

St. Catherine's Primary School

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St. Catherine's PS, Strabane



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Monthly Newsletter : October 2019

Check us out on our website: www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

BREAKING NEWS

This is Book week!

Key events:

Book Fair on both sites.

Junior School: 2.15pm-3.45pm every day

Senior School: 3pm-3.45pm every day.

Book Character Day on Friday 4th October.

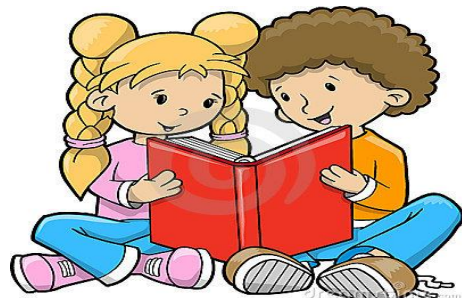
All children from Nursery to Year 7 will dress up as Nursery Rhyme/Fairytale/ Book Characters.

Loads of treats/ prizes to be given!!

Storytelling.

Senior Site : Tuesday 1st October

Junior Site : Wednesday 2nd October



P.T.F.A.

We have a PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) whose members work so hard to raise funds for our school in order to best support our little children. We invite everyone that is available to come along and join our wee group. The work of the PTFA involves mainly fundraising activities for our wee pupils so that we can provide the little extras for them in school!!! Everyone is welcome! Your child's school needs you!! Our next PTFA Meeting this school year will take place on **Thursday 10th October at 7.00pm in Junior School** Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



Hallowe'en Termly Break

School will be closed for the Hallowe'en Mid Term Break from Monday 28th October until Friday 1st November inclusive. School will reopen as usual on Monday 4th November.

We hope that you all have a lovely break and a good rest. Happy Hallowe'en to you all!



Hallowe'en Boogie Time

Our P.T.F.A. are hosting a Hallowe'en Disco on Friday 25th October in school.

Admission £1.

(There will also be a TREAT TUCK Shop where children can buy little drinks/treats at the disco!)

Children should dress up in their Hallowe'en Costumes on this day. (Please do not bring dangerous accessories for costumes for Healthy and Safety reasons.)



Have you changed your mobile phone number and do we know about it?

It is vitally important that we have up to date contact numbers for our parents/carers in the event that we need to contact you regarding your child. If you have not updated your mobile phone number with us please do so by letting the Clerical Staff immediately. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



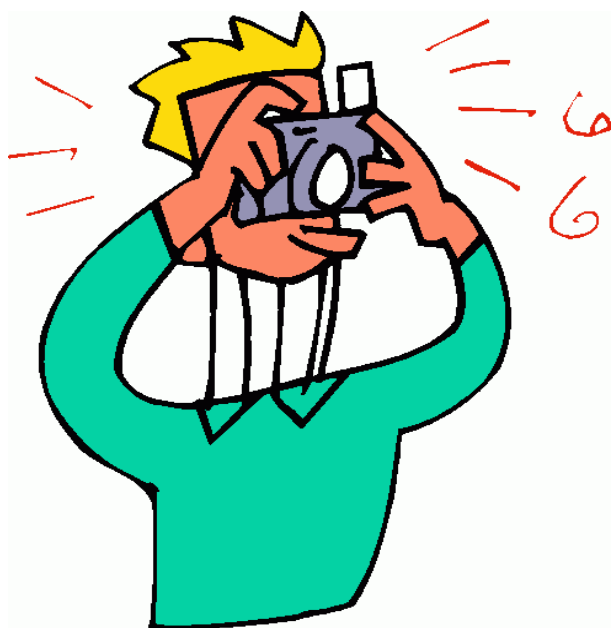
School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in school to take our children's photographs on

Friday 8th November, Tuesday 12th November and Wednesday 13th November 2019.

All children will have their photos taken in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 7. All classes will be taken in their class groups. If any parent of a child from Years 2-6 would like individual photos of their child or indeed a family group you will be asked to sign a Photograph Expression of Interest Slip. If you have already signed this then you do not have to complete it again.

Parents will have a proof sent to them and you may purchase if they wish to but you are under no obligation to purchase photos for your child.



Physical Education

For health reasons it is so important that our children bring a change of clothes for PE activities. When children exercise a lot they sweat and this can cause infections, colds and flu. If they have a change of clothes they can change back into their warm cosy uniform after and take the PE clothes home for washing! **Each child should wear a plain white t shirt and Navy jogging bottoms for PE with plain dark trainers.**

Clothing

It is vitally important that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name as children become upset in school if they lose items of their clothing.



Health & Hygiene

As we begin a new school year we would like to increase your child's awareness of the importance of good handwashing, because, as you know, children are more prone to sharing bugs. We feel that this will help reduce the likelihood of the spread of any infections both in the school and at home. We would be grateful if you would go through the handwashing steps with your child. Little rhymes such as "This is the way we wash our hands" [for our younger children can make handwashing a fun experience. It is important that handwashing is carried out after certain activities, for example, using the toilet, before eating, after touching animals, the garden or rubbish. "Happy Handwashing!"



**School Rules and Guides to making
school life a happy experience for
everyone!**

**We have three simple school rules
in St. Catherine's which everyone
should adhere to and they are**

- 1. WORK HARD.**
- 2. ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST.**
- 3. TREAT EVERYONE AND
EVERYTHING WITH
RESPECT.**

Site Leadership Rota

Junior School :

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Mrs Wilders

Tuesday, Thursday - Miss J Doherty

Senior School:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Miss J Doherty

Tuesday, Thursday – Mrs Wilders



**Macmillan Cancer /Foyle
Hospice Charity Coffee Morning**

We all know the impact that Cancer has had on our society. It is a widespread frightening disease that strikes nearly every family at some stage in their lives. We are sure that we all know someone that has suffered from this dreadful disease. Therefore we thought we would host a "Coffee Morning" in order to raise some money for this very worthy cause.

**We are having the Coffee Morning in
both our school canteens on Thursday 3rd
October at 10.30am approx. (Just after
school mass).** We ask for your support. Please come along to join us in having a cuppa to support a very worthy cause!!

Children should bring £1 donation to school for juice and a biscuit in support of our charities. Thank you!

**£1...donation
for all!!**



Start of Year School Mass

We are excited to begin another year in our wee school!! We ask for God's Blessings upon us all ... pupils, parents, staff, Governors and friends! To celebrate our new school year we will have our start of year **Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 3rd October at 10am.** We would like you to join us if you can!! Thanks for your support! We will pray together!

After School Care Club

Is your child in Year 1 or Year 2 and do they have an older brother or sister who is in school until 3pm?

Would you like your child to have the chance to stay in a Family Club until 3pm so that all the family can leave school at the same time?

Would you be prepared to help with the costs (small fee) of running such a club?

We are asking parents for their opinions regarding the possibility of such a club. Please indicate if you would be interested in having your child in Year 1 or 2 attend such a club. We will let you know the findings of this consultation in due course. Thanks for letting us know your interest levels.



Updated School Attendance Policy

Our little children should be encouraged to keep their attendance **NO LESS THAN 90%**. If attendance falls below 90% then a letter will be sent from school to raise awareness. It is understood that from time to time children may have illness which prevents them from coming to school. If this happens your child please let the school know as soon as possible and send a WRITTEN NOTE with your child explaining the absence when they return to school so that teachers can change the attendance code on the computer system which reflects this explanation. If your child experiences any other issues that prevents them from being able to attend school, please approach the teacher immediately and all efforts will be made to help and support. Remember if your child misses school, they miss out! (Please note that attendance at Nursery is not compulsory but we encourage good school attendance practices for all our little pupils!)

Thank you!



School Start Times and Collection Times

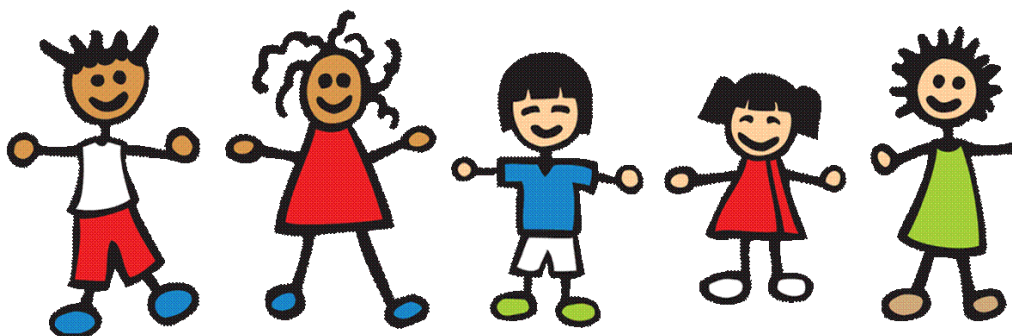
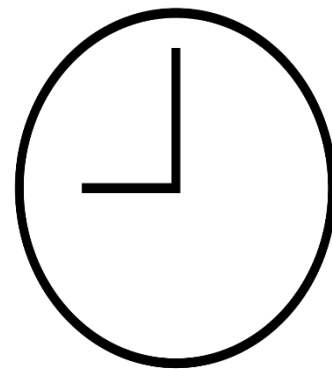
Start Times

Teachers are on duty on both sites at 8.50am every morning. All children should be in school for 9.05am at the latest as we gather for prayer at this time in the assembly halls of both sites before each class will begin their school day.

For Health and Safety reasons, children should not be left to school earlier

than 8.30am. At 8.30am both the Principal and Vice Principal are on each school

site able to supervise all children.



Health and Safety at Hometime

It should be noted that there is a Metal Bridge (at the front of the Junior School) and a Play Trail at the back of the Junior School but we respectfully request that parents do not allow children to play on this equipment as there is no staff member available at hometime to supervise safe play on this equipment and accidents may happen! Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE:

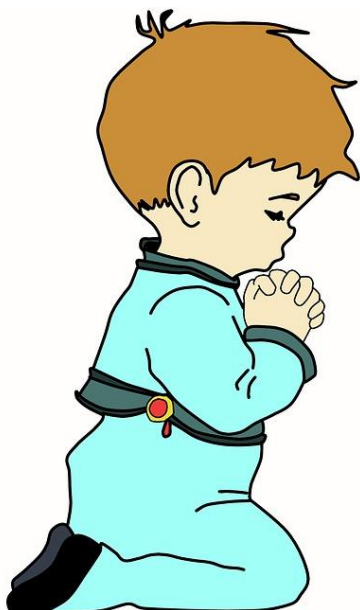
We expect that all children (Nursery , Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3) will be collected by a responsible adult to ensure their safety going home from school. If your child is in Year 3-7 and you wish them to walk home by themselves then please indicate this to the class teacher via a little note. If you wish your child to be collected by taxi then you should send a note to the class teacher indicating this. For Child Protection and Safeguarding purposes we cannot release a child to any adult without parental consent. If a parent changes the usual method of collecting their child/children please contact the school to inform the relevant teacher(s) of the change. Thank you!



Prayer of the Month for October

The Prayer for the Mission Month of October is the Mission Prayer for all children everywhere from our “Children Helping Children” charity

May all the children in the world
share love, share friendship
and live in the peace of God's love
now and forever
Amen



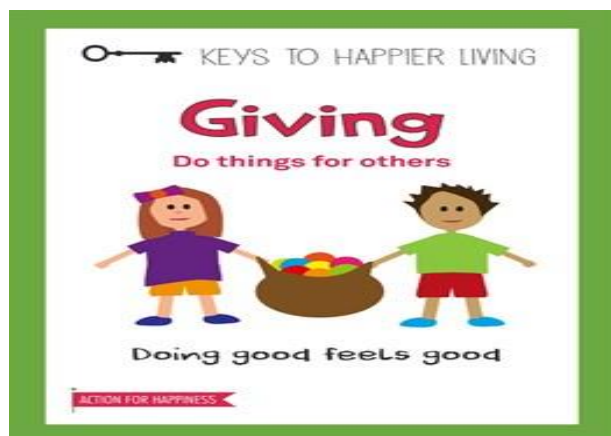
PATHS Quote of the Month October



We are delighted that our school is a PATHS Model School and that PATHS is taught in all classes from Nursery right through to Primary 7. The PATHS programme involves lots of fun activities dealing with important issues such as Feelings, Behaviours, Solving Problems, Making Friends and Self-Esteem. It links directly with our Personal Development and Mutual Understanding curriculum and aims to help children develop the fundamental skills needed for life. From time to time your child will have fun home activities to complete relating to the programme. Get involved! Ask your child in the coming weeks about our fantastic PATHS programme and help prepare them with the essential skills they need for their life ahead. There will be an inspirational PATHS quote each month in our newsletter highlighting key PATHS ideas.

Check out October's quote...

Be giving, do things for others.
Doing good feels good



Old Uniforms

If you have uniform pieces at home that no longer fit your child or you have no further use for, we would appreciate it if you would like to donate them to school. We can in turn use these to help other children. Thank you!

Parenting Apart Programme

Are you a parent who feels on your own?

Have you had a change in your relationship?

Would you benefit from some useful advice and support? Then try Parenting Apart Programme. This is a six week programme for mums or dads which explores.....

- ✓ Emotional impact
- ✓ Parenting roles
- ✓ Changes in relationships
- ✓ Legalities
- ✓ Financial impact
- ✓ Moving on

This programme is highly recommended and is totally FREE.

To register ring 0808 8010 722 or contact Mrs Wilders for more information and then just come along to

St. Catherine's Junior School Meeting Room on Monday 7th October from 11am-1pm.



Parenting NI Fun Day

Parenting NI are hosting their Annual Family Fun Day Event in Melvin on Thursday 24th October from 3pm – 5pm. This event is always very successful with loads of fun things for families to do!

Everyone welcome!

Keep the dateenjoy!



Year 2 Families Connect Programme

The programme provides a series of activities, techniques and games parents and carers can practise with their children, whilst in the home environment and during the course of their regular day. The programme recognises the role parents play in the education of their children and the value in creating a home environment that is conducive to learning. Unlike many family learning programmes, Families Connect focuses on three key areas:

1. Social and emotional development
2. Literacy and language development
3. Numeracy and mathematics

This programme is an 8 week programme that will take place every Friday in the Junior School Meeting Room from 10am-12 Noon. The programme starts on Friday 11th October. This programme is very popular with our Year 2 Parents every year and is entirely FREE. No other family learning programme provides support in these three areas.

Have you registered?

Please contact Mrs Hamilton or Mrs McBrien to enrol.



Nadine and her son Regan, 4, take part in a Families Connect session at their school in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Nadine took part in Families Connect with her son, Regan.

She says: "Regan has speech problems, so when we talked about books and things like that it really helped him along with his speech.

"Now he's interacting with other things, counting, reading books or playing with other toys he's hardly looked at before."

Year 1 Parent Induction Programme

Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. In St Catherine' Primary School, the needs and interests of children and their families are at the centre of what we wish to provide.

Every year we host a series of 4 information sessions which we hope will provide clear, educational guidance and ideas for parents/carers in relation to what and how children learn in Primary 1.

A Goody/ Activity Pack for your child will be given on completion of the programme!!

These meetings will be held on 4 consecutive Tuesdays at 7.00 pm beginning on Tuesday 1st October.

If you wish to enrol, please let Mrs Doherty or Miss Hutton know. If you have enrolled already please ignore this reminder.



Internet Safety Workshops

Every year we host Internet Safety Workshops for pupils in Years 5-7 as part of an education programme to educate our children better in the dangers of using the internet and explain methods of keeping safe online.

These will take place for Year 5 Pupils on Tuesday 5th November and for Year 6 and 7 Pupils on Tuesday 12th November.

Many thanks to ALLSTATE for sponsoring the Year 5 Programme!



Anti Bullying Week 2019

Anti Bullying Week will take place from Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November 2019.

The theme this Year is : Change Starts with Us!

We will have Scallywags Puppet Theatre in school to provide Anti Bullying Workshops for our children across both sites!



Surestart Message of the Month October 2019

Take your place face to face...

I learn the most when you are close



Sing a rhyme anytime
Start your child learning
for a lifetime!

 South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust

 Public Health
Agency

 **SureStart**

Christmas Panto Trip

Every year we give our little children the opportunity to see a Christmas Panto live on the stage of the Millennium Forum in Derry. This is always an exciting trip for our children to see the theatre and enjoy the thrill of a live performance and the adventure of the bus trip!

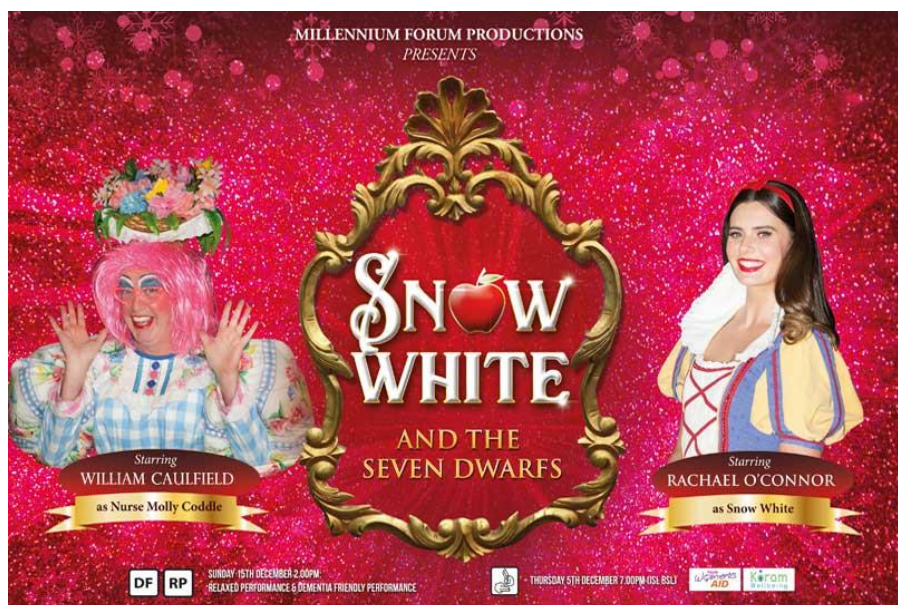
This year, the panto is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!

The timeless classic story of the young Princess who finds herself on the run from her wicked stepmother and takes refuge in the forest with seven pint sized men! This remains one of the best loved Pantomimes of all time! It features William Caulfield and a fabulous cast of actors with a special “Magical” appearance by Daniel O’Donnell!

Years 5-7 Pupils will go on Monday 16th December and Years 1-4 Pupils will go on Tuesday 17th December.

This is always an exciting visit for our children on the lead up to Christmas and they enjoy it so much!

The cost of the trip this year is £12 (Same as last year) . Prices have gone up but we use school funds to try to help keep costs the same and avoid more costs to our parents, hence the same price as last year and the year before! Please complete the attached slip if you have not already done so, and send a deposit of £6 by Friday 18th October to secure your child’s place on this trip.



Our P.T.F.A are proud to announce their Annual Christmas Fair.....



All proceeds in aid of

St. Catherine's Nursery and Primary School

Event organised by St. Catherine's P.T.F.A.

School Hats for SALE:

Our P.T.F.A have a variety of merchandise for sale in school. Our school hat is very popular...get your school hat now before the cool weather sets in. Ask at Reception if you would like to get a school hat for your child now!



Parking Concerns at Junior School

We have been asked by local residents to make a respectful appeal to our parents.

Parents are being asked if they would NOT park in front of the entry (to the backs) of Orchard Street directly opposite the Junior School. This entry way is actively in use by residents but when it is blocked by parents cars, obviously residents cannot get out when they need to. One resident reported missing a medical appointment due to waiting for a parent to return to their car which was blocking the entry way.

We understand that collection times, drop off times at the Junior School can be very busy indeed and request your patience, understanding, respect and empathy towards each other and residents at these times. Your support is so much appreciated.





St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

October 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Canteen Menu Week 3	BOOK WEEK Curriculum Information Newsletters sent out to parents Nursery – Year 4. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 4 Lego Club 3– 4pm JS	1. Year 1 Parent Induction Programme. Week 1 7.00pm JS	2.	3. Start of Year Mass 10am Church of the Immaculate Conception followed by Coffee Morning in JS & SS – Foyle Hospice & MacMillan Charities. Extended Schools: Year 7 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	4. Book Character Day.	5.
6. Canteen Menu Week 4	7. Parenting Apart JS 11.30am – 1.30pm Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 4 Lego Club 3– 4pm JS	8. Year 1 Parent Induction Programme. Week 2 7.00pm JS	9.	10. Extended Schools: Year 7 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	11. Year 5 Swimming Week 3. Families Connect Programme for Parents of Pupils in Year 2. 10am – 12pm Week 1 JS	12.
13. Canteen Menu Week 1	14. DEMOCRACY WEEK School Council visit to Guildhall, Derry: 10am – 12.30pm Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 4 Lego Club 3– 4pm JS	15. Year 1 Parent Induction Programme. Week 3 7.00pm JS	16.	17. Extended Schools:	18. Year 5 Swimming Week 4.	19.
20. Canteen Menu Week 2	21. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 4 Lego Club 3– 4pm JS	22. Year 1 Parent Induction Programme. Week 4 7.00pm JS Fire Drill SS 10am	23.	24. ParentingNI Family Fun Event, Melvin 3pm – 5pm.	25. Year 5 Swimming Week 5. Families Connect Programme for Parents of Pupils in Year 2. 10am – 12pm Week 3 JS Diwali Event Year 6 St Pat's Hall (am)	26.
27.	28. Hallowe'en MidTerm Break.	29.	30.	31.		

Knowing how to learn is life's most important skill.



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Panto Trip to Millennium Forum Derry

I would like to Book a Place for my child on the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Panto Trip in the Millennium Forum Derry in December.

I understand that the cost of the trip is £12.

I enclose

Deposit : £6

Or

Full Payment: £12

Signed: _____

Parent/ Guardian of : _____

Class : _____

Teacher: _____

After School Care Clubs for Brothers and Sisters in Year 1 and Year 2

I would be interested in having my Year 1/ 2 Child attend a club like this from 2.15pm-3pm every day from Monday- Friday and I would be prepared to contribute a small fee towards the running costs of this facility.

I am NOT INTERESTED in having my Year ½ Child attend a club like this and I am very happy to have my child collected from school at the normal 2.15pm hometime.

Signed: _____

Parent/ Guardian of : _____

Class : _____

Teacher: _____

School Photographer (Please tick as appropriate)

I would like my child to have

1. An Individual photo ONLY taken by the school photographer

☐

2. A family photo taken only

☐

3. BOTH a family and an individual photo taken

☐

My Child's Name is: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Other family members in school are :

Names:

Class:
