



# February

2024



1973-2023

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tue	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>
Mon-Fri	Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>
Wed-Fri	Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>
Tue	Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>
Wed	March 6 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	April 8 <sup>th</sup>
Mon-Fri	May 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	May 27 <sup>th</sup>
Sat	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Fri	June 28 <sup>th</sup>

P7 Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11am  
Safer Internet Week  
School closed for Spring Half Term  
Families Connect -Session 1  
P3 First Confession at St Therese Church at 10am  
World Book Day  
St Patrick's Day Concert  
School closed for St Patrick's Day holiday  
School closing at noon for the Easter holidays  
School reopening for Term 3  
School closed for Summer Half Term  
School closed for the Bank Holiday  
P4 First Holy Communion  
School closing at noon for the summer holidays

## SACRAMENTS

Please remember our P7 pupils and their families in your prayers, as they make their final preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope the children have a wonderful celebration of the sacrament and that it provides a valuable opportunity for them to get closer to God and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as they journey into the future.

Our thanks to Fr John, our new chaplain, who visited our P3 and P4 children at their enrolments for the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK/GRANDPARENTS DAY

During the week 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> January, our whole school and parish community celebrated Catholic Schools Week on the theme of *Catholic Schools – Communities of Service*. The children were involved in a range of activities each day, including a special prayer service on the Monday morning. P4-P7 attended parish Mass and contributed to the liturgy through singing and prayers of the faithful. The high point of the week was undoubtedly our fabulous Grandparents' Day on the Wednesday when we were delighted to host a huge number of our much loved grandparents. Judging by the feedback from grandparents on departure, they enjoyed their special day with the children. We hope they will cherish their prayer rocks- special gifts from the children.

## FEAST OF ST BRIGID

Beannachtai Lá Féile Bríde oraibh! Wishing all of our families and friends a very happy St Brigid's Day on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Special thanks to our P4s who concluded our Catholic Schools Week celebrations with an assembly recognising the huge contribution of St. Brigid, the co-patroness of Ireland, to the development of Christianity in our land. Through drama, narration and amazing singing, we learnt about the life of a very special Irish saint. They have shared their performance on the P4 Dojo!



## POST PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS SEPT 2024

The application process for P7 children transferring to post primary school in Sept 2024 is now open. Applications via EA Connect must be submitted by Thur 22 Feb at 12 noon. The comprehensive EA booklet 'Applying for a Year 8 Post Primary Place' was shared on the P7 Dojo on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. Further information, videos, and individual school criteria are also available on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. Please phone the school if additional advice or guidance is needed.

## FAMILY ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP

Did your child receive their first digital device for Christmas? Do you know how to set privacy settings to keep them safe, or how to block, report and mute other users? Do you know who they are engaging with online?

As part of **Safer Internet Week 2024**, our Student Council, together with pupils from FS and KS1, have created a **Family Online Safety Workshop video**. This will be posted on Dojo on **Mon 5th Feb** to view. There will be practical advice and support as to how to keep children safe while navigating online resources.

Alongside this, there are details about the Department of Education NI **'Safer Schools NI'** parent app. This app helps you to navigate the digital world and give you the tools to protect your child when they are online.



Search for **'Safer Schools NI'** in the App/Play Store. Follow the instructions to register and create an account, select our school and input **2030** when asked for a code.

## FAMILIES CONNECT PROGRAMME

Families Connect is a six-week programme taking place on Tue mornings starting on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 and Ms Scannell, are informal, relaxed and hugely beneficial to your child's learning. Please contact your child's teacher asap if you are interested as places are very limited.

## PARKING

We have had further complaints from neighbours regarding careless parking in the immediate vicinity of the school and are expecting a visit from the PSNI. Please remind whoever drops your child to school to park with care and consideration in the around the school, being careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please ask them to be especially vigilant when reversing. Parking on yellow zig-zag lines is an endorsable penalty, which means three points on a licence and a £65 fine. Double parking on the Antrim Road and parking too close to junctions may also lead to fines.

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The children from P1 to P7 were treated to some live performances of traditional Chinese music, song and dance organised by our Mandarin tutor Lena. Our P6 and 7 classes took part in very enjoyable workshops where they made Chinese dragons, were taught calligraphy, and produced some beautiful pieces of Chinese art.

Our winners of the Chinese New Year poster competition were presented with their prizes during our special celebrations. Huge congratulations to Ellie(P3), Max(P4) Maddie (P5), Vivienne (P6) and Aaron (P7). Thank you to Lena and all at the Confucius Institute at Ulster University for organising such a wonderful day.

## CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Massive congratulations the P7 boys and girls who represented the school in the local Credit Union quiz last week. We had two very strong teams who eventually had to be separated by a double tie-breaker, finishing in second and third places overall. Well done!



## WORLD BOOK DAY

We have just one month to go until World Book Day on Thursday 7th March! There will be several exciting activities happening throughout the school and we are encouraging all pupils to design their own potato/junk material book characters to help celebrate the day. We saw fantastic creations last year and we are looking forward to another memorable World Book Day.



**DIGITAL SCHOOLS AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND**

