

# St. Catherine's Nursery School

Principal: Mrs. Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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**Monthly Note: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Check us out on our website: [www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)**

## *Keeping in Touch!*

Communication has never been more important than it is at this very time. We are only sending out essential paper communications to you that may require your signature; all other communications are being sent in the following key ways;

1. Text messages
2. Text messages with links to letters
3. Emails

Occasionally we will reinforce messages via facebook but important messages will be sent in one of the three main ways above.

To that end, please ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address. If you wish to change these please let Mrs Kelly (Clerical Officer) know by emailing her at [ckelly452@c2kni.net](mailto:ckelly452@c2kni.net) . If you do not update us you may not receive VITAL INFORMATION going forward.

You can also email your child's teacher or a Senior Member of staff and we will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible during the working day. Email addresses have already been sent to you in the welcome Pack and other text letter link messages.

We also appreciate it when you update us if your child has symptoms of COVID 19 or if your child or a close contact tests positive. It continues to be very important that we know this in order to minimise infection risk.

Thank you all so much for your support to date!



## School Photographer

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

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Nursery, Year 6 and Year 7 ,

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October : Years 1-4

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October: Family PRE BOOKED photo shoots . A family member must come to the school to collect family members, take them to the photo session in the SENIOR SCHOOL HALL and then return the children to class again. A letter has been sent out to parents already with booking links.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October : (pm) Year 5 and mop ups

Individual photos and class group photos will be organised by staff. 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 you must also let the teacher know.

## Curriculum Information Newsletters for Parents of Younger Pupils (Nursery-Year 4)

The school year is made up of three TERMS.

Term 1: September to Christmas

Term 2 : January to Easter

Term 3 : Easter to June

Every term teachers of the younger pupils (Nursery – Year 4 ) send out Curriculum Information Newsletters to our parents so that you can keep up to date with the teaching and learning that is going on within your child's classroom (as our littlest pupils can find it more difficult to explain what is going on in their class!).

Term 1 Curriculum Information Newsletters will be sent home on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. We hope that you find these useful.



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



### Updating our School Records

As I am sure you will appreciate, it is vitally important that we hold accurate records, contact numbers and details of any health issues about all our pupils in the event of an emergency, Therefore we ask you to complete a "Data Capture Form" for each child so that the information we hold about our pupils is correct. Please complete and return this form immediately. Sometimes parents do not receive text messages and this can be because parents mobile numbers may have been changed. If your mobile phone number, address or any of your contact details have changed please let us know immediately. Sometimes parents do not receive written notifications as they may have moved house and forgotten to let us know their new address! Please keep us up to date.

### Photo Permissions and Medical Information

Every year we ask for parental permission with regard to photography of your children and we also ask to be made aware of your child's medical needs. Your child will receive forms today for you to complete and send back into school via their class teacher. We ask for you to complete these forms and return to school by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### School Dinners

Children may bring their own lunch or they may have a school dinner prepared by our kitchen staff in the two sites of St. Catherine's. Meals will be served in the canteen with only two class bubbles in the canteen at any given time. Both canteens have acquired 5 Star status and we are very proud of them indeed. The cost of school dinner this year will be £ 2.60 per day. For any child who is entitled to Free School Meals ... parents should apply to the Education Authority (EA), Omagh. Phone 02882 411411. If you haven't applied or your application has not yet been processed please ring EA immediately.

**The Education Authority has advised us that it should be noted that if you have not applied for Free School Meals yet the application if approved will NOT be backdated. If your child's application has not been approved yet parents can either send a wee packed lunch with your child or alternatively pay for school dinner until the application has been approved.**



### School Lunches

As mentioned earlier we are a "Healthy Eating School" and in keeping with our Food in Schools Policy we would ask you to provide a healthy break for your child and a healthy lunchbox. A list of acceptable foods are listed at the back of this note



## Flu Droplets

Every year the school nursing team send letters to parents about the Flu Droplets that are given to the children ahead of the Winter. As always letters will be sent out to parents and if you wish your child to receive or not receive these flu droplets in school please sign to indicate your preference and return the letter to school. We will then pass these letters on to the Nursing Team on your behalf.

The Nursing Team will be coming in to the school to give the flu droplets to pupils (with parental consent) on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Letters will be distributed before this.



## Hallowe'en Break

### School Closure

School will be closed for the Hallowe'en Break from MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 29<sup>h</sup> October (inclusive). School will reopen again on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November as usual. Have a lovely break.





**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.**

**Complaints Policy and Procedures**

Our school seeks to be a '**listening school**' and will do its best to enable parents/guardians to feel confident to raise issues and concerns with appropriate staff in a timely/appropriate manner.

Comments/Complaints will be considered following a clear set of procedures based on Education Authority / CCMS guidance. These procedures will be made clear to any parent/guardian or member of the public making a complaint. Complaints can be shared either verbally or in writing.

Our school will try to resolve a parent/guardian's concern as informally and quickly as possible and always make clear what action is being taken. It is to be noted that the correct procedure for making complaints is outlined in our **Complaints Policy and Procedure** which is available upon request from either School Office. If you have any further queries / concerns about this procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal.

We respectfully request that you address all concerns with the school in the first instance so that your concerns can be addressed as soon as possible.

Thank you!



**ATTENTION ALL PRIMARY 5  
CHILDREN**

We are asking all Year 5 children to prepare a shoebox for this years appeal. The shoeboxes should be ready for early November in order to arrive on time. This is an extremely worthy appeal and lights up so many lives around the world at Christmas. Year 5 teachers will be sending home leaflets to explain what is needed, so hold on to your empty shoeboxes for a worthy cause!

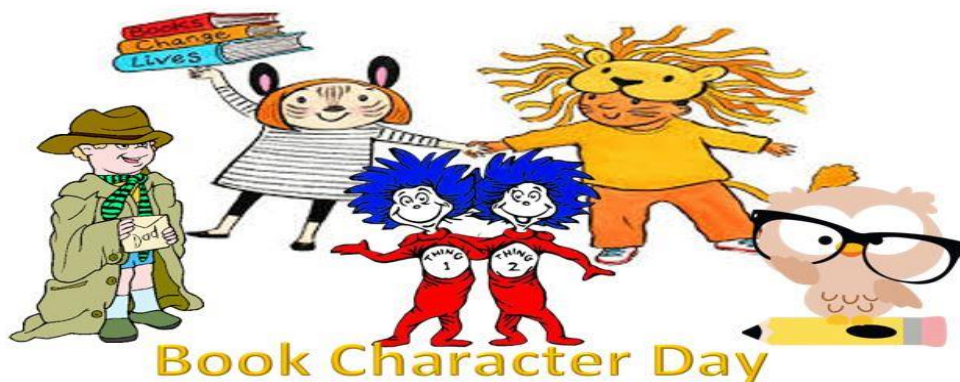
**FILL THEM WITH**



**A message from our Literacy Leader Mrs Connolly.....**

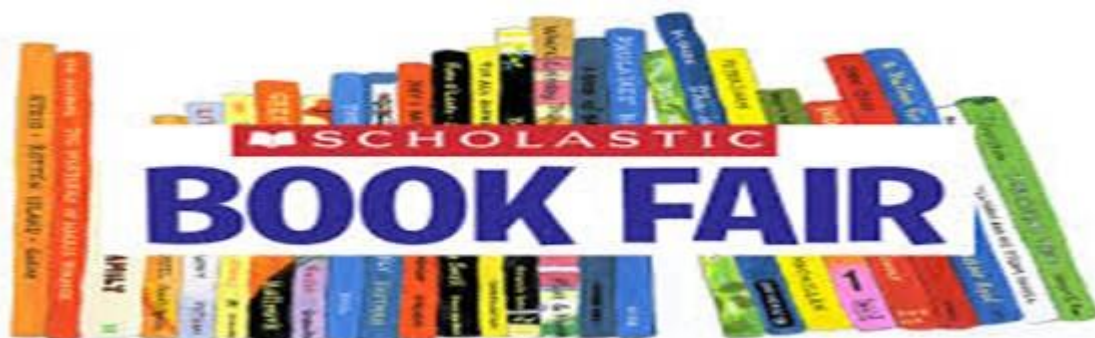
### **Book Character Day Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

We are delighted to be celebrating Book Week from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October! Children throughout the years have loved dressing up for Book Character Day and with many fun things having been cancelled or postponed these days, we felt it was important to try our best to make it a fun day for the children, but to do it safely in our own little bubbles. We understand that these are very challenging times for everyone; physically, emotionally and financially and we would remind parents that simple, homemade costumes are very often the best! Children can come to school dressed as a character from a fairy tale, book or a Nursery Rhyme. Every child will go home with a little token of appreciation for their efforts. They will have a fun filled day in their own bubbles! Keep an eye on social media for some photos of their day.



### **Book Fair Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

Our annual book fair will be here this year again! To try to minimise the spread of the virus we are unable to invite parents in to browse the books as we usually would. However, your child will still have the opportunity to purchase a book, during the school day if they wish! If you would like your child to purchase a book, simply send their money to school with them in an envelope with their name marked on it. They will have an opportunity to browse the book fair and bring the book home with them the day. We would like to thank you for your continued support as every purchase made provides funding towards books for the children in school!



**We are looking for babies for our**  
**Upcoming Roots of Empathy Programme....**  
**read below to find out more!**

Have you a baby aged 2-4 months? Would you be interested in your baby becoming our 'Tiny Teacher' this year? As part of our Roots of Empathy programme which runs in our Primary 5 classes a baby or 'Tiny Teacher' visits our classes, with his/ her parent, once a month during the school year for around 30 minutes. The children observe how the baby grows, develops and the bond between baby and parent. It is an exciting programme for the children and the Roots of Empathy Family. If interested or would like more information, contact Mrs C. Gillespie (Year 5 A Teacher) by emailing her at her address [cmcgranaghan274@c2kni.net](mailto:cmcgranaghan274@c2kni.net) on the Senior Site. Alternatively you can ring the school.



## **Neuronimo Well Being Programme for pupils in Years 1-7**

Our School will be taking part in a programme called Neuronimo (for 6 weeks before Christmas and 6 weeks afterwards).

Neuronimo is a children and young person's mental and physical health programme. It is being delivered by a children's charity called Reverse The Trend Foundation in partnership with the Education Authority in Northern Ireland.

The aim of the initiative is to promote mental wellness in our children.

Reverse The Trend Foundation uses evidence-based neuroscience to tackle these issues. It does not rely on short-term fixes such as limiting screen time. Instead, the Neuronimo programme uses evidence supported by University partners to change behaviour and create healthy habits around mental and physical health.

Our children will complete short, fun, goal-orientated tasks over a period of 12 weeks with their teacher in school. During the programme they are supported online by Neuronimo Ambassadors who help create healthy habits. The tasks can be as short as 3-4 minutes for mental health tasks or 15 minutes for physical activity tasks. We are looking forward to participating in the programme!





## **Hallowe'en Film Fun Day**

**On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we warmly invite our little pupils to come to school dressed in their Hallowe'en Costumes.**

**We will be having a Film Day in every class where each class will transform into a Cinema Room and a film will be shown.**

**PTFA have kindly agreed to make up little treat bags for sale also for our children. The cost of the film and the little treat bag will be £2. All proceeds will go towards School Funds.**

**We hope that our little children will enjoy this slightly different Hallowe'en experience!**



## Prayer of the Month for October

The Prayer of the Month for October is the “Children Helping Children” Mission Prayer

**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...**

"Kindness is Free  
sprinkle that stuff everywhere"



# **St. Catherine's Primary School**

## **Holiday List for 2021/2022**

The school will be closed on:

Five Allocated Staff Training Days which have been allocated throughout the Year.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Staff Training Day 1 )

### **Hallowe'en – Mid Term Break**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (Reopens on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021)

### **Christmas Break**

School closes on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 at 12 Noon – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

(School Reopens for our everyone on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 )

### **Spring Term Break**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

(School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 )

### **St. Patrick's Day Break**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March (St. Patrick's Day Public Holiday) (School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

### **Easter Break**

School closes on Holy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 12 Noon School Reopens on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 ( Bank Holiday )

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 (Bank Holiday and Platinum Jubilee Holiday)

School Closes on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 12 Noon.

Please note other Staff Training Days that teachers will complete during the year are incorporated into the pupil holidays. If there is any change to this we will let parents know as soon as possible.

### 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**



**In the event that the Principal or Vice Principal are not available Senior Leaders or any of the Middle Leadership Team will become available for consultation.**



### Staff Parking

**There is a Car Park on each site for STAFF. Staff arrive at school from 8.20am approx. every morning right up to 9am. To this end, we respectfully request that the entrances to the STAFF Car Parks on each site are always kept clear so that staff can gain access to each site and get ready to start the day with our wee children!!**

**Parents/carers/ child minders/ taxi drivers etc may NOT enter the school car park for Health and Safety Reasons unless this has been prearranged with school management for a specific reason.**





## **COVID 19 Top Tip Reminders for Parents/ Carers:**

1. Every possible precaution will continue to be taken to keep our little children and their staff safe in school.
2. Temperatures of children will no longer be taken upon arrival to school but if a child seems unwell or appears to have a high temperature, staff will take the temperature and if a child's temperature is 38 degrees centigrade or above, parents will be called to take child home from school until they feel better.
3. Children will be encouraged to handwash regularly. Children do not have to use sanitiser but it is available if they wish too. Children may also bring their own sanitiser.
4. Children will be organised in Class Bubble groups which will not mix with other Bubble Groups so as to control any spread of infection. In the canteen there will only ever be two bubble groups at any given time and each class will be seated at a distance from each other so as to allow safe social distancing
5. There will be no gatherings of pupils/ staff for morning prayers, assemblies or canteen lunchtimes. Teaching and learning will begin immediately upon entry to class. There will be no breakfast club/ family clubs for the foreseeable future. We will let you know if this changes. After school clubs for bubble class groups will begin in October.
6. Children may bring their school bags.
7. Reading Books, spellings and tables/ number facts and written homework have all now begun. Parent/ pupil surveys indicated that homework issued at the start of the week and returned on a Friday was a preferred method of working as it gave our little children and their families greater freedom during the week to complete it, so we will continue with this idea this year.
10. Communication between home and school has never been more important than it is now. If your child is sick or has COVID 19 Symptoms or if someone in the family has symptoms or has tested positive....**PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY** and keep your child at home for the correct isolation period as guided by Medical Staff. In order to control the spread of COVID 19 it is crucial that the school know what is happening. **If your child has Covid Symptoms do not send them to school. Keep them at home and seek to get a PCR COVID TEST. Note that there is a difference between a PCR Test and a Lateral Flow Test . A Lateral Flow Test is only an INDICATOR of possible Covid 19 and if a lateral flow test is positive we are asked to then go to carry out a PCR test. The Public Health Agency only deals with PCR Test results. Please keep the school informed at all times as we can record a child's absence with the correct code when we know what is happening. It is to be noted that all advice that school give to parents has been directed by the Department of Education and The Public Health Agency. It is NOT singularly the policy of the school. School must follow directives from the Public Health Agency regarding positive cases of Covid 19. Your understanding, patience and support is greatly appreciated regarding this.**

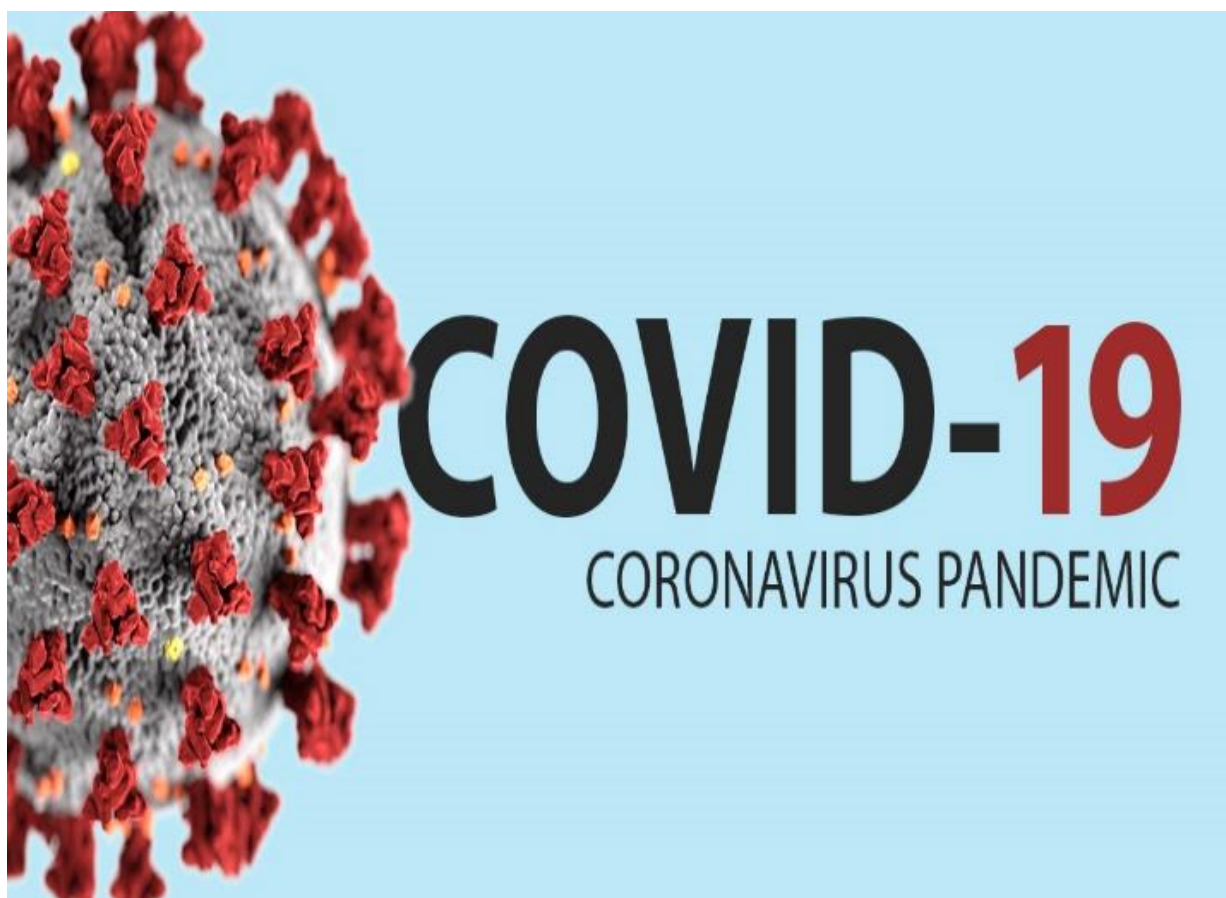
11. Every effort is being made to ensure safety in school. Parents/ carers have a responsibility for their own safety outside of the school gates. We encourage you to wear face coverings if you can and adhere to Social Distancing measures to protect yourselves and your children.

12. You can communicate with your child's teacher, Vice Principal or Principal by email and we will endeavor to respond to these within the working day. You can also ring the school and seek to make a socially distanced appointment. Parent meetings can no longer be handled by just "popping in" to school. All meetings must be by appointment only.

13. All visitors to school will have a temperature check upon arrival and will be asked to wear a face covering while in school.

14. Contact details for staff have been included in the start of year letter sent to you but are also included again in this newsletter for your information.

15. This continues to be a time of great change and adjustment for us all! We understand and appreciate this but if we work together and communicate regularly, we will get there! We need your support, patience and understanding. If you are unsure of something or have important questions to ask about any school arrangements or any other queries, please approach us by phoning or email in order to gain clear answers. (Queries will also be addressed by **PRIVATE MESSAGE** to the School Facebook Page as soon as possible). We will respond to you and will be only too happy to clarify.





# Coronavirus Advice

## Super Safe Superheroes

- People are talking about Coronavirus because it is a new type of flu.



- Just like with other colds and flu, it is important to look after ourselves and keep healthy.



- Children and adults are very good at fighting flu

- Just like all colds and flus, it can be harder for older people or people with illnesses to stay healthy from the flu

I can stay healthy by:



Washing my hands in soap:

- ✓ After preparing food
- ✓ After sneezing or blowing your nose
- ✓ Before eating
- ✓ After using the bathroom
- ✓ After playtime





I can stay healthy by:

- Not touching my face
- Not biting by nails
- Not touching outside door handles and railings



I can keep others healthy by:

- ✓ Coughing and sneezing into my elbow
- ✓ Putting used tissues in the bin
- ✓ Staying at home if I feel sick



- Just like all colds and flu it will go away, we have to be patient and safe until it goes away.
- I do not need to worry as adults will look after me
- If I am unsure about anything I can talk to my parents and teachers.





# St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

## October 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1.	2. <b>First Holy Communion in Church of the Immaculate Conception:</b> <b>11am – P5B</b> <b>2pm – P5A</b>
3.	4. <b>School Photographer</b> Curriculum Information Newsletters will be sent home today to Pupils in Nursery-Year 4	5. World Teacher's Day <b>School Photographer</b>	6. <b>School Photographer for Family Photographs</b>	7. National Poetry Day <b>School Photographer</b>	8.	9.
10.	11. <b>Book Week</b> →	12.	13.	14.	15. <b>Book Character Day</b>	16.
17.	18.	19.	20. <b>Whole School Flu Droplets given by School Nursing Team</b>	21.	22.	23.
24.	25. <b>Hallowe'en</b> <b>MidTerm Break.</b> →	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.



# School Dinner Menu – September 2021 onwards

## Menu for september 2021.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week One</b>	Packed Lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch
06/09/2021					
04-Oct-21	Oven roasted sausages	Home-made	Roast turkey crown	Breaded oven baked fish	100% NI beef burger
01-Nov-21	Baked Beans/peas	chicken goujons	roast/mashed potatoes	steamed mixed vegetables	in a sesame roll
29-Nov-21	Mashed Potato	sweetcorn	cauliflower	Mashed Potato	sweetcorn
	Frozen yoghurt	Herb diced Potatoes	stuffing/roast gravy	Home-made fruit muffin	Chipped potatoes
		Flakemeal Biscuit	Home made cookie		Ice cream tub
<b>Week Two</b>	Packed Lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch
13-Sep-21					
11-Oct-21	Breaded oven baked fish	Homemade	Roast NI chicken	plain beef burger	NI pork sausage
08-Nov-21	Oven roasted dice potato	pasta bologanise	roast/mashed potatoes	Mashed potatoes	served in a soft finger roll
06-Dec-21	potatoes/mixed vegetables	crusty roll	Carrots	steamed mixed vegetables	topped with
	Homemade shortbread	sweetcorn/salad	stuffing/roast gravy	& beans	saute onions
		Fruit Jelly	Artic Roll	Flakemeal biscuit	Chipped potatoes
<b>Week Three</b>	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch
20-Sep-21					
18-Oct-21	Savoury pizza with	fish cakes	Roast loin of NI pork	Succulent home-made	100% NI beef burger
15-Nov-21	fresh toppings	Salmon fish cakes	roast/mashed potatoes	chicken goujons/garlic dip	in a sesame roll
13/12/2021	Baby baked potatoes	Baby baked potatoes	peas	Oven roasted herb dice	sweetcorn
	green beans	broccoli & beans	stuffing/roast gravy	potatoes & peas	Chipped potatoes
	Frozen yoghurt	Home-made fruit muffin	Decorated sponge & custard	Fruit Jelly	Ice cream & Fruit
<b>Week Four</b>	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch	Packed lunch
27-Sep-21					
25-Oct-21	Golden Fish fingers or	Hearty home-made	Roast Gammon	chicken bites	NI pork sausage
22-Nov-21	Oven roasted dice potato	chicken curry & rice	roast/mashed potatoes	tossed salad.	served in a soft finger roll
20/12/21.	green beans	made with fresh	Carrots	creamy mash	topped with
	baked beans	N.I. produce	stuffing/roast gravy	Carrots	saute onions
	Flakemeal biscuit	Fresh fruit pot	Artic Roll	Homemade shortbread	Chipped potatoes
					Ice cream tub

**Packed Lunch:**

1. Freshly cut sandwiches/baguette/flour tortilla
2. Whole milk or spring water
3. Salad tub or vegetable sticks
4. Vanilla rice pot/jelly pot/whole fresh fruit/homemade biscuit or chose from desserts above

(packed lunch includes one item from each group)

**school  
food**

try something new today

www.schoolfoodni.com

**Fresh bread, cheese & crackers, seasonal salads, fresh fruit, chilled yoghurt, water & milk available daily**

**If you require any additional information on allergens or special diet please contact the school in the first instance**



try something new today