



# October

## 2024

### IMPORTANT DATES

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Tue  | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Wed  | Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Thur | Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Fri  | Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Mon  | Fri Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> –Fri Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> (inclusive) |
| Thur | Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Fri  | Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Mon  | Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Thur | Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Sat  | May 10 <sup>th</sup>  |

**Feast of St Therese & Opening Mass in St Therese Church**  
**Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school**  
**PTA Halloween Disco -details to follow**  
**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**  
**P7 Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11am**  
**P4 First Holy Communion**

### FEAST OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Congratulations to our P4-7 children who attended the opening mass in St Therese Church. Their prayerful, respectful attitude and beautiful singing made it a wonderful and inspiring celebration and reminded us to use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place.

The P3 year group told us about the life of St Therese of Lisieux in their assembly and why she is such a wonderful role model for all of us. Our 'Little Way' awards encourage us to try to live like St Therese every day by being kind and caring, and always doing our best.

The P3s also reminded us that St Therese is known as the 'Little Flower' and we discussed the beautiful and unique artwork created under the direction of artist Eleanor Wheeler in June. We designed, made, painted and decorated 50 flowers in clay, to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with one of St Therese's beautiful quotations flowing through the flowers...*every flower created by Him is beautiful...*The piece has been put into position at the front of the school-we hope it will be admired for years to come.



### HOLIDAY LIST

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

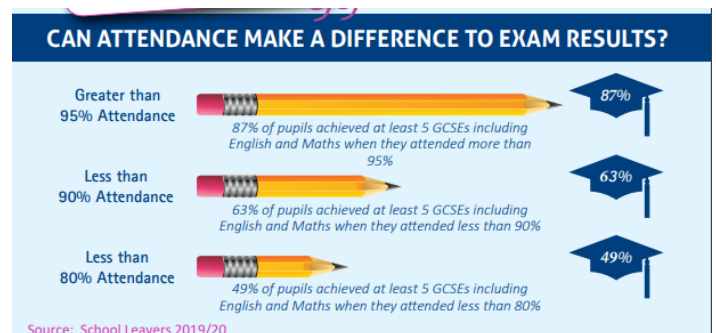
### SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

### X/TWITTER

Follow us on X (Twitter) to hear the latest news and see some of the children's activities -  
<https://twitter.com/TheresePS>.

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



DE advise that it is essential that children attend school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child to fulfil their potential Children who regularly miss school **without good reason** are more likely to become isolated from their friends and to underachieve in examinations. Please see DE leaflets on the importance of good attendance [here](#) and [here](#).

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 100% Attendance | 0 Days Missed   |
| 95% Attendance  | 9 Days of Absence<br>1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed   |
| 90% Attendance  | 19 Days of Absence<br>3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed |
| 85% Attendance  | 28 Days of Absence<br>5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed |

It is also very important that children arrive on time in the mornings so that administration tasks can be carried out efficiently, and to ensure children do not miss out on learning opportunities. We understand that there may well be genuine reasons for lateness but would encourage everyone to aim to be in school for 9am.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

If you submitted your application more than four weeks ago but have not received confirmation that your child/children will receive Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance, please check your email including your junk folder. If you have not received an email, contact the EA urgently, quoting your National Insurance Number and your submission ID. For further details see

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

## SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP

The 'Safer Schools NI' app, funded by DE, helps parents navigate the digital world with tools to protect children when they are online. The 'Safer Schools NI' app is available in the App/Play Store. Follow the instructions to register and create an account, select St Therese of Lisieux PS and input 2030 when asked for a code to access content specific to our school.

## PARKING

As always parking in the immediate vicinity of the school is difficult. Please park with care and consideration, being careful not to block gateways/drives and being especially vigilant when reversing. A complaint has been made to the PSNI about cars blocking footpaths with parents and children being forced on to the road to get round cars. The PSNI will be monitoring the situation. Parking on yellow zig-zag lines is an endorsable penalty, which means three points and a £65 fine.

Parents/childminders etc should switch their engines off while waiting to reduce fumes. We encourage parents to say goodbye to the children at the gate if possible in the mornings and staff are on hand to assist where necessary.

## CYCLING/SCOOTING TO SCHOOL

We are delighted to see so many children already cycling and scooting safely to and from school. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of a few safety tips:

- Please ensure your bike/scooter is locked.
- Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting.
- Please be aware of traffic.
- Please wear reflective clothing.
- Please remember that school is a pedestrian zone, therefore **nobody should be cycling or scooting in school grounds.**

We will be arranging several cycling fun days; the first one will be our spooky cycle on Friday Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Good luck and happy cycling 😊

## KEY POLICIES

As policies are updated they are published on our website [here](#). They include Online Safety, Complaints, Health and Safety, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, First Aid, Health and Safety as well as Child Protection/Safeguarding Policies.

## WALKING BUS

Thanks to Miss Logan, Mrs O Boyle and Miss Kane, our Walking Bus is running again! It leaves Boots on the Cavehill Road at 8.40am. Children joining the Walking Bus should wear their Hi-vis vests. New pupils on the bus should ask their teacher for a vest and it will be sent home with them. The Walking Bus will not operate on wet mornings.



The poster is for the St Therese Walking Bus. It features the school's name 'ST THERESE WALKING Bus' in large, stylized letters. Below the title, it says 'HOP ON BOARD! EVERY MORNING!' and includes a reminder: 'Please remember- the Walking Bus will not run on wet mornings'. A list of 'Bus Pick Up Points' is provided: 8:40am at Boots Chemist Cavehill Rd, corner of Tivoli Gardens & Victoria Gardens, and corner of Chichester Park North and Salisbury Avenue. The bus arrives at St Therese Lisieux Primary School at 8:55 am. A note mentions that P1s can join as long as an adult walks with them initially, and they can join after the Halloween break without an adult. The poster also features the Belfast Healthy City logo and the Historical Advisory Group logo.

## SCHOOL DINNERS

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, no hot meals can be served in the canteen. The EA's School Meal Service are providing a packed lunch style service until the issue with the hot water supply is resolved. Breakfast Club continues to operate but with a more limited range of snack type pre-prepared foods available. The EA's Maintenance Team is working hard to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

## FAMILY SUPPORT NI

Family Support NI website have a directory of support services and organisations, including childcare services, that are available locally. <http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/>

## LOCAL FOOD BANK

As a referral agency for the North Belfast Foodbank we can issue foodbank vouchers. If your family needs this support, please email Mrs McTaggart in confidence at [info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

## GDPR

Our Data Protection Policy & Privacy Notice are available on the school website [here](#). Information is shared where necessary with the PHA/Heath Services.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Miss O Neill and family on the very early arrival of baby Jonah. Mother and baby are doing well!