



29/06/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of term, I want to thank you all for the many kind messages of support, encouragement and thanks we have received over the past year. It has been a challenging time for everyone as we have navigated the difficulties the pandemic has brought. However, it has been amazing to see how well the whole school community has worked to ensure the education of our children continued throughout the entire year.

I would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for your cooperation with all of the Covid safety measures, and our pupils and staff for their positive approach, willingness to try new ways of working, and their commitment to learning throughout this unprecedented time.

As we look to the year ahead, it is very likely that at least some of the current safety measures in place will be maintained and we await guidance from DE and EA on what next term will look like.

However, we would like all children from P2-P7 to bring the following stationery items to school again next year as this has helped the efficient running of the classes- HB pencils x 2, rubber, sharpener, Pritt stick, small ruler, small set of colouring pencils and whiteboard marker x 2. Please label these items with your child's name.

We also want to continue with the staggered entry to the school building in the mornings as this has meant a much calmer start to the school day for the children and ensured that staff have the time to greet each child individually, rather than getting 450 people into the building at the once!

We will be back to our usual uniform policy from Sept as recent communications from DE no longer indicate the need for a freshly washed uniform every day. Please note that children should not wear branded joggers as part of their PE uniform. The only logo is the school badge on the sweatshirt. Trainers should be dark and as plain as possible. Truly Fare, who supply our PE sweatshirts, have opened a shop beside Tesco's on the Antrim Road.

We would like to run the Breakfast Club again from Monday Sept 6th if there is enough demand from parents. An expression of interest form will be sent out shortly so, if you are interested in using the Breakfast Club, please fill it in and return it as soon as possible.

Parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals/Uniform Grant for this school year will not be sent a pre-populated form for next year. All parents/ guardians (including new applicants) are required to apply on-line via the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>. The EA recommend that parents/ guardians apply as early as possible, to enable applications to be processed and approved for the new school year. Parents/ guardians are being advised of the importance of providing valid Bank or Building Society account details in the claimant's own name. Payments cannot be made into Post Office accounts. To be eligible you must be receiving one of the benefits listed below.

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance (if you receive Contribution-Based Jobseeker's Allowance you will not qualify under this benefit)

- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) - if you receive Contribution-Based ESA you will not qualify under this benefit
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income not exceeding £16,190
- Universal Credit with net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year
- An Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)

Big Cat Online Library has been in use in our school since January. We are delighted that it will continue to be operational during the summer holidays. Every child has their own unique online library and access to a vast range of fiction and non-fiction books, pitched at their reading level. This is such a great resource and we strongly advise you to continue using it over the summer months. Please get in touch with the teacher before the end of term if you need your child's login details again or have any queries about the library.

The last day of this school year is Wed June 30th and finishes between 11.40 and 12 noon to ensure social distancing is observed. School meals are not available. This is a non-uniform day.

Eldest/only Child	Collect all your children at
P1-2	11.40am
P3-4	11.50am
P5-7	12noon

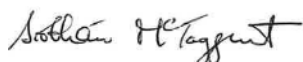
Our first school day of the new term is Tue Aug 31st and this is a half day for all pupils. Full day from Wed Sept 1st. P3s will stay to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Thur Sept 2nd.

The 2021/22 holiday list is on the school website at https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2021-05-18_11_51_19//Final_Holiday_List_2021-2022.pdf

If you change your phone number or move house, please let us know by emailing info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

We hope that you can all take a very well deserved break over the summer and wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Yours sincerely



S McTaggart

Principal