



# April

## 2022

### IMPORTANT DATES

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/Fri	April 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>
Mon	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Thur	May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Sat	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Thur/Fri	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>

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

### COVID 19

We have continued to operate with reduced staffing over the past month due to Covid and it remains very difficult to get substitute teachers. All of the staff have continued to work very flexibly and with great commitment to ensure that we have not had to ask individual classes to remain at home for their safety. We hope that we are over the worst of the pandemic at this stage, although new cases are still being reported amongst children and staff.

We ask that parents/carers continue to exercise a cautious approach if children experience any coughs/ colds/minor illness/raised temperatures and test for Covid before sending them to school.

If your child is absent from school, 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.

### ONLINE SAFETY

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.

We have noticed recently that some older children have Whatsapp/Snapchat on their phones. These apps are not designed for use by primary school children and frequently cause friendship difficulties through inappropriate use. We ask that if parents permit children to download these apps, their use is carefully monitored.



### 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 and be careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please be especially vigilant when reversing.

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.

Please note, to keep the children safe, **small studs** are the only type of earring suitable for wearing in school. Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. If earrings cannot be removed it is possible "to make them safe by taping, front and back, which may offer a measure of protection. Taping should be sufficient to prevent the stud post penetrating the bone behind the ear". AFPE 2017

The Breakfast Club is open from 8am. No children should be on the school grounds before this. Children not using the Breakfast Club can arrive from 8.45am.

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Regular school attendance is hugely important for learning and emotional wellbeing. Our pupils' attendance is usually very good. Unfortunately, due to Covid many children have had broken attendance this year. Hopefully, as the pandemic is coming to an end, we will have less illness in the community over the next few months and attendance will improve again! It is also very important that the children arrive punctually in the mornings. The first part of the morning is spent consolidating learning from previous days so children who are frequently late miss these opportunities.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our World Book Day celebrations in March. We had lots of activities to promote a love of reading and it was wonderful to see all the book characters created at home. Have a look at the amazing designs [here](#).

## SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Following on from our memorable celebration of World Book Day we are delighted to have the Book Fair returning this year! It will be running just after the Easter break Monday 25th - Friday 29th April. There will be a large selection of books from a range of authors that should appeal to all year groups. An additional bonus of this book promotion event is that our school receives commission based on book sales. This will be used to top up class libraries. More details will be sent out before Easter.



## WORLD MATHS DAY

Congratulations to all our pupils who made a super effort to participate in World Maths Day 2022. The children had great fun competing against their classmates and students across the globe. The boys and girls were very excited to discover they were competing against children from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Africa and many others! Due to the children's curiosity, we also learned a lot about other countries' flags and time zones. Huge congratulations must go to our top scorers from each class: Seamus, Jessica, Edden, Lily, Adam, Lucy, Ana, Tom, Leroy, Clare, Ejike and Caelan. A special mention must also go to three boys whose overall scores were phenomenal: Zac (P7 ~ 25 228 points), Jaden (P3 ~ 25 121 points) and Harry (P7 ~ 24 159 points). All winners have earned themselves a certificate and a small treat for all their efforts! Well done everyone!

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

A HUGE congratulation to everyone involved in our St Patrick's Day celebrations. The school enjoyed the fantastic music, dancing and songs provided by the children in KS2. Highlights of the concert can be seen on our website [here](#).

## FAMILY SUPPORT NI

Family Support NI is directory of support services/organisations, including childcare services, that are available locally and across Northern Ireland. <http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/>

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

## SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to the last group of P7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on March 24<sup>th</sup>, as they were unwell in Feb. They were ably supported by their classmates who provided lovely singing and music during the ceremony. The PTA provided a welcome ice-cream treat for all of the children afterwards.



Please keep our P3 children in your prayers as they are preparing for the Sacrament of First Confession next week.

## SAFE CYCLING

In recent weeks, with the improvement in the weather, we are delighted to see so many children cycling and scooting safely to and from school. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all of a few safety tips:

- Please ensure your bike/scooter is locked.
- Please wear a helmet when cycling/scooting.
- Please be aware of traffic.
- Please remember that school is a pedestrian zone-nobody should be cycling or scooting in school grounds.

Our school Bike Buddies will be doing spot checks, giving prizes to those children who regularly bring their bike or scooter to school.

## CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL/GAELFAST

Congratulations to our five P7 children who represented St Therese of Lisieux in the half time Cumann na mBunscol games played at Corrigan Park in the match between Antrim and Westmeath senior men's footballers. This was a wonderful experience for them and hopefully we'll see them all playing for Antrim again in the future!

We were also delighted to have been invited to take part in Gaelfast's Return to Play event this week. We hope that other opportunities to represent the school at various sporting events will be available over the next few months.

## TROCAIRE

Our annual campaign to support the hugely important work of Trocaire around the world will be launched next week. Each class will take part in an activity/challenge to help raise awareness and encourage donations to the Trocaire campaign. Children will be provided with an envelope and gift aid form for bringing home.

## PTA GRANT

Our congratulations and thanks go to our PTA who have received a grant of £10,000 from the Department of Infrastructure Living Places and Spaces Fund to fell the large fir trees and replace them with indigenous trees and bushes, increasing light, space and growth in the garden.

## DRAFT HOLIDAY LIST 2022-23

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