



March

2022

IMPORTANT DATES

Thur	March 3 rd
Thur/Fri	March 17 th -18 th
Wed	April 6 th
Thur	April 7 th
Thur	April 14 th
Mon	April 25 th
Mon/Fri	April 25 th -29 th
Mon	May 2 nd
Sat	May 28 th
Thur/Fri	June 2 nd -3 rd

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
School Book Fair
Bank Holiday –school closed
P4 First Holy Communion St Therese Church (SON-10am/CMcC-12pm)
Bank Holiday –school closed

COVID 19

As you know, February was a very challenging month for us, with high numbers of positive Covid cases reported in both children and staff. Unfortunately, further positive cases have been reported since half term.

Therefore, 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, a work pack can be provided by asking the class teacher. The EA School Meals Service can also provide a food pack on request.

Getting substitute teachers, classroom assistants, supervisory assistants, cleaners and secretaries continues to be very difficult. We have been operating with reduced staffing over the past three 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.

COVID 19 SAFETY REMINDER

Even though Covid regulations have now been removed/relaxed by the Executive, schools have been told by the EA to maintain our mitigations, 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.



SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP

Does your child use TikTok, Snapchat 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 parents/carers to keep children safe online. **Safer Schools NI App** will help you navigate the digital world that children live in every day, giving you the tools to protect your child. 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.



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is almost here and we are counting down until Thursday! We will have various activities happening throughout the school but our big highlight will be bringing all the potato book characters together on Thursday. It's a great opportunity to help celebrate the day and get creative. Here is a link displaying lots of great potato book characters for some additional inspiration. Happy reading!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM8m6G0PqgQ>

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Little by little normality is returning! We are planning to hold what used to be our annual Scholastic Book Fair after Easter. Scholastic will be delivering books to the school to suit all ages and interests. Children will be able to browse the range and hopefully buy something they will enjoy reading! The school receives commission from the book sales, in the form of books for the classrooms and library.

WORLD MATHS DAY

Time to prime those brains and flex those fingers - World Maths Day is back! On **Wednesday March 23rd**, students across the globe will battle it out to discover who is the world's strongest mathlete. During this event, millions of students across the world compete in Live Mathletics challenges to determine a global winner, while also participating in fun activities that highlight the wonder of numbers. World Maths Day is all about fun, fast and inclusive maths, with Live Maths challenges being the highlight of the event. Students log into Mathletics and compete against peers from across the globe in 20 one-minute challenges. For every correct answer they achieve, they're awarded one point which goes towards their total World Maths Day score. It runs for 48 hours to cover all global time zones (it actually begins at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd March in our time zone). The children will be able to login and begin to earn points from next week when they will receive their passwords. There will be a certificate and small treat for the child in each class who has earned the most points when the event finishes! Good luck everyone!



ACTION MENTAL HEALTH

P2-4 enjoyed 'Little Healthy Me' workshops this month, delivered by Action Mental Health. Each class had three, engaging, interactive sessions where they learned about the importance of a healthy mind and body. The workshops helped build on their PDMU learning and has taught them a range of coping strategies which they can use in the future. KS2 children have already had 'Healthy Me' workshops over the past year.

LENT

Today is the first day of the Lenten Season. Our thanks to Fr Morely for holding a prayer service for the children and distributing ashes. We will be taking part in a variety of activities during Lent to raise awareness of the wonderful work done by Trocaire and to raise money for them.

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to our P7s who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in two beautiful ceremonies in February. Another ceremony will be arranged for the children who were not able to attend. Please remember our P3 pupils and their families in your prayers as they prepare for their First Confession over the next few weeks.

CHINESE NEW YEAR COMPETITION

Congratulations to Aoife and Jaden in P3 and Eva and Daire in P4 who were winners in the Chinese New Year Poster Competition, organised by the Confucius Institute at Ulster University. Miss Heng, our Mandarin tutor, hopes to organise a prize giving event this month.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

We are closed on March 17th and 18th for St Patrick's Day. On March 16th our P5s and the school orchestra will perform some traditional tunes and songs for the other children-look out for a recording on our website!

BUDDY READING

Our Buddy Reading Programme is resuming this year with our P3 and P7 children. This is an excellent programme which encourages and establishes good reading practices among all of the participants. Always a very enjoyable experience for everyone involved as well as giving a great opportunity to the P3s to develop their reading skills. The P7s will be trained by Mrs Acum for this leadership opportunity and the P3s are excited to be working with such wonderful role models.

SOLIHULL PARENTING PROGRAMMES

The PHA has prepaid access to a range of online Solihull Parenting Programmes for residents in NI until October 2022, covering areas from pregnancy and birth, mental health and well-being, right up to parenting teenagers. Go to <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/>
Access code –NIBABIES

MR SPORTS AFTERSCHOOL

Some places still available in MR Sports afterschool activities. Book and pay online. <https://mr-sports.pembree.app/>

DRAFT HOLIDAY LIST

The draft holiday list is available on the website [here](#).

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Thur: 8.30am-4.15pm

Fri: 8.30am- 3.15pm