



December

2025



IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Dec 3 rd	P2 Christmas Show 10am
Thur	Dec 4 th	Enrolment for P7 Confirmation
Wed	Dec 10 th	P3 Christmas Show 10am
Thurs	Dec 11 th	Open Day for prospective P1s starting in Sept 2026
Fri	Dec 12 th	Enrolment for First Holy Communion
Wed	Dec 17 th	Children's Christmas Dinner day
Thur	Dec 18 th	KS2 Carol Service in St Therese Church at 1.30pm
Fri	Dec 19 th	Little Bo Peep's Christmas Mix-Up Panto in the school hall (P1-7)
Mon	Dec 22 nd	School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
Tue	Jan 6 th	School reopening for Term 2
Thur	Jan 22 nd	P7 Service of Light 11am St Therese Church
Wed	Feb 4 th	P7 Confirmation 11.30am Holy Family Church
Mon-Fri	Feb 9 th -13 th	Half term holiday
Thur	Feb 19 th	Families Connect -session 1
Tue	March 17 th	School Closed for St Patrick's Day
Thur	March 26 th	P3 First Confession 11am St Therese Church
Sat	May 16 th	P4 First Holy Communion -time to be confirmed

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December is always a wonderfully busy month as our children take part in a range of celebrations leading up to Christmas. Our P2 and P3 pupils are putting the finishing touches to their Christmas shows, and we warmly invite parents to come along and enjoy these special performances. Parents of children in Primary 5–Primary 7 are also invited to our KS2 Carol Service in *St Therese of Lisieux Church* on Thursday 18th December at 1.30pm. The beautiful music and singing from the children is always an uplifting experience and a lovely way to prepare for a meaningful celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. In addition, some of our pupils will visit local nursing homes to share festive cheer and entertain residents during the season. We are delighted to have booked Centre Stage Theatre Company to perform *Little Bo Peep's Christmas Mix-Up* live in our school hall on Friday 19th December as a special treat for the children. They have entertained us before with shows such as *Santa's Sooty Christmas* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears Panto*, which the children thoroughly enjoyed—so we're all looking forward to more mayhem and festive fun!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

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

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations have been taking place over the past week. If any parent has not had their meeting scheduled, 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 11th at 10am to meet the staff and have a tour of the school. Applications for P1 must be made online from Jan 7th at noon, on the EA portal. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 21th. 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](#).

FAMILIES CONNECT PROGRAMME

Families Connect is a six-week programme taking place on Thur mornings starting on Feb 19th 2026, aimed at parents of P1 and P2 pupils. Each workshop lasts 2 hours and focuses on language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy as well as social & emotional development. The sessions, delivered by Ms Dorman and Mrs McDaniel, are informal, relaxed and hugely beneficial to your child's learning. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested and can commit to the six weeks, as places are very limited.

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

We have been exploring the themes of **friendship and uniqueness** in all classes through discussions, role play, stories, and art in November. During **Anti-Bullying Week**, our P5 pupils delivered a thoughtful assembly, explaining what constitutes bullying behaviour and what to do if someone feels unhappy. The children also created beautiful artwork based on this year's theme: *"Power for Good."* Taking part in **Odd Socks Day** reminded us that everyone is unique—and that it's perfectly okay to be different! For parents, the **EA guide on "Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour in Schools"** is available on our website [here](#).

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

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE

C2k have a licence 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](#).

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL LEAGUE WINNERS

November was a busy month for the boys and girls representing St Therese of Lisieux sports teams. In the BPSFA U11 Cup, St Therese defeated Springfield P.S in a thrilling cup match at Paisley Park. It took dreaded penalties to decide the outcome and St Therese were able to progress to the next round. In the Cyril Murray Cup, our involvement for this year came to an end after taking on St Bernard's P.S, Wynchurch at the Waterworks. In the girl's football, they secured their progress to the next round of the Liz Bryson Cup with a strong victory against Currie P.S in a local North Belfast derby. In GAA, the boys football team took on St Patrick's P.S. in the Division 5 Cumann Na mBunscol Winter Football League final, a very competitive match with St Therese managing to take a good lead and then control the game to secure their victory and defend their winter league title from last year. Well done to all involved and thanks for the support with transport.

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.*

MATHS WEEK IRELAND

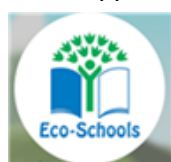
Thanks to all the boys and girls who made a fantastic effort with their posters for the art competition for **Maths Week Ireland**. The standard of work completed for the competition was outstanding! Congratulations to all our winners who each received a small prize for all their efforts: Grace, Hannah, Noah, Eimear, Ruby, Jacob, Eva-Rose, Sophia, Jake, Erin, Aubrey, Viktor, Meabh and Maddy. To end all the celebrations, we had a prize draw for a Madlug backpack. Congratulations to our winner in P7, Meabh! A lovely prize to acknowledge the great work going on in the school! *'Madlug' has a 'Buy one Give one' approach so for every 'Madlug' backpack purchased one will be given to a child in care. Thanks to the generosity of those who purchase a bag, Madlug has been able to provide over 110 000 pack-away travel bags to children in care. We in St. Therese are very proud to support the Madlug movement. (madlug.com)*

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.

STAFF GIFTS

Many families like to show their appreciation for our staff with gifts at Christmas. While this kindness is much appreciated, there is no expectation to buy presents. Classes often have several staff members, and even small gifts can add extra pressure at an already expensive time of year. If you'd like to share your thanks, a card, a note, or a drawing from your child is a great way to show your appreciation. Thank you for your support and kindness throughout the year. We wish you and your family a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



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