



January 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

Tue	Jan 6 th	School reopening for Term 2
Tue	Jan 13 th	Open Day at 3.30pm for prospective P1 pupils (by appointment) P1 Parents-Stay and Play-details will be sent home this week
Tue/Thur	Jan 27 th /29 th	Grandparents Day
Wed	Jan 21 st	P7 Service of Light 11am St Therese Church
Thur	Jan 22 nd	P7 Confirmation 10.30am Holy Family Church- note time change
Wed	Feb 4 th	Half term holiday
Mon-Fri	Feb 9 th -13 th	Families Connect -session 1
Thur	Feb 19 th	St Patrick's Day Concerts (P4 and P5)-10am and 1pm
Mon	March 16 th	School Closed for St Patrick's Day
Tue	March 17 th	P3 First Confession 11am St Therese Church
Thur	March 26 th	School closing at noon for the Easter holidays
Thur	April 2 nd	School reopening for Term 3
Mon	April 13 th	Bank Holiday -school closed
Mon	May 5 th	P4 First Holy Communion -time to be confirmed
Sat	May 16 th	Bank Holiday -school closed
Mon-Tue	May 25 th -26 th	

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to all our pupils for making this year's Christmas celebrations so special! Their creativity and talent shone through in the wonderful art, drama, singing, and music that delighted everyone who attended. A special mention goes to P2 for their lively production of *The Nursery Rhyme Nativity* and to P3 for their enthusiastic performance of *A Special Kind of Present*. Well done also to our school orchestra, who set the tone beautifully by opening the P2 and P3 shows, and to our P5 pupils, who gave their very first public performances—what an achievement! Our Senior Ensemble hugely impressed our Open Day visitors, and we have received so many positive comments from parents, grandparents, and members of the community—thank you for your support! Finally, the KS2 Carol Service in St Therese Church, held just before the holidays, was a truly beautiful occasion and a heartfelt reminder of the real meaning of Christmas. Huge thanks to our staff for creating so many opportunities for the children.

APPLICATIONS FOR P1 SEPT 2025

Applications for P1 must be made online from Jan 7th at noon, on EA Connect. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 21st. Any applications made after this will be considered as late. The child's long birth cert must be provided to the school, along with proof of residence (eg recent utility bill). More information is available on the EA website [here](#). Parents of prospective P1 children who missed our Open Day in December are invited to visit on Tue Jan 13th at 3.30pm. Please phone to make an appointment.

PROMOTING PUNCTUALITY MONTH

January is Promoting Punctuality Month. It is very important that children arrive on time in the mornings so that admin tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently, to give the children time to settle in and to ensure they do not miss out on learning opportunities. We understand that there may well be genuine reasons for lateness but would encourage everyone to aim to be in school for 9am. Gates are open from 8.45-9am. Breakfast Club is open from 8am. Punctual children will be entered into class ballots!

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
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

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

ADVICE NI

Independent advice on benefits, money, debt, tax credits, accessing additional support, and managing your bills is available from Advice NI on 0800 915 4604 or by email at advice@adviceni.net. See <https://www.adviceni.net/> for further information.

COMPETITION WINNERS

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our pupils in recent competitions. Ana from P7 was the overall winner of the CCU Christmas Card Competition 2025 – well done, Ana! In the Confucius Institute Chinese Poster Competition, which attracted an incredible 8,107 entries from across Northern Ireland, Maeve in P3 was Highly Commended in Key Stage 1, and Kean from P5 proudly secured 3rd Prize in Key Stage 2. Adding to this success, P5KB shone in the Confucius Institute Choir Competition, competing against schools from over 100 countries worldwide and receiving an award for Outstanding Work. We are so proud of all our pupils for their creativity and hard work!

SPORTING NEWS

After two great matches in December, our P7 girls have secured their place in the semi-finals of the Liz Bryson Cup. They opened their campaign with a strong win against Currie PS and followed up with an impressive performance against Cairnshill PS in the quarter-finals. The girls demonstrated fantastic skill across the team, and with some clinical finishing in front of goal, they now progress confidently to the next stage. Good luck to the team as they prepare for the semi-finals!



In other football news, our boys put in a spirited performance against local neighbours Holy Cross Boys in the U11 Edco Cup. Despite determined play from St Therese, HCB capitalised on first-half chances and carried their lead through the game. Our boys fought hard right to the final whistle, showing great resilience and teamwork. Well done to Holy Cross Boys' PS on their win, and we wish them the best of luck in the semi-finals.

CHRISTMAS BALLOT

Thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Ballot through donating prizes and/or buying lines. We hope the lucky winners have enjoyed their prizes donated by:-

- St Therese of Lisieux PS Staff
- Aligned Gym, Shore Road
- Hustle Fitness, Ballysillan Road
- MR Sports
- Sleepy Hollow (onsite childcare)
- The McNally Family
- Mitchell Cleaning <https://mitchellpcs.com/>
- Stanley's Family Butcher
- The Doyen Bar and Restaurant
- Direct Furniture, Antrim Road
- Flax Centre Pharmacy/Farquharson Family
- Lidl
- CT15
- Pizza Crew
- Fortwilliam Opticians
- Deanby Ju-jitsu
- Geraldine McGuigan
- McDonalds Shore Road
- Pizzaworks, Fortwilliam
- W5
- Streamvale Open Farm
- Spar, Cavehill Road
- Madigans Court
- Tesco Antrim Road
- Tesco Newtownabbey
- Bluebell Bakery

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHILDREN'S BALLOT

Our School Council did a great job selling ballot tickets for the children's ballot. As well as developing their maths skills they made over £300 which they will use to top up our lunchtime activities. Thanks again to the McCready family who donated the lovely Christmas Hamper!

LOCAL POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS

Post Primary Open Days/Evenings will be taking place this month. Parents of P6 pupils should strongly consider attending some Open Days this year in case they cannot attend them all next year.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm
Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm



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