



October

2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Thur	Oct 1 st
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

Feast of St Therese of Lisieux

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

FEAST OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Thanks to Mr McFerran's P7 class for reminding the school community of the life of St Therese of Lisieux and what a wonderful role model she is for us all. Our 'Little Way' awards encourage us to try to live like St Therese every day by being kind and caring, and always doing our best.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to our P5 children who made their First Holy Communion on Sept 12 in three separate ceremonies. The ceremonies were very simple and beautiful, and it was lovely to see the children being supported so well by their parents on that very special day. Our thanks go to Fr Strain, Fr Morely, Cannon Murray, Deacon Dowds and Sean Mulryan (sacristan) for facilitating us and to all the staff who provided support, music and lots of sanitising on the day.

MORNING DROP OFF

Our staggered start to the school day is working well every morning. We ask that all children are dropped off by 9.05am sharp. Thanks to all our parents who say their goodbyes at the gates.

When collecting children at hometime, please remember the following:

- Park your vehicle with consideration for pedestrians and our neighbours
- Wear a face covering in the playground, if you can
- Keep 2m distance from other adults
- Only one adult per household should be in the playground
- Leave the playground as soon as you collect your child
- Do not congregate at the entrances

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

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

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. Information on Covid 19 testing is available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-and-contact-tracing>

The Dept of Education's useful Covid information leaflet for parents is available at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/012176%20Department%20of%20Education%20Parent%20%26%20Carer%20Information%20A4%20NEW%20HR.PDF>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Grants 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>

If you are entitled to apply for FSM we ask that you do so as soon as possible, even if your child does not want to have a meal provided by the EA School Meals Service, as it impacts on our annual budget from DE.

HOLIDAY LIST

The revised holiday list is available on the school website https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-09-30_12_40_18//Holiday_List_2020-2021.pdf

WEBSITE

Our new website was launched today. It is bright and colourful and hopefully, it will be user friendly so that staff will be able to update it easily. Please take a few minutes to have a look.

<https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/>

BREAKFAST CLUB

If you would make use of the Breakfast Club from 8-8.45am please let us know by email. If there is enough demand, we will endeavour to restart it safely. Please put Breakfast Club in the subject line and indicate the days you would like to use it.

info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE

In an effort to curb the spread of Coronavirus, attendance of pupils may well be broken this year. DE have given us new codes to use to record this information, 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.

BORROWING DIGITAL DEVICES

The Education Authority have a new scheme to lend digital devices to primary school children who are entitled to **Free School Meals**. The aim of this scheme is to ensure that children can take part in online learning at home. If you do not have sufficient access to IT devices at home and would like to be **considered** for this scheme, please email info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk with your child's name and class. Please put 'Digital Devices' in the subject line. Parents of eligible P4 and P7 children that have already been contacted do not need to reapply.

CYCLING/SCOOTING

We are delighted to see so many children already cycling and scooting to and from school. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all of a few safety tips as you begin this new school year:

- **Please ensure your bike/scooter is locked.**
- **Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting.**
- **Please be aware of traffic.**
- **Please remember that school is a pedestrian zone- nobody should be cycling/scooting in school grounds.**
- **Wear something reflective so that you can be easily seen. The evenings will be getting darker as the month goes on.**

Mrs Hamill will be arranging a number of cycling fun days throughout the year. Thur Oct 22nd is Spooky Cycle Day. We would like to encourage P1-P7 children to decorate their bicycles/scooters in a ghostly Halloween theme. We will be judging the spookiest bicycles and scooters on the day and the winners will get some great prizes!

HALLOWEEN

The children can come to school in their Halloween costumes on Thur Oct 22nd but must not bring in any props (cauldrons, broomsticks, daggers etc.) We wouldn't want any important items getting lost in school before the half term holiday, as well as being Covid aware.

CITY OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF MUSIC

We are delighted that the CBSM tutors are back teaching in school this week. We will be in touch very soon regarding refund of fees from last year and this year's fees.

PACKED LUNCHES

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.

Many thanks to everyone who has been sending packed lunches to school in disposable packaging. However, we realise that this is not always appropriate, especially on wet mornings. Therefore, if parents prefer, lunches can be sent in reusable lunchboxes. Just remember to wipe them carefully when you get them home!

SCHOOL DINNERS

Our School Meals staff are working very hard delivering lunches/meals to the classrooms to ensure that we maintain our 'protective bubbles'. Sandwiches will continue to be provided on Mondays and Tuesdays. A hot meal will be available the rest of the week. This will be reviewed at Halloween.

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.

SLEEPY HOLLOW

Sleepy Hollow, a private childcare provider, operates out of the mobile classroom at the rear of our school. They provide afterschool care as well as out of school camps during all school holidays and exceptional closures. These are available to regular clients and those who just need holiday/temporary childcare. Sleepy Hollow follow fun curriculums and ensure each day is made up of play activities, baking, sensory play, group games, creative activities as well as the opportunity for child led play. Further information - <https://www.sleepyhollowgroup.com/childcare/> Email info@sleepyhollowgroup.com or phone 07908 538401

NORTH BELFAST HARRIERS

Jog Belfast are providing a Couch to 5K for parents of St Therese of Lisieux P.S. Places are limited. Email chair@northbelfastharrier.com for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the McDonagh family on the safe arrival of Ella May in Sept. We hope that Ms McDonagh has a wonderful maternity leave and are looking forward to meeting the new arrival as soon as it is safe to do so.

RETIREMENTS

After almost 28 years as a P1 assistant, Mrs McMeekin has decided to retire at Halloween. Bobby Glenfield, our Patrol Man, is also retiring after 17 years of service. Huge thanks to both of these valued members of our school team. We wish them a long and happy retirement and hope it's filled with lots of new adventures. If you know anyone who would be interested in replacing Bobby, please ask them to contact the school office as soon as possible.