



# February

2022

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thur	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>
Fri	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>
Mon-Fri	Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Thur/Fri	March 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup>
Wed	April 6 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	April 7 <sup>th</sup>
Thur	April 14 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sat	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Thur/Fri	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>

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  
 World Book Day  
 School closed for St Patrick's Day celebrations  
 P3 First Confession St Therese Church 11am (Mrs Black's class)  
 P3 First Confession St Therese Church 11am (Mrs Acum's class)  
 School closing at noon for the Easter Holidays  
 School reopening for Term 3  
 Bank Holiday –school closed  
 P4 First Holy Communion St Therese Church (SON-10am/CMcC-12pm)  
 Bank Holiday –school closed

## COVID 19

It is inevitable that with high cases of Omicron in the community, there will also be cases reported in school. We are continuing to take actions to minimise in-school transmission by following guidance from the Public Health Agency and the Education Authority.

We have had a lot of cases identified by Lateral Flow Tests over the past week and will continue to let you know through ClassDojo when cases are reported to us. When we have high numbers of confirmed cases in a particular class, a one-off LFT test is recommended to the rest of the class to identify other infected children or staff as early as possible, so that they can self-isolate. Please continue to check Dojo for these important messages.

We ask that parents/carers 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. LFTs are for checking asymptomatic cases.

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. If they are well enough to do some work, please let their teacher know and a work pack will be provided. The EA School Meals Service can also provide a food pack on request.

## 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.



## STAFFING

As you may have heard it is very difficult to get substitute teachers, classroom assistants, supervisory assistants, cleaners and secretaries in the current circumstances. We have been operating with reduced staffing over the past two months, but we are all working really hard to continue to provide an enjoyable and effective education for our pupils. However, if teachers are ill and we cannot get substitutes, as a last resort, individual classes may be asked to remain at home for their safety. However, this will only happen after we have exhausted all other options and for the shortest period possible.

## 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

Some places still available in MR Sports afterschool activities. Book and pay online. <https://mr-sports.pembee.app/>  
MR Sports are also providing a Mid-Term Camp at Blessed Trinity College- Football, Multisports Club, Dance, Drama Arts and Crafts. Book and pay online. <https://mr-sports.pembee.app/activity/61df42e455635600096251eb>

## SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Our counselling is now funded by DE. We are required to share anonymised information with DE in a monthly return. 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. There is a waiting list currently.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day 2022 is on Tuesday 8th February. The theme this year is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online.' As part of our Online Safety Education Programme, children will engage in activities, discussions, role play and assemblies that emphasise the importance of staying safe online. Parents are reminded that it is strongly recommended that children of primary school age should **not** have unsupervised internet access or indeed access to social media apps including Instagram, Snapchat and Whats App.

## SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP

Does your child use TikTok, Snapchat, Among Us or Roblox? Do you know how to set privacy settings to keep them safe, or how to block, report and mute other users? DE has partnered with INEQE Safeguarding Group to provide the award winning Safer Schools App to support school staff and parents/carers to keep children safe online. As a parent and carer, your **Safer Schools NI App** will help you to navigate the digital world that your children and young people live in every day. It will help by giving you the tools to protect the children and young people in your care online. Search for 'Safer Schools NI' in the App/Play Store. Follow the instructions to register and create an account, select our school and input 2030 when asked for a code.



## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm

## SACRAMENTS

Please remember our P7 pupils and their families in your prayers, as they continue on their faith journeys over the next few weeks, preparing for the Service of Light and the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope the children have a wonderful celebration of the sacrament and that it provides a valuable opportunity for them to get closer to God and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as they journey into the future.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR



Our P3-7 children are enjoying their weekly Mandarin lessons with Miss Heng, funded by the Confucius Institute at Ulster University. Miss Heng taught the children all about Chinese New Year this week. Congratulations to Daire and Eva who were winners in the Chinese New Year Poster Competition, chosen from

thousands of entries. Both P4 classes thoroughly enjoyed watching the fantastic ceremony online and let out a big CHEER when the winners were announced.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

£1,205.44 was donated to St Vincent De Paul through the school for their Christmas Appeal. St Vincent De Paul send their thanks to everyone who made a donation, stating that this 'is truly an outstanding achievement and testament to the kindness and generosity of the children and their families'.

## EA LITERACY SERVICE

The EA Literacy Service produce a regular newsletter with practical tips for parents on helping children with reading, writing, spelling, alphabet/dictionary work and managing transitions. <https://sway.office.com/7Rfz1XKmO654J8zp?ref=Link>

## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is a worldwide celebration of reading, authors, illustrators and books and is marked in over 100 countries all over the world. World Book Day 2022 will take place on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year we would like to mark this very special day by inviting the children make their favourite book character from a potato (or any other vegetable). Click [here](#) for some ideas to get the creative juices flowing. Lots of other fun activities will be organised in school to encourage a love of reading.

## WONDERFUL NEWS

Congratulations to the newly married Mrs Acum (formerly Miss Gargan) who got married at the weekend. We are all so delighted for her and wish her and her lovely husband many years of happiness together.