St. Catherine's Primary School



JUNIOR SITE

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Strabane Co. Tyrone **BT828HT**

SENIOR SITE

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Follow us on Instagram : St Catherine's Primary School

Monthly Newsletter: November 2019

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

BREAKING NEWS

Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Thursday 21st November

from 6.30pm-9pm!

Everyone is welcome to attend. Santa and Mrs Claus will visit. Children can get their photograph taken with the main couple and will receive their photograph on the night!!

This is a lovely occasion for everyone to come to the school and see the many beautiful craft items for sale. You have the opportunity to purchase some lovely unique, individual gifts for Christmas like Christmas Logs, Paper flowers/angels, lanterns, sweet trees, wooden gifts,knitwear,jewellery, handbags,cards,bows,toys,custom made cushions,toys,cakes and much more!!

There will also be a raffle with many gifts available... You never know your luck! Our Choir will also entertain to get everyone into the festive spirit!!

So come along and join us for a festive evening before the Christmas season begins!

It should be noted that pupils who wish to attend the Craft Fair should be accompanied by an adult for Safeguarding Reasons. Thank you!





P.T.F.A.

there!

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 7th November at 7.00pm in Junior School

Money Raised from our Coffee Morning!!

Well done to all our pupils, parents, families and friends You all raised a whopping £771.53 and 40 Euro cents for our charities Macmillan Cancer and Foyle Hospice. Your generosity is overwhelming and very much appreciated.



Parent /Teacher Meetings

Our Annual Parent Teacher Meetings will take place over the next two weeks in school. Teachers will be sending each parent an appointment date and time to invite you to come into school to see how your child is progressing in school to date. If you get an appointment please make every effort to attend or arrange an alternative appointment with the teacher. Each appointment time slot will be for 10 minutes approximately. These meetings are very important and key to communication between home and school in order to provide the very best for each of our wee children. We thank you for your support in this matter.



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.



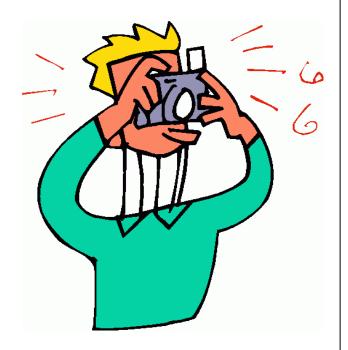
School Photographer

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.



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.

Whole School Flu Drops Years 1-7 Pupils only

Pupils will be given the Flu Drops by medical staff in school on Monday 9th December. This is important for our children and is given every year. More information will become available from the School Nursing Team closer to the date.



Nursery Open Afternoon

Have you got a child who you would like to start Nursery School next year? Was your child born in the year between 2 July 2016 and 1 July 2017? Would you be considering our Nursery?

If so, why not come along to see the fabulous Nursery Unit we have at St. Catherine's! We have our Annual Open Afternoon on Wednesday 27th November in the Senior School Site in the Assembly Hall starting with the Principal's Address at 1.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Please note our current Nursery Pupils should be collected at 12.30pm on this day so that we can prepare for our newest visitors! Many thanks!



Year 1 Open Afternoon

Have you got a child who will be due to start Primary School next year? Was your child born in the year between 2 July 2015 and 1 July 2016? Would you be considering our Primary School?

If so, why not come along to see the fabulous Primary School that is St. Catherine's! We have our Annual Open Afternoon on Thursday 28th November in the Junior School Site in the Assembly Hall starting with the Principal's Address at 1.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Please note our current Year 1 and 2 Pupils should be collected at 12.45pm on this day so that we can prepare for our newest visitors! Many thanks!



Primary School Canteen Menu

The menu in the Primary School
Canteen has now changed for
the Winter. The new menu is
attached to this newsletter and
will also be uploaded to the
school website at

www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

and available on the school app. Our app is free to download....

St Catherine's PS, Strabane



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!

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!

...every school day counts!



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 November

During November we remember and pray for the dead

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy

of God, rest in peace.

Amen.









PRIMARY 5 SHOEBOX APPEAL

Reminder – Shoeboxes to be ready for **Friday 8**th **November.**

PATHS Quote of the Month November





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...

Refuse to fight! People fight with words as well as with their hands. Walk away when you are teased or someone dares you to do something you know is wrong. Find an adult to help you solve your problem. Refuse to fight!!





IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ST. CATHERINE'S PS SENIOR CHOIR



GROUP 1



GROUP 2

Wednesday 3pm-

Wednesday 2pm-3pm

4pm

Dear Parents,

At the moment, we have a fantastic group of 75 in our Senior Choir. I am delighted with the enthusiasm of such a big group and also by the wonderful sound that they make. However, 75 is far too many for me alone to manage from 3pm – 4pm on Wednesdays. I have therefore decided to split the choir into *two rehearsal groups*.

- **Group 1** will practice from 2pm 3pm on Wednesday afternoons (hence no need to stay until 4pm)
- **Group 2** will practice at the usual time of 3pm 4pm on Wednesday afternoons.

After Christmas, the groups will swap over, and Rehearsal Group 1 will take the after school slot (in the interests of fairness!)

For most events, the choir will continue to perform as a large group of 75, but in some cases, where we are only allowed a small group of singers, then we may ask them to come along as GROUP 1 or GROUP 2. You will be informed of this as and when events come our way and I will answer any questions if you are unsure.

I hope this all makes sense, and if you have any queries-don't hesitate to give me a ring.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C. Deery

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! We respectfully request that final trip amounts are now fully paid by Monday 11th November so that we can pay the Millennium Forum at their request and finalise numbers. Many





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!



Junior School Christmas Nativity Production: A Gift for a King.

Our Annual Junior Christmas Nativity Production which will involve all pupils from **Nursery, Year 1**, **Year 2** and **Year 3** will take place in St. Patrick's Hall on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December at 7pm. The Nativity Production this year is called "A Gift for a King." This is always a very special event and really puts us all in the mood for Christmas.

Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!



The story of the first Christmas



Tickets: (PLEASE COMPLETE ATTACHED TICKET PURCHASE SHEET)

Each child from Nursery – Year 3 will have THREE tickets reserved for them.

St. Patrick's Hall has enough seats to allow for each child from Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 pupils to have THREE tickets each. Tickets will cost £5 each.

This year to avoid stress (of queueing to seek tickets) for our parents, we are sending home a reply slip to enable each child to have their family purchase their THREE tickets in advance in school. When the reply slip is returned with the amount of tickets indicated and money sent, we will send the tickets home.

The THREE tickets can be purchased all for the same night or the THREE tickets can be split between the two nights for example TWO for one night and ONE for another night etc. It must be noted however that due to the seat allocation in St. Patrick's Hall, each child (Nursery – Year 3)can only have THREE tickets purchased at this point. All tickets should be paid for when the reply slip is returned. The reply slip should be returned NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER.

If all reply slips are not returned / purchased by WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER, any tickets not claimed will be released for sale on a first come first served basis from the offices on each site.

Please see below the Days / Times for Sale of UNCLAIMED TICKETS.

Dates (FOR PURCHASE OF UNCLAIMED TICKETS)	Times
Thursday 5 th December	8.45am-9.15am
	2.15pm-3pm
Friday 6 th December	8.45am-9.15am
	2.15pm-3pm
Monday 9 th December	8.45am-9.15am
	2.15pm-3pm
Thursday 10 th December	8.45am-9.15am
	2.15pm-3pm

We will let you know by text message if there are unclaimed tickets available for purchase.

As always every year, our wee children are so excited about their Annual Production. Our staff are excited too! It is always a lovely event. Parents have also shared with us

"It's not Christmas until we see the wee Nativity Play!"

Enjoy your wee children!

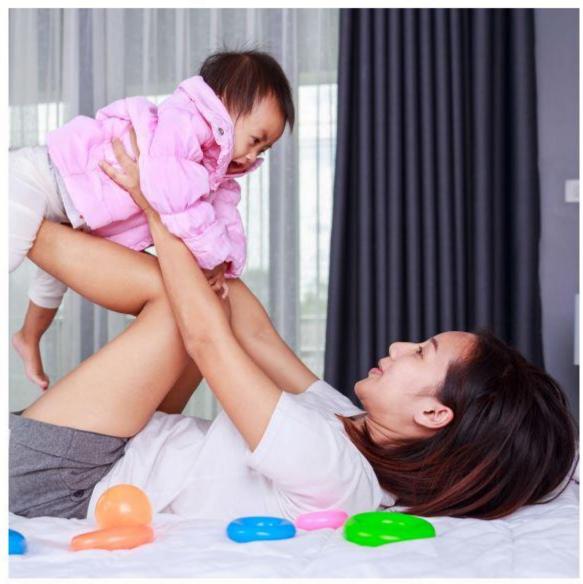
DVD of our Nativity Production "A Gift for a King".

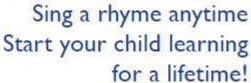
Our Nativity Production will be recorded for DVD. A souvenir DVD will be available for parents to purchase if they wish to at a keen price of £5 (which has remained the same every year). If you wish to have a copy of the showplease reserve your copy by completing the attached pre order form.



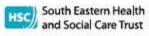
Surestart Message of the Month

Make our home language number one So we can talk, play and have fun













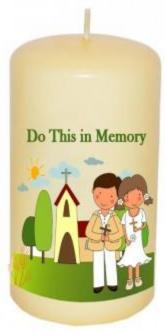


Year 4 Do This In Memory Programme

As you are aware our Year 4 Pupils and families will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday 30th May at 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Every year our pupils and parents take part in the fabulous "Do This in Memory" Programme which helps prepare the pupils and their families for the big day in May!

There is one meeting that Fr Boland would like all parents of Year 4 Pupils to attend in order to explain about the sacrament and the programme itself. Please note pupils need not attend this meeting. This meeting will take place on <u>WEDNESDAY 6th November at 7.30pm in the SENIOR SCHOOL</u>. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Confirmation

Confirmation this year will be given by Bishop Donal Mc Keown. As a result the date for Confirmation that we have been given is Thursday 12th March at 5pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Children will get out of school at 1pm on the day (in order to prepare for the evening ceremony). Children may also come to school at the later time of 11am on Friday 13th March dressed in their Confirmation outfits.

It is to be noted that this weekend will be a long holiday weekend also as pupils will be off school on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March. School will reopen as usual on Wednesday 18th March after the St. Patrick's Weekend Celebrations!



Monthly Newsletter

Every Month on the first MONDAY of the month, the YOUNGEST child in the family will be given a monthly newsletter and monthly calendar to take home with them. This newsletter is designed to keep parents up to date with what is happening in the school! The Newsletter is a great resource which is costly for the school to produce but we feel that it is worth it as some parents really rely on it!!

However if for some reason, you do not receive a copy of the Monthly Newsletter, or you have lost it, we also upload it to the school's website each month so that you can always access it there!

Our website can be accessed at www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

Try it out! We also put notifications on our free school app

St Catherines PS Strabane feel free to download to your phone!

You can now also view photos on our school apptry it out!

Please like/follow us on the following technologies we would like more followers!!

We have a Facebook page called: StCatherines PrimarySchool



We have a Twitter Account called: St Catherine's PS



We have an Instagram Account also: St Catherine's Primary School



Please note that these Social Media sites have a lower age limit of 13years old so they are for parental use only to enable parents to know more about what is going on in their child's school! #keepingyouuptodate



St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School



November 2019

Sund	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Hallowe'en MidTerm Break				1.	2.
3.	4. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3— 4pm JS Year 4 Lego Club 3— 4pm JS Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 7 Lit/ Num Booster Clubs 3.15 - 4.15pm	5. All State Internet Safety Year 5.	6. Do This in Memory Meeting SS 7.30pm Parents only.	7. Seagate Programme Year 5 Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS PTFA Meeting JS 7pm.	8. School Photographer: Senior School. Families, Nursery, Years 5 – 7. Year 5 Swimming Week 6. Families Connect Week 4	9.
10.	11. Anti-Bullying Week: "Change starts Parent Interviews	12. with us"	13.	14.	15.	16.
	Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3—4pm JS Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 7 Lit/ Num Booster Clubs 3.15 - 4.15pm	8.45am School Photographer Junior School Year 1 – 4 REIM Internet Safety P6 & 7.	School Photographer Mop-ups Both sites.	Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	Year 5 Swimming Week7. Families Connect Week 5. Nursery Schools for Hope Programme 12.30 – 1.30pm	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
	Parent Interviews Year 6 Young Enterprise Programme Ulster Orchestra Trip. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3 – 4pm JS Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS	Nursery 3 year old programme (Health Visitor)	30 th Anniversary of NICCY. Nursery 3 year old programme (Health Visitor)	Young Enterprise Programme Year 4 & 5. St Catherine's Craft Fair. Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	Year 5 Swimming Week 8. Families Connect Week 6	
24.	25. Action Cancer Workshops Nursery. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3—4pm JS Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS	26. Action Cancer Workshops Year 7.	27. Action Cancer Workshops Year 4 Nursery Open Afternoon 1.30pm. (Nursery children home at 12.30pm)	28. Year 1 Open Afternoon 1.30pm. (Year 1 & 2 children home at 12.45pm) Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	29. Year 5 Swimming Week 9. Families Connect Week 7 Nursery 3 year old programme (Health Visitor) Nursery Schools for Hope Programme 12.30 – 1.30pm	30.

There is an opportunity to be found in every difficulty.



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

<u>Tickets for our Nativity Production:</u>

A Gift for a King

We would like to purchase tickets for the Nativity Production in St. Patrick's Hall.
We understand that our child has been allocated three tickets.
We would like the following:
Tuesday 10 th December : Tickets (O,1,2 or 3)
Wednesday 11 th December : Tickets (0,1,2 or 3)
We enclose £ for the above tickets.
We understand that we can only purchase THREE tickets in total for my child at the moment but we understand that unclaimed tickets may become available on Wednesda 4 th December.
Signed:
Parents/ Guardians of :
Class :

School Photographer (Please tick as appropriate)

I would like my child to have	
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:	

St Catherine's NTK

Winter Menu 2019/2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches
4th Nov	Oven Baked Sausages	Chicken Curry & Rice	Roast Meat Dinner	Spaghetti Bolognaise	H/M Chicken Goujons
2nd Dec	Irish Stew	Salmon Fish Cakes	Stuffing & Gravy	Pizza	Savory Wraps / Baguettes
30th Dec	Baked Beans / Carrots	Peas / Salad	Dry Oven Roast / Creamed	Topping / Salad	Paninis / Salad
27th Jan	Salad	Mashed Potatoes	Potatoes	Broccoli & Carrots	Green Beans
254th Feb	Chips / Mashed Potatoes	Parsley Sauce	Cabbage / Carrots	Mashed Potatoes	Herb Dice / Mashed Potato
23rd Mar	Decorated Sponge / Fruit	Flakemeal Biscuits / Fruit	Fruit Salad	Fruit Muffin / Fruit	Semolina / Fruit
	Custard	Custard (RMF)	Artic Roll (H)	Custard (H)	Crackers & Cheese (RMF)
Week Two	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches
11th Nov	Chicken Curry & Rice	Oven Baked Sausages	Roast Meat Dinner	Oven Baked Fish	Home Made Beef Burger
9th Dec	Cottage Pie	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Stuffing & Gravy / Salad	Cheese / Chicken Paninis	& Bap / Salad
6th Jan	Mixed Vegetables / Salad	Baked Beans / Broccoli	Dry Oven Roast / Creamed	Peas / White Sauce	Savoury Pasta Bake
3rd Feb	Mashed / Baked Potato	Oven Dice & Baby Boiled	Potatoes	Salad	Sw eetcorn / Green Beans
2nd Mar	2nd Mar Potat		Baton Carrots / Cabbage	Mashed Potatoes	Chips / Mashed Potato
30th Mar	Decorated Mousse	Rice Pudding & Fruit	Wholemeal Biscuits	Fruit Muffin / Fruit	Fruit Sponge / Fruit
	Fruit / Ice Cream (H)	Cheese & Biscuits (RMF)	Fruit & Custard (H)	Custard (RMF)	Custard
Week Three	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches
18th Nov	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Filled Baguettes / Paninis	Roast Chicken / Turkey	Chicken Curry & Rice	Hot Dogs
16th Dec	Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets	O/B Beef Burgers &	Stuffing & Gravy	Oven Baked Fish	Lasagne
13th Jan	Carrots / Salad	Onion Gravy / Salad	Dry Oven Roast / Creamed	Sw eetcorn / Peas	Baked Beans / Carrots
10th Feb	Baby Bolied / Mashed Potato	Peas & Sw eetcorn	Potatoes / Gravy	Mashed Potatoes / Salad	Tossed Salad / Coleslaw
9th Mar		Herb Dice / Mashed Potato	Cabbage & Carrots		Chips / Mashed Potato
6th Apr	Jelly & Fruit	Fruit Cookies / Fruit	Fruit Sponge / Fruit	Fruit Salad	Wholemeal Biscuits
	Ice Cream	Custard (H)	Custard (RMF) (H)	Custard (RMF)	Fruit / Custard
Week Four	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandw iches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches	H/M Soup & Sandw iches	H/M Soup & Sandwiches
25th Nov	Oven Baked Fish	Oven Baked Sausages	Roast Meat Dinner	Beef Burger & Bap	Home Made Chicken Goujons
23rd Dec	Savory Pizza	Pasta Bake	Stuffing & Gravy	Chicken Curry & Rice	Cottage Pie
20th Jan	Green Beans / Mixed	Baked Beans / Peas & Corn	Dry Oven Roast / Creamed	Mixed Vegetables	Broccoli / Carrots
17th Feb	Vegetables / Salad	Salad	Potatoes / Salad	Oven Dice / Mashed	Mashed Potato
16th Mar	Mashed / Baked Potato	Chips & Mashed Potatoes	Turnips / Carrots	Potatoes /Salad	
	Fruit Sponge / Fruit	Flakemeal Biscuits / Fruit	Fruit Crumble / Sponge	Fruit Muffin / Fruit	Rice Pudding / Fruit
	Custard (RMF)	(RMF)	Custard / Fruit (H)	Custard (H)	Frozen Yoghurt / Fruit



try Something New today
www.schoolfoodni.com

Bread, salad, fruit, yoghurt, milk and water

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



try Something New today