



December



2020



IMPORTANT DATES



Wed	Dec 2 nd
Tue	Dec 8 th
Wed/Thur	Dec 16 th /17 th
Thur	Dec 17 th
Tue	Dec 22 nd
Wed	Jan 6 th
Mon- Fri	Feb 15 th -19 th
Wed	March 17 th

Mop Up -Flu Vaccination

Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.

Cinderella Live- an online, live and interactive pantomime.

Christmas Dinner for the children (change of date)

School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays. (Non-uniform Day)

School reopening for Term 2

School closed for half term

St Patrick's Day Holiday. School closed.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Even though we can't have our usual festive celebrations this year, we are still getting into the Christmas spirit in school. The trees are up, the lights are twinkling and Christmas carols and music are echoing throughout the building. We will be sharing some of this joy with you on our website over the coming weeks.

For the Sunday Masses of Advent, a Children's Liturgy can be accessed from each Saturday at 5pm, on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/VGmeOFEYucU>, and also via the Parish Facebook page. Bambinelli Sunday (13th Dec) will see a simple blessing of the Baby Jesus crib figure. We encourage families to put up a crib at home, and then place the blessed child in the crib on Christmas Day.

FLU VACCINE

The School Health Team will be here on the morning of Wed Dec 2nd to administer the outstanding vaccinations. If you haven't returned the Flu Consent form, please do so asap or if you have lost your form contact the School Health Team for a replacement on 028 95046961 or 028 95041847.

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

Thank you to all our staff and families for working so hard to keep everyone safe. I urge you all to redouble your efforts in following the PHA advice to ensure a safe and healthy Christmas for all of our families and staff. 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 children, 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.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Tue Dec 8th this year via telephone. **The school will be closed for pupils.**

Teachers have already sent home approximate appointment times. If the time allocated does not suit you, please let the teacher know immediately so that a suitable alternative can be arranged. Parents will receive a call from a 'No Caller ID' or a 'Withheld' number.

PTA

We have just taken delivery of a class set of Lenovo tablets donated to us by our PTA, for our KS2 classes. We already purchased a set of these very useful devices for our P7 pupils from school funds in Sept and they have proved to be a huge asset to the children's learning. Thanks so much to our very capable PTA and to everyone that supports their fundraising activities.

ECCLESIASTICAL

Ecclesiastical, a specialist financial services company, is giving away £120,000, to 120 charities over 12 days in Dec. Winning charities are randomly selected, so the more nominations a charity has the better. Please nominate our very hardworking PTA to win £1000 by clicking on the link below.

https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/index.php?cn=101752&ct=education_and_skills

PATROL PERSON

We are delighted to have a new Patrol Person in post. We hope Mrs Darby will enjoy her new role and we know that all of our boys and girls will make her feel very welcome. As always, we ask drivers to park with care and consideration for pedestrians, neighbours and parking restrictions.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Supervision is available from 8.45 am each morning. No children should be in school before this time.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm

MATHS COMPETITION

During Maths Week Ireland every child in the school participated in a mathematics art competition. Congratulations to all the prizewinners and a particular mention to Sophie in P2 who was the lucky winner of the 'Madlug' backpack!

The 'Numeracy Advent Calendar' competition has now been distributed. It's time for the children to again apply their problem solving skills to solve a variety of mathematical problems. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win selection boxes and there will also be some small prizes for beautifully coloured Christmas trees! Good luck everyone!

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

During the month of November, we explored the themes of friendship and uniqueness, through discussions, role play, stories and art, throughout the school. During anti-bullying week (16th-20th Nov) the children discussed bullying; what it is, what it isn't and what to do if they are unhappy. They also did some lovely art work on this year's theme, United Against Bullying: We are all a Piece of the Puzzle. Taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' reminded us that we are unique and that it's ok to be different! Our assembly, from the NI Anti Bullying Forum, called on us all to be 'Bucket Fillers' not 'Bucket Dippers'.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our school canteen is offering children a Christmas dinner on Thur Dec 17th including turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the usual price of £2.60. It will be served in the classrooms.

BORROWING DIGITAL DEVICES SCHEME

The EA have prioritised children in P4 and P7 for the Borrowing Digital Devices scheme. These have been distributed over the past few weeks. We have applied to the EA to borrow digital devices for children in other year groups that requested them, but a recent email from the EA states that '*further year groups will be reviewed at a future date.*' We will contact parents if we get any more devices.

OPEN DAY

Unfortunately, we are not able to have our usual Open Day for parents of prospective P1 children. We are putting together a presentation for new families so that they can get a feel for the school. This will be on the website very soon. Applications for P1 2021 must be made through the Education Authority Portal. This opens on 07/01/2021 and closes on 29/01/2021 at noon. For more information see <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents>

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We appreciate the support, encouragement and kind words from our parents throughout the year. Many families have traditionally sent gifts to show their appreciation to staff at Christmas time. However, this has been a very challenging year for many families, so the staff have asked that you do not send in any gifts this year. If you wish, you can show your appreciation to the teachers and assistants through a brief message through Dojo.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Every year the school community takes part in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. This year, instead of the usual hampers that they distribute to families, St Vincent de Paul are distributing supermarket vouchers. Therefore, our local SVP conference asks if you would consider making a financial donation to support those in need in our own community. We will be sending home SVP envelopes this week with the children. If you are a tax payer, please complete the relevant gift aid details on the envelope so that your donation is worth approximately 25% more.

If your family is in need over Christmas or throughout the year SVP can help by supplying vouchers, household goods, money for heating your home and can also help provide toys for Christmas. This support is available by calling 028 90351561.

RICKSHAW CHALLENGE

At the beginning of November, the whole school took part in a successful sponsored 'Born to Move' challenge to support a past pupil of St Therese of Lisieux who was taking part in BBC1's Rickshaw Challenge for Children in Need. Although the challenge was adapted to be completed at home due to the Corona Virus a determined Eoin completed the challenge at home on a spin bike. A massive thank you to everyone who donated to this fantastic charity and raised £635 for such a worthwhile cause.

PANTO

As a treat for all of the children we have booked an online live pantomime. Cinderella Live promises original lush virtual sets, fantastic costumes, great music, a wonderful script and special effects. We will watch it on whiteboards in the classrooms on Dec 16th or 17th, whilst keeping the children safe in their bubbles. For a preview click on WWW.PANTOLIVE.COM

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE

C2k (who provide IT and internet services to schools) have a licence agreement with MICROSOFT that all school users (including pupils) can download, free of charge, full copies of MS Office for PC or Mac for use on up to 5 devices. A helpsheet explaining how to do this is available at https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-10-01_12_08_21//EN082 - Downloading Microsoft Office for students.pdf

FAMILY SUPPORT NI

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

TWITTER

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