSUES

No **dogs** are allowed on the school grounds, other than guide/assistance 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.

Earrings. Please note, to keep the children safe, small studs are the **only** type of earring suitable for wearing in school. Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. If earrings cannot be removed it is possible "to make them safe by taping, front and back, which may offer a measure of protection. The taping should be sufficient to prevent the stud post penetrating the bone behind the ear". AFPE 2017

Hopefully, we will have lovely weather this term. Please make sure your child has a sunhat (labelled with name and class) and remember to apply **sun** cream if it is very hot.

TROCAIRE

All classes took part in the 'Get Moving for Trocaire' challenge before Easter, totting up their Born to Move miles around the playground. The Trocaire campaign was a great way to learn about important social justice issues and get the children active when they returned to school! Trocaire send their thanks for the £1717 donated through the school and also for the many online direct donations.

P4-7 STUDYLADDER LEAGUE TABLE

A big thank you to all the boys and girls who have been working hard at home on Studyladder to improve their mathematics skills. A league table has now been set up for the Primary 4 to Primary 7 classes. Congratulations to all the children who have made it onto the leader boards so far! Huge congratulations also to Ella in P4 and Ejike in P5 who have been the top scorers so far! Keep up the great work everyone!

WORLD MATHS DAY IS BACK!

Time to prime those brains and flex those fingers - World Maths Day is back! On **Wednesday May 5th 2021**, students across the globe will battle it out to discover who is the world's strongest mathlete. On this day, millions of students across the world compete in Live Mathletics challenges to determine a global winner, while also participating in fun activities that highlight the wonder of numbers. Students log into Mathletics and compete against peers from around the world in 20 one-minute challenges. It runs for 48 hours to cover all global timezones, however, the children can login now to earn points as they have all been given their passwords. There will be a certificate and small treat for the child in each class who has earned the most points when the event finishes! Good luck everyone!

BORROWING DIGITAL DEVICES SCHEME

Chromebooks were distributed to eligible children in P4 and P7 through the EA's Borrowing Digital Devices scheme during the Autumn term. We have just taken another delivery of devices that will be distributed to eligible children in P3 and P6 as soon as they are set up. If your child (P3,4,6, 7) is on Free School Meals and you did not apply for a device in Term 1 and would now like to, please email info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

We have applied to the EA to borrow digital devices for children in other year groups that requested them, but a recent email from the EA states that *'further year groups will be reviewed at a future date.'*

THE BIG PEDAL 2021

A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who took part in the Big Pedal 2021. The number of bikes and scooters parked in the pods was incredible!! As a whole school, we worked very hard to complete the circuit in the set time. Congratulations to everyone who took part. As the weather improves, we ask you to please encourage your children to cycle, scoot or walk to school in this our final school term. Our Primary 5 Bike Buddies, Tom and Alanna, will be doing spot checks, giving prizes to those children who regularly bring their bike, scooter or walk to school. Please ensure your bike/ scooter is locked. Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting and be aware of traffic. Remember that school is a pedestrian zone, therefore **nobody should be cycling or scooting in school grounds.** Many thanks for your continued support 😊

PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer will be here on May 18th to take P1 and P7 class and individual photos. Unfortunately, due to Covid safety measures, we cannot offer family group photos this year.

GAELFAST

We are delighted to have Simon McCrory from Gaelfast back in St Therese every Tuesday this term. Simon will be working with the P3-6 classes over the term to develop their fundamental movement skills.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We are delighted that **outdoor** after-school clubs have restarted following approval from the DE. Indoor afterschool clubs are still 'paused'. MR Sports are delivering a range of activities for P1-P7 children. Have a look to see what is on offer for your child and you can book and pay for the club online directly through their website. Limited spaces available in the 3-4pm slots. Children should bring a coat in case of rain as all sessions are outdoors. <https://mr-sports.co.uk/product-category/schools/st-therese-of-lisieux/>

WEBSITE APP

Our new website is updated regularly with photos, letters, information, important dates etc. The website also has an app that we would like all parents to download. This app will allow us to send messages and updates directly to your phone. We would like to use this service to message parents rather than the expensive text messaging service we currently use.

CLASSDOJO

ClassDojo has been a very useful communication tool over the two periods of Remote Learning. Teachers and parents can continue to communicate essential messages through this platform. Teachers will endeavour to check messages every morning but they will **not** be checking during teaching time, so please do not send messages to be given to your child during the school day. In an effort to regain some work/life balance, staff will not be responding to messages in the evenings/weekends.

TREK

This Friday marks the end of our two-week **TREK** programme! The children have been working hard to have their name placed on their class poster which celebrates inclusivity and diversity. They have shown the qualities of Truth, Respect Empathy, and Kindness through their simple acts of kindness at work and play. We hope they have shown these at home too!

21 local schools have taken part in this unique programme. This year we have partnered with the charity Cancer Fund for Children. Thank you for all your donations. The just giving page is still available below for any one still wishing to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/celebratingdifferencetrek>

UNIFORMS

Our request for outgrown school uniform items was very successful and many of the items donated have already found new owners. Thank you for your support. We intend to continue with this initiative as it fits in very well with our Eco School ethos to **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. There are some preloved uniform items in great condition still available, mostly in smaller sizes. If you need any item, please let the teacher know through Dojo and we will send the uniform home with your child. We continue to accept washed uniform items in good condition.

HOLIDAY LIST 2021-22

Next year's holiday list is on the school website at

https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2021-04-30_8_57_12//Holiday_List_2021-2022.pdf