



# December



## 2022

### IMPORTANT DATES

	Wed	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>
	Thur	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>
	Wed	Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Thur	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>
	Mon	Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>
	Tue	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>
	Wed	Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>
	Wed	Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>
	Thur	Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	Fri	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>
	Fri	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>
	Mon-Fri	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>
	Wed	Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>
	Fri	Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>
	Sat	May 20 <sup>th</sup>

P2 Christmas Show 10.30am  
Parent Teacher Consultation. [School closed for pupils.](#)  
P3 Christmas Show 10.30am  
Open Day for prospective P1 pupils starting in Sept 2023  
Christmas Panto in the school hall - 'Santa's Sooty Christmas'  
Children's Christmas Dinner Day  
Mrs Mary Clause visiting P1-4 in school  
KS2 Carol Service in St Therese Church at 1.30pm  
School closing at noon for the Christmas holidays  
School reopening for Term 2  
P7 Confirmation at 11am in Holy Family Church  
School closed for half term  
P3 Mrs Acum- First Confession 11am St Therese Church  
P3 Mrs Black- First Confession 11am St Therese Church  
First Holy Communion St Therese church-  
10am Ms McClenaghan's class & 12pm Miss Norton's class

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December is a really busy month with children taking part in different celebrations as we move towards Christmas. Some of our P7 children were invited to sing at Stormont this week for the official switching on of the Christmas lights at Parliament Buildings. Our P2 and P3 children are putting the final touches to their Christmas shows and their parents are warmly invited to come along to see the performances. Parents of children in P5 – P7 are also invited to our KS2 Carol Service in St Therese of Lisieux Church on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm. The wonderful music and singing from the children is always an uplifting experience and a beautiful way to prepare for a really meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. Some of the children will also perform at local Nursing Homes to entertain the residents during Dec.

Please continue to visit our website and follow us on Twitter to see some of the lovely activities the children experience in school.



### PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Thur Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. **The school will be closed for pupils.** Teachers have sent home appointment times. If the time allocated does not suit you, please let the teacher know immediately so that a suitable alternative can be arranged. If any parent has not received a note about their meeting, please contact the teacher on ClassDojo or phone the school as soon as possible so an appointment can be made.

### OPEN DAY

Parents of prospective P1 children are invited to our Open Day on Thur Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am to meet the staff and have a tour of the school. Applications for P1 must be made online from Tue Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at noon, on the Education Authority's Citizen Portal. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. Any applications made after this will be considered as late. The child's long birth cert must be provided to the school, along with proof of residence (eg recent utility bill). More information is available on the EA website [here](#).

### PTA

The PTA send their thanks to everyone who expressed an interest in helping out at their various events. The PTA AGM is on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in school. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

## 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 'Reach Out'. Taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' reminded us that we are unique and that it's ok to be different!

## SPORTING NEWS

November was a busy month for the P7 Boys Football teams competing in 2 different competitions. In the P7 Cyril Murray Cup, the boys had an excellent run beating Christ the Redeemer in the quarter-finals before eventually losing to Stranmillis PS in the semi-finals in a very tight game. In the Edco U11 Cup, the boys have progressed to the quarter finals after two North Belfast derbies against Holy Family PS and Carr's Glen PS.

On the GAA front, the boys competed in the Cumann Na mBunscol Indoor hurling league at Brooke Leisure Centre where they put in a series of great displays in this ground hurling format. Well done to all who took part! The camogie players will be competing later this month.

## PARKING

Parents, carers, grandparents and childminders are asked to park with care and consideration in the immediate vicinity of the school, being careful not to block gateways, drives and footpaths. Please be especially vigilant when reversing. We have had several complaints recently from neighbours whose driveways are being blocked.

We are expecting the local PSNI to monitor the situation over the next few weeks. Parking on yellow zig-zag lines is an endorsable penalty, which means three points on a licence and a £65 fine. Double parking on the Antrim Road and parking too close to junctions may also lead to fines.

## SHARED EDUCATION

We are delighted to have our Shared Education partnership with Cavehill Primary School back on track. Teachers from both schools have had their planning meetings already and some visits have already taken place. All classes will be taking part in Shared Education.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

Every year the school community takes part in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal, to support those in need in our local community. We will be sending home SVP envelopes next week with the children. All donations are welcome. If you are a tax payer, please complete the relevant gift aid details on the envelope so that your donation is worth 25% more.

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

## FAMILIES IN NEED

We know that the cost of basic goods and services are extremely high currently and that many families are struggling to make ends meet. As the cold weather sets in we realise that some parents are frequently making difficult decisions about 'eating or heating'.

We want to help ensure that no family in our community has to go hungry, so we have signed up to be a referral agency for the North Belfast Foodbank and will be able to issue foodbank vouchers. If your family is in need of this support, please email [info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk) in confidence for the attention of Mrs McTaggart.

We are also expecting a donation of brand new toys from Cash for Kids. If any parent needs help with Christmas or birthday gifts, again contact us by email and we will arrange for parents to choose from the selection donated.

The local office of St Vincent de Paul can also help any family in need over Christmas and throughout the year by supplying food vouchers, household goods, money for heating and can also help provide toys for Christmas. If you would benefit from this support, then please ring 028 90351561.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our school canteen is offering children a Christmas dinner on Tue Dec 21<sup>st</sup> including turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the usual price of £2.60.

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH FAIR

The Parish Fair is on Sunday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

## 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 [here](#).

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Congratulations to the lucky prize winners during Promoting Punctuality Week. It is very important that children arrive on time in the mornings so that administration tasks can be carried out quickly and efficiently, and to ensure children do not miss out on learning opportunities. If children are absent from school parents should let us know on ClassDojo or by telephone so that the absences are coded correctly for DE.

## POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS

Please look out for information in the local press on the Post Primary Open Days which will be taking place over the next month. We will send information home when we receive it.

**Parents of P6 pupils should strongly consider attending some Open Days this year, to ensure you see a range of schools.**