



December



2021

IMPORTANT DATES

	Wed	Dec 8 th
	Tue	Dec 14 th
	Fri	Dec 17 th
	Tue	Dec 21 st
	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.

Mr Hullabaloo visiting P1 and 2. Late finish - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner for the children

Cinema trip P3-7

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)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Even though we can't have our usual festive celebrations this year, we are still getting into the Christmas spirit in school. The trees are up, the lights are twinkling and Christmas carols and music are echoing throughout the building. We will be sharing some of this joy with you on our website over the coming weeks. Make sure you have downloaded the 'Schools NI' app so you don't miss out.

WEBSITE

Thanks to the 230 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. Once you have the app, search for St Therese of Lisieux PS.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Wed Dec 8th via telephone. **The school will be closed for pupils.** Teachers have sent 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. **Please note that the school office will be closed on Dec 8th.**

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

Thank you to all our staff and families for working so hard to keep everyone safe. I urge you all to redouble your efforts in following the PHA advice to ensure a safe and healthy Christmas for all of our families and staff. Please 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. 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.**

OPEN DAY

Unfortunately, we are not able to have our usual Open Day for parents of prospective P1 children. Last year we made a video presentation for new families so that they can get a feel for the school. This is available on the website, along with our prospectus and admission criteria. Applications for P1 2022 must be made through the Education Authority Portal. This opens on 10/01/2022 at noon and closes on 28/01/2022 at noon. For more information see <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents>

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm

MANDARIN

We were delighted to welcome back Mandarin classes in St Therese of Lisieux at the beginning of November. The children in P3-P7 are looking forward to learning new phrases, words and songs in the coming year. This programme is provided by the Confucius Institute at Ulster University.

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

During the month of November, we explored the themes of friendship and uniqueness, through discussions, role play, stories and art, throughout the school. During anti-bullying week the children discussed bullying; what it is, what it isn't and what to do if they are unhappy. They also did some lovely art work on this year's theme, One Kind Word. Taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' reminded us that we are unique and that it's ok to be different! During our assemblies, children from P4-7 discussed various scenarios to decide if the situations met the definition of bullying. They were also introduced to aspects of our Anti-bullying Policy, which has been updated recently in light of the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016. The draft policy is available on the website, along with the updated Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy and RSE Policy. Parents comments on these policies are welcome. If you have any suggestions or queries, please e-mail the school account info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

MATHS WEEK IRELAND 2021

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated enthusiastically in the many activities for Maths Week Ireland. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the boys and girls were not able to attend any shows or have any visits from children from post primary schools again this year, but they still had fun engaging in problem solving activities, stretching their mathematical skills. A variety of shows and quizzes were broadcast for the children to watch throughout the week. Every child in the school participated in a mathematics art competition – the results were outstanding! Congratulations to our winners: Sophia, Jessica, Oran, Lola, Kasandra, Jaden, Katy, Mason, Hannah, Briannagh, Mollie, Charlie, Euan and Sophie!

P1/2 CHRISTMAS TREAT

As a lovely Christmas treat Mr Hullabaloo and friends will be visiting P1 and 2 in school to share one of his magical stories after lunch on Tue Dec 14th. The children will be ready for collection or to go to their afterschool activities at 2.30pm.

P3-7 CINEMA TRIP

P3-7 will be going to the cinema to see 'Encanto' on Tue Dec 21st, for their very well deserved Christmas treat. Further details to follow.

KEY POLICIES

As policies are updated they are published on the school website. They include Online Safety, Complaints, Health and Safety, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, First Aid, Health and Safety and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Every year the school community takes part in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. This year, instead of the usual hampers that they distribute to families, St Vincent de Paul are distributing supermarket vouchers. Therefore, our local SVP conference asks if you would consider making a financial donation to support those in need in our own community. We will be sending home SVP envelopes next week with the children. If you are a tax payer, please complete the relevant gift aid details on the envelope so that your donation is worth 25% more.



If your family is in need over Christmas or throughout the year SVP can help by supplying vouchers, household goods, money for heating your home and can also help provide toys for Christmas. This support is available by calling 028 90351561. Occasionally, the school is able to access grants for families, so please let us know, in confidence, if your family is in need.

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE

C2k (who provide IT and internet services to schools) have a licence agreement with MICROSOFT that all school users (including pupils) can download, free of charge, full copies of MS Office for PC or Mac for use on up to 5 devices. A helpsheet explaining how to do this is available at [https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-10-01_12_08_21/EN082 - Downloading Microsoft Office for students.pdf](https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2020-10-01_12_08_21/EN082_-_Downloading_Microsoft_Office_for_students.pdf)

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our school canteen is offering children a Christmas dinner on Fri Dec 17th including turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the usual price of £2.60.

NEWINGTON CREDIT UNION

The Credit Union visit every Tuesday at 9am, 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.

TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter to hear the latest news and see some of the children's activities - <https://twitter.com/TheresePS>.