



September

2020

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|------|--|
| Sat | Sept 12 th |
| Thur | Oct 22 nd |
| Thur | Oct 22 nd |
| Fri | Oct 23 rd – Mon Nov 2 nd (inclusive) |
| Tue | Dec 8 th |
| Tue | Dec 22 nd |
| Wed | Jan 6 th |

P5 First Holy Communion ceremonies
Flu vaccinations offered to all children in school
Halloween Dressing Up Day
School closed for the Halloween Break
Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2

WELCOME BACK

We are so delighted to welcome everyone back to school for a new year of learning and enjoyment. It is wonderful to hear the laughter of children in our classrooms and playground again. A special welcome to our new P1 children beginning their school life in St Therese. We wish all of the children a very successful and happy year ahead. Thanks to all our families for cooperating so well with the new arrangements for the staggered start to the school day and for dropping your children at the school gate every morning. This has worked well and is supporting our efforts to maintain 'class bubbles' and avoid congestion in the playground in the mornings. We are now going to reduce the drop off period so that the learning in class can begin a little earlier. Therefore, from Mon Sept 7th we ask that children with surnames beginning A-L arrive at school between 8.45 and 8.55am and the rest of the children arrive between 8.55 and 9.05am.

As you know the playground was particularly busy at home time on Fridays and the staggered leaving times have reduced the congestion, so we will continue to have these arrangements in place, as below. Children in P1-4 will wait with their teachers until a parent collects them.

| Eldest/only Child | Collect all your children at |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| P1-2 | 1.40pm |
| P3-4 | 1.50pm |
| P5-7 | 2pm |

We will continue to review these arrangements as the term progresses and amend them if necessary.

UNIFORMS

The children look so smart in their school uniforms. Please make sure that all clothing is labelled clearly so mislaid items can be returned to their owner. It is important to check the labels regularly to ensure that name/class are still visible.

COVID 19

Children who have **any symptoms** associated with Covid 19 must **not** attend school, as advised by the Public Health Agency (PHA). Children who live with someone who has symptoms associated with Covid 19 must also stay at home, as advised by the PHA. These symptoms include a new, continuous cough or a high temperature/fever or a loss/change in the sense of smell/taste. We have been asked to '**vigorously implement**' this guidance. Therefore, even if your child has a raised temperature which is controlled with paracetamol or ibuprofen, they cannot return to school until PHA advice has been followed under the Test, Trace and Protect programme. This advice may be to isolate for 10/14 days and/or to be tested for Covid 19. PHA Helpline may be contacted on 0300 5550114. Information on Covid 19 testing is available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-and-contact-tracing>

Medical advice cannot be given by any school staff. Please contact PHA or your GP if you are concerned about any Covid 19 symptoms.

OTHER ILLNESS

We have a number of pupils with highly compromised immune systems and coming into contact with common infectious conditions, especially chickenpox or stomach bugs, may have serious implications for their treatment. If you think your own child may have come into contact with chickenpox please let the class teacher know so that we can pass this information on. Please note that children with a tummy bug should not return to school until they have been well for 48 hours. Advice on children returning to school after illness is available at http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is hugely important for children's learning and their emotional wellbeing. Average attendance of our pupils is usually extremely good. However, we understand that in an effort to curb the spread of Coronavirus, attendance may well be broken this year. DE have given us new codes to use to reflect this, so parents should let teachers know through the ClassDojo if their child is absent because they are unwell themselves or if the absence is due to isolating because another member of the family has Covid symptoms.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Up to date contact details are required for each child in school. If you have changed your phone number or moved house, please let the class teacher know through ClassDojo. ***If your child has developed any medical issues over the holiday period, it is very important to share this information with the class teacher.***

CAPES COUNSELLING

We are very lucky to have Lynne Dornan as our school counsellor. Lynne is a fully qualified and very experienced counsellor and has been with us now for a number of years. Throughout the lockdown Lynne continued to provide excellent support to a number of families and children and we are very grateful to have her expertise available to our community. Counselling can help children dealing with many issues including bereavement, separation, anxiety, worry, loneliness, anger and friendship issues. Counselling in school, takes place in a private room in school and sessions last about 30 minutes. Lynne always talks to parents before starting to work with the children. Lynne will be resuming in school sessions in mid-September.

If you feel your child might benefit from counselling, please contact your child's teacher through the ClassDojo and they will send you a permission form to fill in. Lynne will contact you when a place becomes available.

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING

Our comprehensive Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website. Mr Coyle is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Miss Gargan is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

GDPR

Our Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice for Pupils, Parents and Families is available on the school website.
<http://stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/parents/parent-information/>

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

The revised holiday list is available on the school website
<http://stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Holiday-List-2020-2021.pdf>

HEALTHY EATING

Our school operates Healthy Eating & Healthy Break Policies, which are available on the school website. At break time we ask that children have a small portion of fresh fruit, vegetables, plain yogurt or cheese. Still, unflavoured water or milk are the only drinks permitted during mid-morning break. NUTS are not allowed in any form. Information on Healthy Breaks/Lunches is available at

<https://www.safefood.net/getattachment/b8b00e34-4be7-4d8a-842a-4b80908c5b49/lunchbox-english.pdf?lang=en-IE>

SCHOOL DINNERS

The School Meals Service are offering a cold lunch option currently. A menu is available on the school website in the Parent Information tab. All children eat lunch in their classrooms to ensure that we maintain 'protective bubbles'. The cost of a school lunch is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Money will only be accepted in a labelled and sealed envelope or plastic bag. No change can be given, so please send in correct amounts of money.



Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Grant are available to parents in receipt of one of the following benefits: -

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

Apply online at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

CLASSDOJO

ClassDojo has been a very useful communication tool over the past months and teachers and parents can continue to communicate through this platform. Teachers will endeavour to check messages every morning but they will not be checking during teaching time and will not be responding to messages in the evenings/weekends.

HOMEWORK

P2-6 written homework will be sent home starting on 14/09. Homework is a chance for children to consolidate their learning and the value is in completing the activity. Staff will go over the homework every day in class but we ask that written homework is **not** returned to school in line with DE advice, to minimise the risk of virus transmission. If children have any particular difficulty with aspects of the work please let the teacher know through Dojo and they will address the issue in class.

