



February 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Feb 4 th	P7 Confirmation 10.30am Holy Family Church
Mon-Fri	Feb 9 th -13 th	Half term holiday
Mon-Fri	Feb 16 th -20 th	Safer Internet Week
Thur	Feb 19 th	Families Connect -session 1
Thur	March 5 th	World Book Day
Mon	March 16 th	St Patrick's Day Concerts (P4 and P5)-10am and 1pm
Tue	March 17 th	School Closed for St Patrick's Day
Thur	March 26 th	P3 First Confession 11am St Therese Church
Thur	April 2 nd	School closing at noon for the Easter holidays
Mon	April 13 th	School reopening for Term 3
Mon-Fri	April 20 th -24 th	Book Fair Week
Thur	April 30 th	School Photographer for P1 and P7
Fri	May 1 st	PTA Fundraiser -Break the Rules Day
Mon	May 5 th	Bank Holiday -school closed
Sat	May 16 th	P4 First Holy Communion -time to be confirmed
Mon-Tue	May 25 th -26 th	Bank Holiday -school closed
Thurs	June 18 th	PTA Summer Disco
Tue	June 30 th	School closing at noon for the summer holidays

FEAST OF ST BRIGID

Beannachtaí Lá Fhéile Bríde oraibh! Happy St Brigid's Day to all our families. Feb 1st is the Feast of St Brigid, one of Ireland's most beloved saints and a symbol of hope, generosity and new beginnings. Our P2s will be telling us all about the life of St Brigid this week in their assembly.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK/GRANDPARENTS DAY

During the week 19th-23rd January, our whole school and parish community celebrated Catholic Schools Week (CSW) on the theme of *Ordinary Lives – Called to Holiness*. The high point of the week was, as always, Grandparents' Day on the Wednesday when we were delighted to host a huge number of our much-loved grandparents. Judging by the feedback from grandparents on departure, they really enjoyed their special day with the children. We hope their decorated footprints will take pride of place in their homes and remind them of the footsteps towards holiness they lead their grandchildren in each day of their lives. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to our collection for Newington Day Centre on Grandparents Day; £659 was donated which we know will be put to great use supporting the elderly in our community. Thanks also to our school council for finishing the week with an assembly on the theme of CSW and introducing us to St Carlo Acutis.

SACRAMENTS

Well done to our P7 pupils on their beautiful Service of Light and Commitment in January, a special milestone as they continue their preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We invite you to keep all our P7 pupils and their families in your prayers as they make their final steps on this important faith journey. We hope the children enjoy a wonderful celebration of the sacrament and that it offers a meaningful opportunity for them to grow closer to God, feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and carry that sense of faith and purpose with them into the future.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

We had a fabulous day on Friday Jan 30th celebrating Chinese New Year. The children were treated to live performances organised by our Mandarin tutor Miss Penny. These included traditional Chinese music, song and dance. Miss Penny surprised all of us with her performance of a beautiful traditional Chinese dance and the face changing exhibition amazed us all. After the show each year group were invited to a workshop where they created some beautiful arts and crafts. A huge thank you to Miss Penny and the Confucius Institute at Ulster University for organising such a wonderful day for all the children in St Therese of Lisieux. Look out for lots of photographs on the website.

SPORTING NEWS

The girls' football team took on St Matthew's PS in the semi-final of the Liz Bryson Cup at the Waterworks on the 14th of January. In a tough game played in difficult conditions, the girls showed great skill and composure to win 2-1 and secure our first appearance in the Liz Bryson Cup final, where they will play Strandtown PS. Good luck to our girls in the final. The P7 boys took part in the BPSFA 5-a-side tournament at the Shankill Leisure Centre where they were drawn in Section 1. After four competitive games, the boys finished in joint second place and were eliminated on goal difference. A great effort from all involved- they were unlucky to be knocked out by the narrowest of margins. The P6 boys took on St Peter's Primary School in the first round of the U10 Cup. With many of them representing the school for the first time, the boys got their first taste of competitive football in school colours. St Therese managed to score a couple of finely taken goals but unfortunately St Peter's proved too strong on the day.

SAFER INTERNET WEEK

From 16th -20th February, we will be celebrating Safer Internet Week, focusing on the theme 'Smart Tech, Safe Choices- Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' Throughout the week, pupils from P1- 7 will take part in activities that encourage them to think carefully about how they use the internet and making responsible choices online. Our P7 Digital Leaders will also lead an assembly to help both children & staff understand how to stay safe online, especially as technology and AI continue to develop. This week is always a huge success in supporting children to build confidence and awareness as they navigate the digital world, and we look forward to engaging in thought provoking, engaging tasks!

The Department of Education have made the 'Safer Schools NI' parent app available. This app helps you to navigate the digital world and give you the tools to protect your child when they are online. Search for 'Safer Schools NI' in the App/Play Store. Follow the instructions to register and create an account, select our school and input **2030** when asked for a code.



Most social media platforms are not designed or recommended for primary school children. If you allow your child to use any of these platforms, please be vigilant about their online activity and review their devices daily to ensure that they are not being used inappropriately.



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND



SCHOOL SAFETY

Our car park is very small, and unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate parent vehicles for morning drop-off or afternoon collection. This measure helps us to ensure the safety of all our children as they enter and leave school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

POST PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS SEPT 2025

The application process for P7 children transferring to post primary school in Sept 2026 is now open. Applications via EA Connect must be submitted by Thur Feb 19th at 12 noon. The EA booklet 'Applying for a School Place' was shared on the P7 Dojo stream on Jan 20st. Further information, videos, and individual school criteria are also available on the EA website [here](#). The EA Admissions Helpdesk is open Mon-Fri, 8.30am to 4.30pm, throughout the application window and can be contacted at 028 9047 0177. Alternatively, they can be emailed at postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk. Please phone the school if additional advice or guidance is needed. Parents of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs do **not** need to apply for a place through EA Connect. Their placement was discussed at the annual review.

WORLD BOOK DAY

The countdown is on — just five weeks to go until we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 6th March! We look forward to a fun-filled day with a range of reading- themed activities taking place throughout the school.

This year, children are invited to **choose one of two options:**

- **Dress up as a favourite book character, using items you already have at home, or**
- **Create a favourite character using junk/ construction materials or vegetables.**

As an Ambassador Eco School, we are encouraging families **not to buy new costumes**. Instead, we hope this year's options will inspire creativity, reduce waste and help us celebrate reading in a sustainable way.



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm