



November

2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Tue Dec 8th
Wed/Thur Dec 16th/17th
Mon Dec 21st
Tue Dec 22nd
Wed Jan 6th

Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
Cinderella Live- an online, live and interactive pantomime.
Christmas Dinner for the children
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2

SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds, with the exception of blue badge holders. Please park with care and consideration in the immediate vicinity of the school and be careful not to block gateways/drives. Please be especially vigilant when reversing. There have been a couple of 'near miss' incidents on Chichester Park North recently where children and adults have almost been knocked down. The PSNI are monitoring the area. As you know our Patrol Man has retired, so please take extra care until we have a replacement.

Children cycling or scooting to school should wear helmets. On arriving at the school gates, bikes/scooters should be walked to the parking areas.

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

If you need to drop something to school during the day that your child has forgotten, please hand it in at reception and staff will make sure your child gets it. Parents should not access classrooms during the school day, to ensure we comply with safeguarding regulations.

MORNING SUPERVISION

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

BREAKFAST CLUB

In Oct we asked parents who would like to use the Breakfast Club to contact us by email. However, as there was very little demand for this service it will not restart this term. We will review this again in January.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm

RAINY AND ICY MORNINGS

As we head into the winter please make sure your child has a suitable coat with a hood in school every day. We will try to get them outside as much as possible. Also, please make sure their name is on the coat!

If the playground is icy, a path from the gate at the ramp will be cleared and marked with cones. Please remind your child that they must stay in the coned area to be safe. If the school has to close because of the weather, you will receive a text message as soon as the decision is made. We will also send out a tweet with this information and notify the BBC. However, we aim to keep the school open if at all possible.

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 will send 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.

UNIFORMS

The children look so smart in their school uniforms. Please make sure that each item of clothing is labelled clearly so any mislaid clothing can be returned to its rightful owner quickly. It is important to check the labels regularly to ensure that names are still visible as they can wash off.

PE UNIFORMS

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. **PE sweatshirts and plain jogging bottoms can be purchased from Truly Fare online at www.trulyfarebelfast.com**

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

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.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Grants are available to parents in receipt of one of the following benefits: -

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

Apply online at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

If you are entitled to apply for FSM we ask that you do so as soon as possible, even if your child does not want to have a meal provided by the EA School Meals Service, as it impacts on our annual budget from DE.

MATHS WEEK IRELAND

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated enthusiastically in the many activities for Maths Week Ireland. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, the children were not able to attend any shows or have any visits from post primary schools this year, but they still had fun engaging in problem solving activities, stretching their mathematical skills throughout the week. A variety of shows were broadcast for the children to watch and our Primary 7 children took part in a 'Mega Quiz'. Every child in the school participated in a mathematics art competition – the results were outstanding! One lucky child will receive a 'Madlug' backpack for their efforts! 'Madlug' stands for 'make a difference luggage' - for every bag purchased a pack away travel bag is given to a child in care. Well done to everyone for the enthusiasm shown throughout the week!

FLU VACCINE

The School Health Team were delighted at the attendance at Girdwood last week and extend their apologies to the families that were delayed because of the large numbers. They will be in touch very soon to arrange a date for the remainder of the vaccinations to be administered in school. 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 02895041847.

BORROWING DIGITAL DEVICES

We have applied to the EA to borrow digital devices for the families that requested them last month and expect a delivery shortly. The aim of this scheme is to ensure that children can take part in online learning at home. The scheme prioritises children in P4 and P7.

RICKSHAW CHALLENGE



The Rickshaw Challenge is back for 2020 as Matt Baker and a team of six young people, including our past pupil Eoin Matthews, take on the challenge for the 10th year. This year will see the annual eight-day challenge tell the powerful stories of its heroic young riders as they travel 332 miles, starting on Friday 6th November. There will be a live broadcast on The One Show each night. We are going to hold a 'Born2Move' fundraiser next week to help Eoin 'to raise money that will go on to make a difference to help other young people who have faced challenges.' Each class will do a Golden Mile and donations can be sent in an envelope marked 'Rickshaw Challenge'. Alternatively, donations can be made online at

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/rickshaw>

BEREAVEMENTS

Your prayers are requested for two former St Therese teachers who sadly passed away in the last month. Mrs Mary Quigley and Mrs Aveen Osborne have been remembered by staff as two very gentle and kind souls. May they rest in peace. St Therese of Lisieux pray for them.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH FAIR

Due to the Covid pandemic the Parish Christmas Fair is not taking place this year. However, the parish is holding a ballot to raise much needed funds. Lots of lovely prizes are up for grabs including two nights in the Redcastle Hotel with dinner, £250 cash, a Samsung Galaxy Tablet and lots more. Tickets available from the Parish Office or after mass.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vincent de Paul can help any family in need over Christmas and throughout the year by supplying food vouchers, household goods, money for heating your home and can also help provide toys for Christmas. If you would benefit from this support, then please ring 90351561.

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/>

RETIREMENT

After 20 years of service to the school as a Classroom Assistant and Supervisor, Mrs Marian Masterson has retired. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

TWITTER

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