

St. Catherine's Nursery School

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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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.

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**

Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



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.



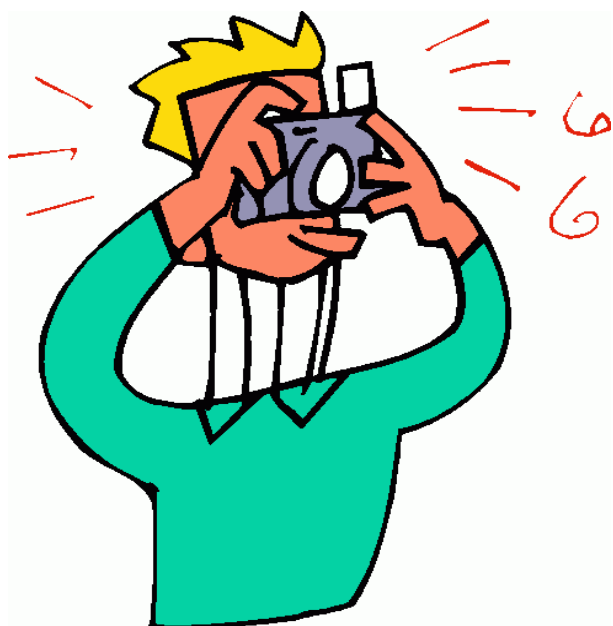
School Photographer

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.**

Handwashing to prevent the spread of Infections

We have been advised by the Public Health Agency to promote and encourage children to wash their hands thoroughly before and after food and also after using the toilet. This is crucial to try to prevent the spread of infection in school and at home. We also suggest that children's nails are kept short so that bacteria cannot get a chance to lodge underneath the nails. Finally we ask that girls also do not wear nail polish in school as this can chip off and get into food etc. We thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.



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!



Whole School House Rewards System:

The Whole School House Rewards System operates for all classes throughout the school.

The Rules and Rewards:

House Point Rules:

How to earn points:

1 point:

excellent classwork, super homework, being creative, wonderful practical work, sporting skills, beautiful singing, fantastic problem solving, fabulous play

2 points:

good behaviour, great attitude in school, lovely manners, showing consideration to others, being kind and thoughtful to others in the playground and the canteen, sharing, turntaking, participation in Hymn Practice, full uniform check, participation in events: eg. feis, Diwali, Chinese Show, Irish Language Show, Nativity and Assemblies.

Special Bonus:

A pupil who does something extra special gains three points for their House!

Prizes:

Each month – Pupils in the 'House' with the most points, in each class, receive a 'Homework Pass.' Or other treat

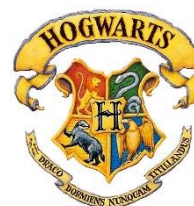
Each Term - The leading 'House' in each class gets a certificate.

At the end of the year – the House (throughout the whole school) with the most points wins the '**House Shield**' and each child in that House wins **a medal** and a **Day Trip**!

Thank you so much for your cooperation in choosing our 'House' names. We are really looking forward to beginning our new Rewards System!

Mrs Daly

(Pastoral Care and Health and Well Being Leader)



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!



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!



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.



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!!



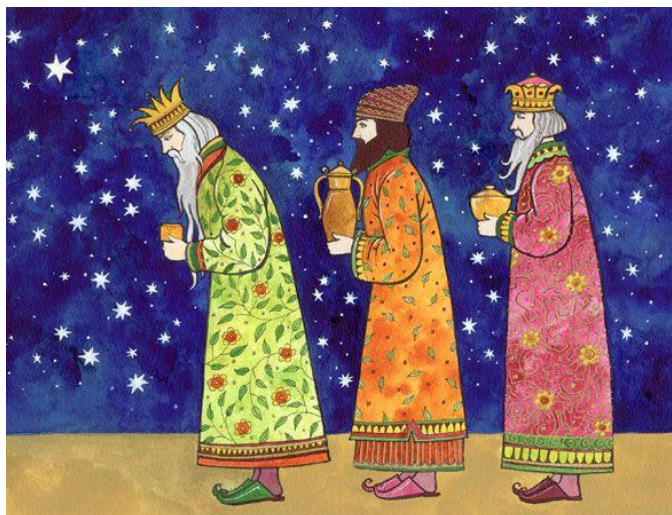
Junior School Christmas Nativity Production : A Gift for a King.

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



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



HSC South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust

HSC Public Health
Agency

f **SureStart**

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

Sunflower

Schools for Hope Programme



St. Catherine's Nursery Unit

Dear Nursery Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that our Nursery children will be participating in an exciting new initiative called **'The Sunflower Programme' based on a Health Improvement Programme used called Schools For Hope.**

Schools for Hope is a new curriculum project developed to support Mental Health and Well Being. It is based on research that suggests hope is a teachable skill to all children. Its aim is to equip pupils, educators, and parents with the tools they need to find and maintain **Hope** even during the most trying of times.

The programme is aimed to encourage our wee children (at a young age) to think and talk about their hopes and to help develop their resilience as they journey through early years and onwards into older years and hence on into adulthood. The Sunflower is our sign of HOPE as it is such a resilient flower and you will find out more about this in the first session.

The programme will consist of 10 structured workshops which will be delivered to the children by the class teachers. **Our parents will be asked to join and support our wee children during 4 of these.** The workshops will be informal, interactive and so much fun and will take place in the Nursery Classrooms. The first 5 workshops will take place in Term 1 now before Christmas and the last 5 workshops will take place in Term 2 before Easter.

The sessions and themes are outlined below. Dates are written beside the PARENT Sessions. Please let us know if you can attend the 4 PARENT SESSIONS outlined below.

Term 1

Session 1-What is Hope? Parent Session- Friday 15th November 12.30-1.30pm

Session 2-Why is Hope important?

Session 3-The Brain and Hope

Session 4-How to create a Hopeful Mind-Parent Session Friday 29th November 12.30-1.30pm

Session 5-Connecting, Passion and Purpose

Term 2

Session 6-Review Hope

Session 7-Hopeful Goals and Pathways-Parent Session Friday 13th March 12.30-1.30pm

Session 8-Welcome Back, Stepping stones

Session 9-Challenging Hope

Session 10-Graduation-Parent Session Friday 3rd April 12.30-1.30pm

We look forward to your participation in this very worthwhile, innovative programme and really hope you can join us!!

Best WishesYour Child's Nursery Team!

Nursery Sunflower Programme (Schools for Hope)

Please complete and return to the Class Teacher by Friday 8th November

I understand and give my consent that my child will participate in the Sunflower Programme.

☐

YES

☐

NO

I am able to attend the Nursery Sunflower Programme for my child on

Friday 15th November 2019

Friday 29th November 2019

Friday 13th March 2020

Friday 3rd April 2020

☐

YES

☐

NO

Signed: _____

Parent/Guardian of: _____

Class Teacher : _____



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 with us” Parent Interviews 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	12. 8.45am School Photographer Junior School Year 1 – 4 REIM Internet Safety P6 & 7.	13. School Photographer Mop-ups Both sites.	14. Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	15. Year 5 Swimming Week 7. Families Connect Week 5. Nursery Schools for Hope Programme 12.30 – 1.30pm	16.
17.	18. 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	19. Nursery 3 year old programme (Health Visitor)	20. 30 th Anniversary of NICCY. Nursery 3 year old programme (Health Visitor)	21. Young Enterprise Programme Year 4 & 5. St Catherine's Craft Fair. Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	22. Year 5 Swimming Week 8. Families Connect Week 6	23.
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.



Tickets for our Nativity Production :

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 10th December : Tickets (0,1,2 or 3)

Wednesday 11th 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 Wednesday 4th December.

Signed: _____

Parents/ Guardians 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:
