



January

2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Tue	Feb 7 th
Fri	Feb 10 th
Mon-Fri	Feb 13 th -17 th
Thur	March 16 th
Fri	March 17 th
Wed	Mar 29 th
Fri	Mar 31 th
Thur	April 6 th
Mon	April 17 th
Mon	May 1 st
Mon	May 8 th
Sat	May 20 th
Mon-Tue	May 29 th -30 th

Online Safety Workshop for Parents/Carers at 9am in school
P7 Confirmation at 11am in Holy Family Church
School closed for half term
St Patrick's Day Concert
St Patrick's Day-school closed
P3 Mrs Acum- First Confession 11am St Therese Church
P3 Mrs Black- First Confession 11am St Therese Church
School closing at noon for the Easter holidays.
School reopening for Term 3
School closed for the Bank Holiday
School closed for the Bank Holiday
First Holy Communion St Therese church-
10am Ms McClenaghan's class & 12pm Miss Norton's class
School closed for the Bank Holiday

Happy New Year to our pupils and families from the staff and governors of St Therese of Lisieux Primary School. We look forward to a great year of learning in 2023

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations once again to all the children for their contribution to our Christmas celebrations. Their artwork, drama, singing and music were hugely appreciated by all who saw them. We have had so much positive feedback from parents, grandparents and community members. It was wonderful to have live audiences again! P2's performance of Whoops A Daisy Angel and P3's performance of The Hoity Toity Angels are on the year group pages of our website.

Well done also to the P7 children who were invited to Stormont for the switching on of the lights by the Speaker of the Assembly. They performed a medley of Christmas songs beautifully and were treated to a lovely hot lunch!

We also had 'Santa's Sooty Christmas', a live panto performed in school by Centre Stage Theatre, for all the children which was great fun. P1-4 had a very special visit from Mrs Mary Clause and P5-7 had a retelling of the 'Letter from Santa' by Belfast City Council.

The KS2 Carol Service held in St Therese Church just before we closed for the holidays was a reminder for everyone of the true message of Christmas.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations took place in Dec. If any parent has not had their meeting, please contact the teacher on ClassDojo or phone the school as soon as possible so an appointment can be made.

APPLICATIONS FOR P1 SEPT 2023

Applications for P1 must be made online from Tue Jan 10th at noon, on the Education Authority 's Citizen Portal. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Jan 27th. 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 19th January at 7pm in school.** All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

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.

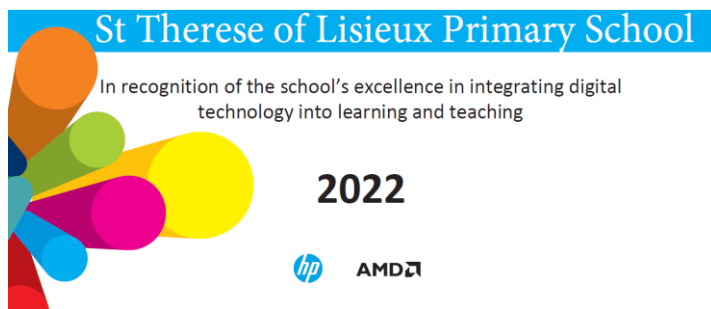
Parents of P6 pupils should strongly consider attending some Open Days this year, to ensure a range of schools are viewed.

DIGITAL SCHOOLS AWARD

This award is supported by Department of Education and promotes digitally enhanced teaching and learning to help our children prepare for living and working in the 21st century.

We are delighted that we have been recognised as a Digital School in recognition of our *'excellence in integrating digital technology into teaching and learning'*. The validation report commended the *'engaging and effective digital technology deployment into their school's Teaching and Learning delivery, particularly with regard to coding application across their curriculum. They have ensured that their provision is well resourced, targeted to specific needs and that their staff are competent in order to maximise the benefit they can secure for their pupils from using digital technology.'*

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff for all their hard work over the past few years in achieving this accolade and especially to two of our P7 Digital Leaders, Bróna and Ejike, who were interviewed as part of the application process!



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.

The local PSNI will 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

The local St Vincent de Paul send their thanks to everyone who contributed to their Christmas appeal. A total of £643 was donated through the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Please check that all items of uniform, coats, hats, etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

CAMOGIE

The P6 & 7 Camogs took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Camogie League at Brook Leisure Centre in Dec. The girls played against schools from right across the Greater Belfast Area where they had some wins, draws and losses. They were excellent ambassadors for the school, displaying excellent skills and attitudes on and off the pitch. Well done!

SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP

Does your child use TikTok, Snapchat, Among Us or Roblox? Did your child receive their first digital device for Christmas? 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.

FAMILIES CONNECT PROGRAMME

Families Connect is an eight-week programme, aimed at parents of P1 and P2 pupils. Each workshop lasts 2 hours and focuses on language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy as well as social and emotional development. The sessions, delivered by our teachers and classroom assistants, are informal, relaxed and hugely beneficial to your child's learning. Please look out for details over the next few weeks and book a place asap, if interested, as numbers are very limited.

NORTH BELFAST FOODBANK

We are now a referral agency for the North Belfast Foodbank and can issue foodbank vouchers. If your family is in need, please email info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk in confidence for the attention of Mrs McTaggart.

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

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.