



June 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

Sat June 5th
Sat June 12th
Wed June 30th
Tue Aug 31st

P4 First Holy Communion 10am (CMcC) and noon (SON/PM)
Notification of Post-Primary School for September 2021
School closing at noon for the summer break
School reopens for the new school year for P2-7. Finishing at noon.

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to our P4 pupils who received the Sacrament of First Confession in May. Thanks to Fr Morely, Fr Strain and Canon Murray for making the ceremony so special for the boys and girls. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday.

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

We really hope to get to the end of term without closing any more 'bubbles' due to confirmed Covid cases. Therefore, we ask for your cooperation in keeping the school as safe as possible by carefully following our procedures.

In particular, any pupil who is ill should not come to school. If your child, or any member of your household, displays any symptoms of Covid-19, everyone in the household must stay at home and the symptomatic person should be tested. Advice from DE available at https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-09-30_13_18_24/012176_Department_of_Education_Parent_Carer_Information_A4_NEW_HR.PDF

When collecting your children at hometime, please remember the following:

- Wear a face covering in the playground, unless exempt
- Keep 2m distance from other adults
- Only one adult per household should be in the playground.
- Leave the playground as soon as you collect your child.
- Do not congregate at the entrances/gates.

If your child tests positive please email the school at info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk, so that we can assist the PHA in contact tracing.

WEBSITE APP

Our new website is updated regularly with photos, letters, information, important dates etc. The website also has an app that we would like all parents to download. This app will allow us to send messages and updates directly to your phone. We would like to use this service to message parents rather than the expensive text messaging service we currently use.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

SUMMER SCHEME

DE are providing funding for a summer scheme. We are prioritising our current P2, P4 and P6 year groups for this scheme which will take place from July 1st- 9th from 9am-2pm. Plans are at a very early stage and we will be in touch with those year groups when the scheme is open for booking.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS/UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

Parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of support for the 2020/21 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 from Monday, 7 June 2021 via the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>. The EA recommend that parents/ guardians apply during the month of June, or 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) you can also apply**

EUSS

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, and were living in the UK by 31 Dec 2020 now is the time to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. You must apply to the scheme to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021. If you have a permanent residence document you still need to apply. Children also need their own application. You can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme online at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families> It's free to apply. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

WORLD MATHS DAY

Congratulations to all our pupils who made a super effort to participate in World Maths Day. The children had great fun competing against their classmates and students across the globe. The boys and girls were very excited to discover they were competing against children from Australia, New Zealand, Africa and many others places! Due to the children's curiosity we also learned a lot about other countries' flags and time zones. Huge congratulations must also go to our top scorers from each class: Lily, Phoebe, Jaden, Adam, Fola, Eabha, Cara, Joshua, Molly, Ejike, Amelia, Milla, Aaron and in particular to Harry in P6 who achieved the highest number of points in the school! They each earned themselves a certificate and a small treat for all their efforts! Well done everyone!

BORROWING DIGITAL DEVICES SCHEME

The EA have asked us to collect the devices on loan to P7 children so they can be reallocated to others next year. P7 children who are still eligible will be able to borrow a device in Sept from their post primary school. Therefore, P7 devices should be returned to us before Friday June 18th in preparation for use next school year. Pupils in other year groups can keep the devices at home safely to use next year.

LIBRARIES NI READING CHALLENGE

The Summer Reading Challenge will take place from 19 June until 18 September. Children can sign up at their local library, choose their reading goal, then read any books to collect special stickers and other rewards along the way – all for FREE. There is a digital platform too, so the fun can carry on at home! Children can read whatever they like in their chosen format – fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks. Everyone who completes their personal challenge will receive a certificate and medal. Events and activities will take place throughout the summer online and possible face-to-face depending on guidelines issued by the Northern Ireland Executive. There will be more information on the Libraries NI website www.librariesni.org.uk over the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you need any further information email Valerie Christie at cypteam@librariesni.org.uk

ESB SCIENCE BLAST

Our Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 pupils are all currently enjoying participating in the ESB Science Blast. The ESB Science Blast encourages the children's natural curiosity, asking them to investigate the science behind a simple question. Each of the classes have come up with a fascinating scientific question to investigate. They are planning and carrying out fair tests and will present their findings online to a judge. Look out for our investigations on Class Dojo and on the school website later this month. We definitely have some budding scientists here in St. Therese of Lisieux.

HOLIDAY LIST 2021-22

Next year's 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

BIG CAT READING LIBRARY

Big Cat Library has now 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. Happy reading!

PE UNIFORMS

The main supplier for our PE sweatshirt is Truly Fare. We usually have this company in school in June/Sept every year selling uniform items. However, as they hope to open a shop on the Antrim Road this summer, we are not booking a date with them this year. Purchases can still be made online. If the shop does not open as planned, we will try to arrange a date for Truly Fare to have a stall in school in Sept if we can.

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 as it is not part of our PE uniform.

OTHER ILLNESS

We have a number of pupils with compromised immune systems. Contact with common infectious conditions, especially chickenpox, measles, shingles or stomach bugs, may have serious implications for their treatment. If you think your own child may have come into contact with chickenpox please let the class teacher know so that we can pass this information on. Please note that children with a tummy bug should not return to school until they have been well for 48 hours. 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

SAFETY ISSUES

No **dogs** are allowed on the school grounds, other than guide/assistance 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.

Earrings. Please note, to keep the children safe, small studs are the **only** type of earring suitable for wearing in school. Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. If earrings cannot be removed it is possible **"to make them safe by taping, front and back, which may offer a measure of protection. The taping should be sufficient to prevent the stud post penetrating the bone behind the ear"**. AFPE 2017

Hopefully, we will have lovely weather this month. Please make sure your child has a sunhat (labelled with name and class) and remember to apply **sun** cream if it is very hot.

POST PRIMARY TRANSFER 2021

Parents will be able to login to the EA Post-Primary Application from 9am on Saturday June 12th to receive the outcome of their child's application.