



October 2025



IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Oct 1 st
Thur	Oct 23 th
Thur	Oct 23 rd
Fri-Fri	Oct 24 th –31 st (inclusive)
Mon	Nov 17 th
Thur	Nov 27 th
Mon	Dec 22 nd
Tue	Jan 6 th
Thur	Jan 22 nd
Thur	March 26 th
Sat	May 16 th

Opening Mass in St Therese Church 11am
 Halloween Dressing Up Day
 PTA Halloween Disco-details to follow
School closed for the Halloween Break
 Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school
 Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
 School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
 School reopening for Term 2
 P7 Service of Light 11am St Therese Church
 P3 First Confession 11am St Therese Church
 P4 First Holy Communion -time to be confirmed

FEAST OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Congratulations to our P4-7 children who attended our opening mass in St Therese Church today, a celebration made even more special this year as the parish community celebrates the centenary of the canonization of St Thérèse of Lisieux. The children's beautiful artwork, their prayerful, respectful attitude and outstanding singing made it an inspiring celebration and reminded us to use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place.

PARKING ISSUES

Unfortunately, parking continues to be an issue at drop off and pick up times. We have had complaints that driveways are being blocked and recently a carer was unable to gain access to a home. We have a 15 minute drop off period in the mornings (8.45-9am) to ease parking pressure. Staff are on duty and we encourage parents to say goodbye to the children at the gate - staff are on hand to assist where necessary.

PUNCTUALITY

We really appreciate the children arriving punctually in the mornings so that administration tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently, and to ensure children do not miss out on learning opportunities. However, we do understand that occasionally families get delayed and may be a little late. Please use the Antrim Road entrance after 9am.

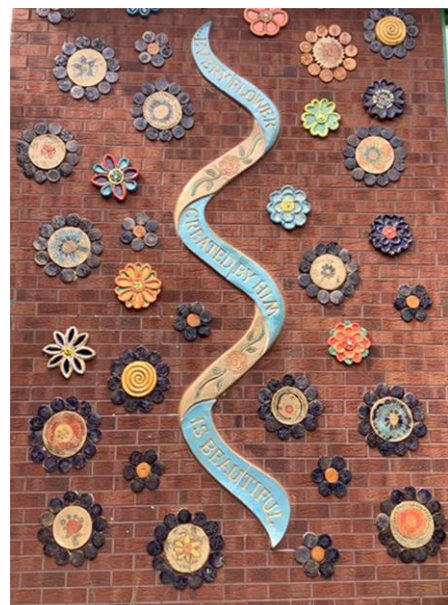
ETHOS

At recent assemblies, the children from P3-7 discussed our new mission statement:


As a thriving Catholic school, rooted in Christ's ministry and message, we offer a child-centred, ambitious, inclusive and holistic education; we work in partnership, in a nurturing and supportive atmosphere, building a flourishing and diverse community of care, love and aspiration.

Nurture Support Grow

We also discussed the beautiful artwork at the main entrance, designed and made by the children to mark our recent 50th anniversary, with one of St Therese's beautiful quotations flowing through...*every flower created by Him is beautiful...*



The artwork and the mission statement challenges and inspires us all to follow St Therese's Little Way every day in school and at home.



Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...

5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Thanks to everyone who attended the P2 – P7 year group curriculum meetings in Sept. Teachers have shared their presentations online so that all parents/carers can find out what the children will be learning about in the year ahead and how to help at home.

RISE NI

RISE NI (Regional Integrated Support for Education) is a regional early intervention service which supports children in school settings by working closely with parents and education staff to help develop the foundation skills for learning i.e. speech, language, communication, sensory-motor, visual perception, social, emotional and behaviour skills. The RISE NI team consists of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, clinical psychologist, behaviour therapists, dietitian and therapy assistants. In the past RISE NI provided parent workshops in schools but at the moment their training is available online through their website. The website is well worth browsing with a wealth of advice and information for parents including advice on speech, sleep, promoting positive behaviour, understanding childhood anxiety and worry and developing motor skills. Click [here](#) to access their website.

NORTH BELFAST LANTERN PARADE

Our P4 children will be celebrating the North Belfast Lantern Festival again this year. They will make lanterns in school with the artists from New Lodge Arts later this month. Everyone will be invited to join in with the North Belfast Lantern Parade leaving from Girdwood Community Hub on Thursday 30th October and travelling to Alexandra Park. More details to follow. Please check in on Dojo closer to the time.

CYCLING/SCOOTING

We are delighted to see so many children already cycling and scooting safely to and from school. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few safety tips as we begin this new school year:

- Please ensure your bike/scooter is locked.
- Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting.
- Please be aware of traffic.
- Please remember that school is a pedestrian zone, therefore **nobody should be cycling or scooting in school grounds.**

We will be arranging some cycling fun days- the first one will be our spooky cycle (details to follow).

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

'Roots of Empathy' is a worldwide PDMU programme which increases sharing, caring, and inclusion, and promotes resilience, well-being, and positive mental health among its participants. We have been a Roots of Empathy school since 2017. **We are looking for new babies to participate in our programme this year. The baby should be 2-4 months old in September/ October. Please ask Mrs Hamill for further details.** It is a wonderful programme and over the years our P5s have watched their amazing 'baby teachers' grow and develop, learning first-hand about the important milestones in the first year of life. The 'baby teacher' and their parent visits the class once a month. The class learn so much from the programme and the 'baby teachers' delight in their visits. The mother of one of our recent 'baby teachers' shared that participating in this programme at St Therese was the most rewarding activity she experienced with her baby during her maternity leave.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

If you submitted your application more than three weeks ago but have not received confirmation that your child/children will receive Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance, please check your email including your junk folder. If you have not received an email, contact the EA urgently. If your application has not been successful, we must request payment of £2.60 per meal. See [here](#) for further information.

TWITTER/X

We are retiring our Twitter/X social media account. This account was used to celebrate success and share information with our parents/carers as well as the wider community. However, the majority of our parents no longer use this platform. Our new website gets a lot of traffic and is very user friendly for staff to share news items and we will continue to post class messages/information and useful community notices on ClassDojo.

WEBSITE APP

Our website provider has a 'Schools NI' app that links to our website. This app enables us to send messages and updates directly to your phone. It also allows users to quickly access key documents, including Dinner Menu/Holiday lists as well as any newly uploaded photos and news items. Once you have the app, search for St Therese of Lisieux PS.



Schools NI
Gerard Corr
Designed for iPad
★★★★★ 3.9 + 16 ratings
Free



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND

