



# May

## 2022

### IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Thur	May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Wed-Thur	May 25-26 <sup>th</sup>
Sat	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Thur/Fri	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Thur	June 30 <sup>th</sup>

Bank Holiday –school closed  
Assembly Election –school closed  
Photographer in School for P1s and P7s  
P4 First Holy Communion St Therese Church (SON-10am/CMcC-12pm)  
Bank Holiday –school closed  
School closing at noon for the summer break

### 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 in the vicinity of the school and be careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please be especially vigilant when reversing.

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Our pupils' attendance is usually very good and frequently above the NI average. Unfortunately, due to Covid many children have had broken attendance this year. Hopefully, as the prevalence of Covid is reducing, we will have less illness in the community over the next few months and attendance will return to normal levels! Congratulations to the prize winners in our Promoting Punctuality events. When children arrive in school on time daily administration tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently and children do not miss out on learning opportunities. We understand that there may well be genuine reasons for lateness, but would encourage everyone to aim to be in school for 9am. Gates are open from 8.45-9am. Breakfast Club is open from 8am.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If your family is in need, the local conference of St Vincent De Paul can help with the cost of essential household items, including food, clothing, heating or other household bills either once off or for a short period of time. See <https://www.svp.ie/get-help/how-we-can-help.aspx> for further information or call 028 90351561.

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Lafayette Photography will be in school on May 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> to take individual photographs of children in P1 and P7. If the P1 and P7 children have siblings in other year groups they will facilitate family photographs if parents wish. Consent forms will be sent to parents of P1 and P7 children very soon. Please complete these promptly –photographs will not be taken without parent consent.

### AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Some places still available in MR Sports afterschool activities (Football, GAA, Dance, Multi Sport and Basketball). Book and pay online [here](#). We have a new afterschool Miniversity Creative Learning Club on Tuesdays (3-4pm) for P4- P7 children in the Computer Suite. Please visit [www.miniversity.com](http://www.miniversity.com) for further details or contact them at [study@miniversity.com](mailto:study@miniversity.com) or 07712042222.

### ONLINE SAFETY

DE has partnered with INEQE Safeguarding Group to provide the award winning Safer Schools App to 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.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



The children from P1 to P7 were treated to some live performances in April organised by our Mandarin tutor Miss Heng. These included martial arts and traditional Chinese music, song and dance. Our winners of the Chinese New Year poster competition were presented with their prizes during our special celebrations.

## SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Our massive thanks to all the pupils and parents that helped make the Book Fair so successful. It was great to see the return of this annual event and it created such a lovely buzz throughout the school! The weather was also very kind to us as we relocated to the sunny outdoors for P1-P3 parents. With your support, we will be able to receive a substantial number of books for every year group based on the book sales at our fair. Thanks for your generosity and happy reading everyone!

## ESB SCIENCE BLAST 2022

Congratulations to our Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 children who all completed the ESB Science Blast challenge last month. Each class had to come up with a scientific question to test. The children then planned and carried out fair tests. They gathered evidence, recorded results and drew conclusions which they then presented virtually via Zoom to an official judge. The children were excellent role models for our school and the feedback from the judges was outstanding. The challenge was an excellent way to encourage the children's natural curiosity and develop their scientific skills. We definitely have some future scientists in St. Therese of Lisieux.

## PTA

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.

## ULSTER BADMINTON

The P7 children have been working hard at developing their skills in badminton supported by their coach, Johnny, from Ulster Badminton. It has been fantastic to watch the progress they have made in the relatively short time they have been attending sessions. By way of celebrating all their great work, the children in Mr Mc Ferran's class were invited to participate in the Ulster Badminton Belfast Primary Schools Festival. The children competed in a range of badminton skills sessions and explored issues around identity and friendship in workshops with children from different community backgrounds within Belfast. The children really enjoyed the sessions and some were lucky enough to win badminton rackets to continue to develop their skills at home.

## FAMILY SUPPORT NI

Family Support NI is directory of support services/organisations, including childcare, 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 our P3 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confession in April. They were ably supported by a group of P7 singers who assisted during both ceremonies.

Please keep our P4 children in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in June.

## P6 DRAMA

Congratulations to our wonderful Primary 6 children who presented the Passion Story to the school community during Holy Week. The children were amazing and showed such reverence in their readings, acting and singing. It was a beautiful way for us all to reflect on the events of Holy Week and to prepare for Easter. Click [here](#) to see their assembly.

## 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.

## CARRAGHER CUP

The boys and girls represented the school with great distinction in the recent Carragher Cup group stages at St Enda's CLG. A win, draw and loss saw them finish as runners up in their group. There were some fantastic team and individual displays. Well done everyone!

## CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

Congratulations to Gerard (P7) who represented St Therese on the Antrim Team at the half time Cumann na mBunscol game at Corrigan Park during the recent Antrim Cavan match. A brave and determined display from Gerard and a goal scored too! Click [here](#) to see him in action.

## SUN SAFETY

Hopefully, we will have lovely weather this term. Please make sure your child has a sunhat (labelled with name and class) and remember to apply sun cream if it is very hot.

## DRAFT HOLIDAY LIST 2022-23

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

## TWITTER

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