



# January

## 2024



1973-2023

### IMPORTANT DATES

Fri	Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>
Wed	Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>
Tue	Feb 13 <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	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>

School reopening for Term 2  
Proposed 'Day of Action' by public sector unions  
 Grandparents' Day  
 P7 Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11am  
 School closed for Spring Half Term  
 Families Connect -Session 1  
 P3 First Confession at St Therese Church at 10am  
 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

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations once again to all the children for their contribution to our Christmas celebrations. Their artwork, drama, singing and music were hugely appreciated by all who saw them. We have had so much positive feedback from parents, grandparents and community members. Well done to our school orchestra for opening the P2 and P3 shows and especially our P5s who had their first public performances at Christmas. P2's performance of Whoops A Daisy Angel and P3's performance of The Hoity Toity Angels are on the year group pages of our website. Well done also to the Senior Ensemble whose performance at NICVA's AGM and at our Open Day impressed all the attendees. The beautiful KS2 Carol Service held in St Therese Church just before we closed for the holidays was a reminder for everyone of the true message of Christmas.

### APPLICATIONS FOR P1 SEPT 2024

Applications for P1 must be made online from Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at noon, on EA Connect. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. Any applications made after this will be considered as late. The child's long birth cert must be provided to the school, along with proof of residence (eg recent utility bill). More information is available on the EA website [here](#).

### PROMOTING PUNCTUALITY WEEK

Next week is Promoting Punctuality Week. It is very important that children arrive on time in the mornings so that administration tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently, to give the children time to settle in and to ensure they 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. During Promoting Punctuality Week every child who is in school punctually will be given a ticket for a ballot to win a small prize! Gates are open from 8.45-9am. Breakfast Club is open from 8am.

If children are absent from school, parents should let us know on ClassDojo or by telephone so that the absences are coded correctly for DE.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

The local St Vincent de Paul send their thanks to everyone who contributed to their Christmas appeal. A total of £640 was donated through the school.

## ILLNESS

Some of our pupils have compromised immune systems and coming into contact with infectious illness/conditions, especially chickenpox, mumps, stomach bugs etc. can have serious implications. 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](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)

## 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

Parents, carers, grandparents and childminders are asked to park with care and consideration in the immediate vicinity of the school, being careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please 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.

## LOCAL POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS

Post Primary Open Days/Evenings will be taking place this month. Parents of P6 pupils should strongly consider attending some Open Days this year in case they cannot attend them all next year.

Blessed Trinity College-9th and 10th Jan  
St Mary's CB Grammar -10th and 11th Jan  
Belfast Royal Academy- 10th and 11th Jan  
St Malachy's College- 16th and 17th Jan  
Mercy College-Wed 17th Jan  
Dominican College, Fortwilliam- 20th Jan

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Please check that all items of uniform and coats, hats, etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name so that they can be quickly returned to the rightful owner if they are lost/found.

## PTA

Thanks again to the PTA for subsidising the buses for the Christmas trips and providing treat bags for all the children.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL BALLOT

Ameyia in P4 won the lovely Christmas Hamper donated by the McCready family. The school council are going to use the money raised to buy resources for lunchtime.

## CHRISTMAS BALLOTS

Thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Ballot either through donating prizes or buying lines. We hope the lucky winners have enjoyed their prizes donated by:-

- CT15
- The River Room
- NI Computing Ltd
- Fortwilliam Opticians
- All Direct Furniture
- Carlin Hair
- Stanley's Family Butcher
- MR Sports Afterschool Club
- Tesco Antrim Road
- McDonalds Shore Road
- Pizza Works, Fortwilliam
- Bluebell Bakery Voucher
- Cavehill Road, Spar
- Cassidy's Bar
- Challenge Training Studio
- Hollywood Bowl
- Chill
- Hustle Gym
- Belfast Zoo

## SPORTING NEWS

Camogie - Our P6/7 Camogie team played in the recent indoor competition at the 3G Dome Colin Glen. The girls played three very challenging games against St Anne's, Christ the Redeemer and Bunscoil Phobal Feirste. For many of the girls, this was their first taste of competitive action, so well done to all!! Carter, Ollie, Conor and Owen did a fine job of representing the school at the Cumann na mBunscol annual quiz last week. Although the top prize just eluded them, they all received medals to recognise their fine efforts.

## ADVICE NI

Independent advice on benefits, money, debt, tax credits, accessing additional support, and managing your bills is available from Advice NI on 0800 915 4604 or by email at [advice@adviceni.net](mailto:advice@adviceni.net). See <https://www.adviceni.net/> for further information.

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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



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