



December

2024

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed Dec 4th
Wed Dec 11th
Thurs Dec 12th
Tue Dec 17th
Wed Dec 18th
Thurs Dec 19th
Fri Dec 20th
Mon Jan 6th
Thur Feb 6th
Mon Fri Feb 10th -14th (inclusive)
Mon Mar 17th
Thur April 17th
Mon April 28th
Mon May 5th
Sat May 10th
Mon-Tue May 26-27th

P2 Christmas Show 10.30am
P3 Christmas Show 10.30am
Open Day for prospective P1s starting in Sept 2025
Children's Christmas Dinner day
KS2 Carol Service in St Therese Church at 1.30pm
Goldilocks and the Three Bears Panto in the school hall (P1-7)
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2
P7 Confirmation in Holy Family Church at 11am
School closed for Spring Half Term
School closed for St Patrick's Day holiday
School closing at noon for the Easter holidays
School reopening for Term 3
School closed
P4 First Holy Communion
School closed

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December is a really busy month with children taking part in different celebrations as we move towards Christmas. Our P2 and P3 children are putting the final touches to their Christmas shows and their parents are warmly invited to come along to see the performances. Parents of children in P5–P7 are also invited to our KS2 Carol Service in St Therese of Lisieux Church on Wednesday 18th December at 1.30pm. The wonderful music and singing from the children is always an uplifting experience and a beautiful way to prepare for a really meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. Some of the children will also perform at local Nursing Homes to entertain the residents during the festive season.

We have been lucky enough to book Centre Stage Theatre Company to perform **Goldilocks and the Three Bears Panto** live in our hall as a treat for the children. They have entertained us in the past with **Santa's Sooty Christmas** and the children really enjoyed them, so we are all looking forward to the mayhem and craic!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our school canteen is offering children a Christmas dinner on Tue Dec 17th including turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the usual price of £2.60.

PTA STORYTELLING EVENING

What a lovely evening our P1s, their teddies & parents had in school! Stories, gingerbread and lots of fun for the children. A cup of tea, a biscuit and an opportunity to make new friendships for our parents! Huge thanks to the PTA for all their efforts for our community!

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations have been taking place over the past weeks. If any parent has not had their meeting, please phone the school as soon as possible so an appointment can be made.

OPEN DAY

Parents of prospective P1 children are invited to our Open Day on Thur Dec 12th at 10am to meet the staff and have a tour of the school. Applications for P1 must be made online from Jan 10th at noon, on the EA portal. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 24th. Any applications made after this will be considered as late. The child's long birth cert must be provided, along with proof of residence (eg recent utility bill). More information is available on the EA website [here](#).

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>.

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

During the month of November, we explored the themes of friendship and uniqueness in all classes, through discussions, role play, stories and art. During Anti-Bullying Week the P5s explained very clearly in their assembly what constitutes bullying behaviour and what to do if they are unhappy. The children also did some lovely art work on this year's theme 'Choose Respect'. Taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' reminded us that we are unique and that it's ok to be different! The EA's guide for parents on 'Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour in Schools' is available on our website [here](#).

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

Every year the school community takes part in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal, to support those in need in our local community. We will be sending home SVP envelopes next week with the children. All donations are welcome. If you are a tax payer, please complete the relevant gift aid details on the envelope so that your donation is worth 25% more.

SPORTING NEWS

St Therese took on Holy Cross Boys' PS in the 2nd round of the P7 Boys U11 Cup. Playing against many of their fellow clubmates, it was a tight affair from start to finish. Holy Cross were able to convert their chances more clinically and prevailed as winners on the day. The boys from P6 & 7 took part in the first round of the Cumann Na mBunscol Indoor Hurling League. They put in a series of committed performances, winning all three games, and qualifying for the next round. In the final there were superb performances once again from all boys, winning all of their matches to take the title. A fantastic achievement!!



CHRISTMAS BALLOT FUNDRAISING

To raise much needed money for the school we are having a Christmas Ballot this year with lovely prizes donated by the staff and some local businesses. Do you own a business or work for someone who would be able to offer a prize? We would love to hear from you as soon as possible!

Thanks to the McCready family who donated a lovely Christmas Hamper to be raffled among the children. The School Council will be selling tickets at 50p each and they will use the money raised to top up our lunchtime activities.

FAMILIES IN NEED

We are expecting a delivery of new toys/games from Cash For Kids in the next few weeks-any family who need help with gifts for Christmas please contact us. The local office of St Vincent de Paul can also help any families in need-supplying food vouchers, household goods, money for heating and can also help provide toys for Christmas. If you would benefit from this support, please ring 028 90351561.

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

SHARED EDUCATION

We are looking forward to taking part in the Shared Education programme with our Cavehill PS friends. Teachers from both schools have been working hard together to plan a series of lessons across the curriculum. Some of the younger year groups will be getting the opportunity to see the Christmas shows in each other's school. All the children will be visiting their partner classes over the next couple of weeks and into the New Year.

MATHS WEEK IRELAND POSTER COMPETITION

Thank you to all the children who made a fantastic effort with their posters for the art competition held during Maths Week Ireland. The standard of work completed for the competition was outstanding again this year! Congratulations to all our winners who each received a small prize for all their efforts: Noah, Mia, Jacob, Sofia, Oscar, Tom, Ellie, Norah, Max, Phoebe, Aoibhinn, Ola, Lily and Ivory. To end all the celebrations, we had a prize draw for a 'Madlug' backpack. Congratulations to our P5 winner!! A lovely prize to acknowledge the great work going on in the school!

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE

C2k have a licence agreement with MICROSOFT that all school users (including pupils) can download, free of charge, full copies of MS Office for use on up to 5 devices. A helpsheet explaining how to do this is available [here](#).



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