



March 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

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
Tue	April 14 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-Tue	May 4 th -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

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to the P7 girls and boys who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in February at a beautiful ceremony in Holy Family Church. The sacrament was conferred by Fr. Michael and Fr. John. The children prayed and sang with tremendous passion and enthusiasm and were a credit to themselves, their families, our school and the parish community. As they journey into the future, our wish and our prayer for them, is that they will always have great faith in the power of the Holy Spirit and that by word and deed, they will always walk as children of the light. Special thanks to the PTA for supplying the ice-cream which went down a treat after the ceremony.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

The orchestra, P4 and P5 year groups and dancers from P4-7 will perform at our St Patrick's Day concerts on Mon March 16th at 10 am and 1pm. The programme will be the same for both performances, so parents/carers are most welcome to attend whichever suits best. Tickets (£5) on sale at the door.

PSNI VISIT

A big thank you to the North Belfast PSNI for coming to talk to P5-P7 about online safety during Safer Internet Week. The children were reminded of the importance of keeping our details private and protected while gaming and interacting with others online. They were also reminded about the dangers of using social media and messaging platforms, as well as age restrictions and the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

LENT

With the reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday and an assembly led by our P7 children, our Lenten journey has well and truly begun. The children reminded us of the importance of making use of Lent as a time to pray, fast and consider the needs of the poor in other parts of the world. In the weeks ahead, as we journey towards Easter, the children will be learning about the work of Trocaire and the difference that their contributions, borne out of small self-sacrifices, can make to the lives of others.

SAFER INTERNET WEEK

Safer Internet Week took place during 16th – 20th February, with all year groups engaging in fun, interactive learning activities, teaching the importance of how to stay safe online. Huge congratulations to the P7 Digital Leaders who hosted a very informative assembly for all classes followed by a Q and A session. They shared lots of information about this year's theme '*Smart Tech, Safe Choices- Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI*' and gave very helpful tips on how to stay safe online. The Digital Leaders confident and detailed responses during the Q and A sessions with their peers was hugely impressive.



Remember the '**Safer Schools NI**' app, funded by DE, has a host of helpful information/ advice for parents/carers about online safety. To access, download the app, create your account, select our school and input **2030** when asked for a code.

SPORTING NEWS

The P7 girls took on Strandtown Primary School in the Final of the Liz Bryson Cup at the Avoniel Leisure Centre. This was the first time in the school's history that the girls had made it to a final with a series of excellent performances to reach this stage. The final itself had many great moments but it was one of those days where strong opposition and luck not being on our side that allowed Strandtown to secure victory. The P7 girls also took part in the Cumann Na mBunscol Football Championship at the Cliftonville 4G. Up against St Peter's PS and Ballymacward PS, the girls secured top spot in the group with two victories and now progress to the knockout phase. Well done to all the girls.

P7 boys and girls also took part in the group phase of the Inter Schools Futsal tournament at the Shankill Leisure Centre. Both teams took part in group games against teams from right across the North. A great day of fun and skill development for all!

BUDDY READING

Just ahead of World Book Day on 5th March our P3 and P7 children have begun a wonderful collaboration by taking part in the 6 week "Buddy Reading Programme." It's wonderful to see our P7 boys and girls use their leadership skills to encourage our younger children to develop a love of books and reading.

TRANSFORM ED/AMENDED HOLIDAY LIST

The Department of Education (DE) is carrying out a major review of the education system in Northern Ireland. The review, TransformED NI, outlines a comprehensive strategy for the transformation of teaching and learning in Northern Ireland. The strategy focuses on the core areas of curriculum, assessment, qualifications, school improvement and tackling educational disadvantage. Reform in each of these areas will be underpinned by significant investment in high-quality teacher professional development. As part of this process, DE have granted schools two additional Staff Development Days this year to support the Transform Ed programme and curriculum review. Therefore, we will be closed to pupils on two additional days later this year: Monday April 13th and Tue May 5th. The amended holiday list is available [here](#).

SCHOOL POLICIES

In line with the requirements of recent DE legislation on school uniforms we have drawn up a new [School Uniform Policy](#). We also have a new policy on [Charges and Remissions](#). Several other policies have recently been reviewed. All policies are available on our website [here](#).

CCU QUIZ WINNERS

Two P7 quiz teams were selected to take part in the Irish League of Credit Unions Quiz in Feb. After 10 rounds of tough questions covering a wide range of general knowledge, the team from Mr Reynolds' class finished in a three way tie for first place along with Finaghy PS and St Teresa's PS. The three teams took part in another round of questions and the St Therese team were crowned champions, winning £500 for our school! A fantastic effort from all the boys and girls representing our school.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Along with schools across the world, we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th 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.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL DONATIONS

The St Therese Conference of St Vincent de Paul recently sent their thanks for the 'great generosity' of the school community. This year £1,605 was donated to their Christmas Appeal through the school, an increase of almost £500 from last year. 61 completed Gift Aid forms boosted the final total to £1,816. All money donated has gone to improve the lives of families across North Belfast.

SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Teacher for Child Protection-Mr Coyle
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection-Mrs Acum

DOGS

Reminder that **no dogs** should be on the school site other than guide/assistance dogs. Please share this expectation with those who collect your child(ren)!

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND

