



September

2024

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	Sept 2 nd
Mon	Sept 23 rd
Tue	Oct 1 st
Wed	Oct 16 th
Fri	Oct 25 th
Mon	Fri Oct 28 th –Fri Nov 1 st (inclusive)
Thur	Nov 28 th
Fri	Dec 20 th
Mon	Jan 6 th
Sat	May 10 th

Breakfast Club/123 Club reopen
Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Opening Mass in St Therese Church 11am
Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school
Halloween Dressing Up Day
School closed for the Halloween Break
Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2
P4 First Holy Communion

WELCOME BACK

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

We will continue to have staff at the gates to welcome the children every morning. Staff will walk any children, who are unsure of where to go, to their new classrooms. This system has helped to create a calmer, safer and less stressful start to the day for our pupils.

BREAKFAST CLUB/ 123 CLUB

Breakfast Club will be open from Sept 2nd at 8am for children in P2-7. P1 children can attend from October onwards. Ben Madigan's Bar and Kitchen sponsor our Breakfast Club. This means that children on Free School Meals can attend the club for 50p per day. The price remains £3 for others.

123 Club will also be available from Mon Sept 2nd. It operates from 2-3pm from Mon-Thur each week and is open to P2 and P3 children initially. P1s will be welcome to use the 123 Club once they are in school full days. **Places for both clubs must be booked in advance through the links on our website in the Parent Section. Booking closes on Thursdays for the following week.**

HOLIDAY LIST

The holiday list for the year ahead is available [here](#) on our website.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

OTHER ILLNESS

We have a number of pupils with highly compromised immune systems and coming into contact with common infectious conditions, especially chickenpox or stomach bugs, may have serious implications for them. If your child may have come into contact with chickenpox, please let the class teacher know so that we can pass this information on. Advice on children returning to school after illness is available online [here](#).

MEDICAL NEEDS

If your child has developed any medical issues over the holiday period, it is very important to share this information in writing with the class teacher. **If your child has any medication in school (inhalers/epipens/antihistamine etc) please call in and check that it is in date and that the care plan is still appropriate.**

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Afterschool activities begin on Monday Sept 9th. Clubs available include the usual MR Sports activities (Football, Arts and Crafts, Gaelic Football, Dance, Multisports and Basketball), as well as Miniversity and Ju-Jitsu. Further details will be available on Dojo asap. P1s will be able to sign up for these clubs after the Halloween break.

MANDARIN COMPETITION

Sixteen of our children from P4-7 were selected to take part in the 'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin competition in June. They all got through to the UK Final and are to be commended for their amazing performances. Special congratulations to Ella, Molly, Luke, Jude, Conor, Anna, Joe and Malachy who came third in the KS2 competition.

ECO SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded **Eco School of the Year 2023/24** in June. We also received our 6th Green Flag Award at the Eco Schools NI 30th anniversary awards, held in Stranmillis College. We are particularly excited about our Eco School of the Year award as we were the first primary school to receive it in 2022, and now the first to achieve it a second time. Massive congratulations to the staff and pupils in our Eco team for all their leadership, commitment and dedication to making our school, and the wider community, more sustainable!

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 contact the office and let us know.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds, with the exception of blue badge holders. Please park with care and consideration in the immediate vicinity of the school and be careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please be especially vigilant when reversing.

Children cycling or scooting to school should wear helmets. On arrival 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.

Hoops/dangly earrings are not allowed in school-small studs are the only type of earring suitable for wearing in school but must be removed/taped for PE lessons.

CAPES COUNSELLING

Our school counsellor, Lynne Dornan, is very experienced and has been with us many years. Counselling can help children dealing with many issues including bereavement, separation, anxiety, worry, loneliness, anger and friendship issues. Counselling in school, takes place in a private room 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 contact your child's teacher through ClassDojo and they will send 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 and summary is available on the school website. Mr Coyle is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mrs Acum is the Deputy Designated Teacher. The summary has been published on ClassDojo.

HEALTHY EATING

Our school operates Healthy Eating & 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, 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/Lunches is available [here](#).

SCHOOL DINNERS

The menu is available on the school website in the Parent Information Tab. It operates on a four week cycle. Click [here](#) to view at any time. The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Money will only be accepted in a labelled and sealed envelope or plastic bag. No change can be given. Meals will be delivered to P1 children in their classrooms. Meals for P2-7 children will be served in the canteen. Apply online [here](#).

Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Grant are available to parents in receipt of one of the following benefits: -

- Income Support/Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less;/Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.
- An Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum ASAT

CLASSDOJO

Please note that teachers will not respond to individual messages this year due to time constraints. We have found that answers to many of the queries received are readily available in Dojo posts, Newsletters, Weekly Focus Sheets and on the website. Parents can send brief messages about reasons for absences, appointments etc and teachers will read them **after school**. If parents want to speak to a teacher, they should message the teacher or phone the office detailing what they wish to discuss, and the teacher will respond after school in due course. Parents of older children who walk home alone should make arrangements with them before school.

UNIFORMS

The children look so smart in their school uniforms. Please make sure that all clothing is labelled clearly so mislaid items can be returned to their owner. It is important to check the labels regularly to ensure that name/class are still visible.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ms McDonagh and family on the recent safe arrival of baby Jude.