



September

2021

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Oct 20 th
Fri	Oct 22 nd
Mon	Oct 25 th – Mon Nov 1 st (inclusive)
Wed	Dec 8 th
Wed	Dec 22 nd
Fri	Jan 7 th

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. 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 morning arrangements and for dropping your children at the school gate. This worked well last year and is supporting our efforts to avoid congestion in the playground in the mornings and keep our community safe.

To reduce congestion on Friday afternoons, the following arrangements remain in place. 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.

COVID 19 SYMPTOMS

Children who have **any symptoms** associated with Covid 19 must **not** attend school, 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. Therefore, even if your child has a raised temperature which is controlled with paracetamol or ibuprofen, they should have a PCR test. The most up to date guidance for the management of Covid close contacts in a school setting is available at

https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2021-09-01_11_13_07/Flowchart_covid_contacts_school_settings_August_2021.pdf

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

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

We have many vulnerable adults in our community and our playground space is relatively small, so for the safety and reassurance of all, please remember the following when collecting children:

- **Wear a face covering in the playground, unless exempt**
- **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/gates.**

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 them. If your 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

BREAKFAST CLUB/ 123 CLUB

Breakfast Club will be open from Sept 6th at 8am for children in P2-7. P1 children can attend from October onwards. 123 Club will also be available from Mon Sept 6th. It operates from 2-2.55pm from Mon-Thur each week and is open to P2 and P3 children initially. P1s will be welcome to use the 123 Club once they are in school full days. **Places for both clubs are limited and must be booked in advance through the links on our website in the Parent Section. MR Sports will be providing other afterschool activities later this month.**

SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds, with the exception of blue badge holders. Please park with care and consideration in the immediate vicinity of the school and be careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please be especially vigilant when reversing.

Children cycling or scooting to school should wear helmets. On arriving at the school gates, bikes/scooters should be walked to the parking areas.

No dogs are allowed on the school grounds, other than assistance/ guide dogs. We also ask that dogs are not left unattended outside of the school while you collect your child, in case they are frightened if approached by excited children.

If you need to drop something to school during the day that your child has forgotten, please hand it in at reception and staff will make sure your child gets it. Parents should not access classrooms during the school day, to ensure we comply with safeguarding regulations.

CAPES COUNSELLING

Our school counsellor, Lynne Dornan, is very experienced and has been with us many years. 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 and sessions last about 30 minutes. Lynne always talks to parents before starting to work with the children.

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 and summary is available on the school website. Mr Coyle is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Miss Gargan is the Deputy Designated Teacher. The summary has been published on ClassDojo this week.

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 us know. ***If your child has developed any medical issues over the holiday period, it is very important to share this information with the class teacher.***

GDPR

Our Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice for Pupils, Parents and Families is available on the school website. Information is shared where necessary with the PHA Covid 19 School Team for contact tracing.

<http://stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/parents/parent-information/>

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 menu is available on the school website in the Parent Information Tab. Meals will continue to be delivered to classrooms in the coming half term. 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.

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.
- An Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum ASAT

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 year 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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Ms Scannell and family on the birth of baby Dearbhla in May, to the McFerran family on the safe arrival of baby Sophie in June and to the Reynolds family on the safe arrival of baby Ralph in August.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

The 2021-22 holiday list is available on the school website

https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2021-05-18_11_51_19/Final_Holiday_List_2021-2022.pdf