



November

2021

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Dec 8 th
Fri	Dec 17 th
Wed	Dec 22 nd
Fri	Jan 7 th
Thur	Feb 10 th
Fri	Feb 11 th
Mon-Fri	Feb 14 th -18 th
Thur/Fri	March 17 th /18 th
Wed	April 6 th
Thur	April 7 th
Sat	May 28 th

Parent Teacher Consultation. School closed for pupils.
Christmas Dinner for the children
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays
School reopening for Term 2
P7 Service of Light/Confirmation Holy Family Church 11am (JMcF)
P7 Service of Light/Confirmation Holy Family Church 11am (NR)
School closed for half term
School closed for St Patrick's Day celebrations
P3 First Confession St Therese Church 11am (GB)
P3 First Confession St Therese Church 11am (PG)
P4 First Holy Communion St Therese Church (SON-10am/CMcC-12pm)

MORNING DROP OFF

Our staggered start to the school day is working well. Thanks to all our parents who say their goodbyes at the gates. **Please note that Chichester Road gates are now locked at 9am and staff go to their classrooms.** Children arriving late will need to come in via the Antrim Road entrance.

COVID 19

Huge thanks from the staff and governors to all of our families for following our Covid safety measures so well. We have had a number of positive PCR Covid cases throughout the school. If there is a positive Covid case in your child's class, we will continue to let you know through ClassDojo. Under the latest guidance, classmates are now unlikely to be considered close contacts. Therefore, parents/carers must continue to exercise a cautious approach if children experience any coughs/colds/minor illness/raised temperatures. If your child displays any of the key Covid symptoms, please keep them at home and book a PCR test.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If your child is absent due to Covid, please let the class teacher know so that the absence is recorded accurately.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

We have many vulnerable adults/children 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.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Wed Dec 8th via telephone. **The school will be closed for pupils.** Teachers will send home approximate appointment times. If the time allocated does not suit you, please let the teacher know immediately so that a suitable alternative can be arranged. Parents will receive a call from a 'No Caller ID' or a 'Withheld' number.

BREAKFAST CLUB/ 123 CLUB

Breakfast Club and 123 Club are available but must be booked in advance through the links on our website in the Parent Section, so that we have enough staff available to ensure we can operate safely.

MR SPORTS AFTERSCHOOL

Places still available in most activities: soccer, GAA, dance, multisports. Book and pay online.

P1s can now join MR Sports Tue and/or Thur clubs. Book and pay online at <https://mr-sports.co.uk/product-category/schools/st-therese-of-lisieux/>

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to our P4s who made their First Confession in October in two lovely ceremonies. Our thanks to the wonderful Holy Family team of Fr Strain, Fr Morely and Canon Murray who were so approachable and reassuring. The children enjoyed a great party afterwards.

Proposed dates for Confirmation(P7s), First Confession (P3s) and First Holy Communion(P4s) are detailed overleaf but will be dependent on the Covid regulations in force at the time.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Well done to all of the boys and girls who stood in the recent school council elections. There were lots of candidates with many great speeches and ideas, and each and every one who took part is to be highly commended. Staff were very impressed! Congratulations to the new council members who will have opportunities during the year to share their opinions and help in the smooth running of the school.



WEBSITE

Thanks to the 207 people who have downloaded the 'Schools NI' app that links to our website. This app enables us to send messages and updates directly to your phone. It also allows users to quickly access key documents, including the Dinner Menu/Holiday lists as well as any newly uploaded photos and news items.



The app is free to download from the App/Play Store. Once you have downloaded the app, search for St Therese of Lisieux PS.

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Counselling can help children dealing with many issues including bereavement, separation, anxiety, worry, loneliness, anger and friendship issues. If you feel your child might benefit from counselling, please speak to your child's teacher and they will give you a permission form to fill in. Our counsellor, Lynne, will contact you when a place becomes available.

EA SEN SURVEY

The EA has launched an online questionnaire for the public to have their say on access to information on SEN services and shape future arrangements for Special Educational Provision. Closes Nov 10th [Click here for questionnaire.](#)

EU CODE WEEK

To celebrate EU Code Week, the children from P1 to P7 took part in a series of coding challenges throughout the week. These included 'unplugged' challenges which required the children to use coding skills, including sequencing, tinkering, persevering and debugging. The children also engaged in the use of programmable devices such as BeeBots and Spheros, as well as using apps and web-based platforms to complete coding challenges using block based commands and python coding language. The children showed great interest and application in using and developing their skills. Well done to all the boys and girls, and also to the teachers who have been working hard to develop their own ICT skills!

EA LITERACY SERVICE

The EA Literacy Service produce a regular newsletter with practical tips on helping children with reading, writing and spelling at home. This month's edition focusses on alphabet and dictionary work. Previous editions are available too. <https://sway.office.com/7Rfz1XKmO654J8zp?ref=Link>

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

We celebrate the gift of friendship throughout November. Each class will explore the themes of friendship, individuality and bullying through discussions, role play, stories and art. The theme for Anti Bullying week this year is One Kind Word. In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness.

SAFER SCHOOLS APP

DENI, has partnered with INEQE Safeguarding Group to provide the award winning Safer Schools App to support school staff and parents/carers to keep children safer online. Search for 'Safer Schools' in the App/Play Store. To gain access select 'Department of Education Northern Ireland' as your school and enter the code 7440.



NEWINGTON CREDIT UNION

Visits to our school will resume every Tuesday at 9am, from Nov 9th, to facilitate regular savers. New members are very welcome. Application forms are available from the office. Children should bring their savings in a labelled envelope.