

St. Catherine's Primary School

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Newsletter : December 2019

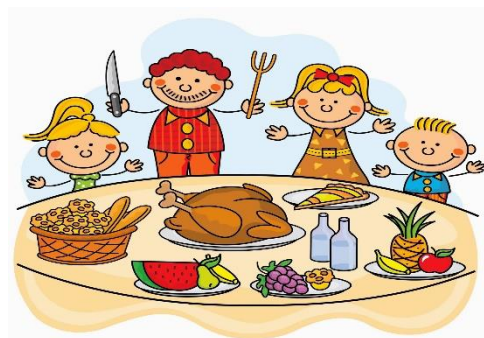
Check us out on our website: www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

BREAKING NEWS

Wear your Christmas Jumper
and eat your Christmas Dinner
Day

Friday 13th December!

Join in the fun!



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 16th January at 7.00pm in Junior School** Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



Special Visitors Travelling to St. Catherine's !!

Ho! Ho! HO! Special visitors from the North Pole will visit the JUNIOR School on Wednesday 18th December and will visit the Senior School on Thursday 19th December!



Safeguarding Request

We respectfully ask that parents and visitors do not use Mobile Phones while in the school building. This is for Child Protection and Safeguarding Reasons.

Many thanks!



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.



St. Catherine's PTFA Christmas Raffle for PUPILS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Our PTFA have been hosting a raffle on each school site. Tickets are 20p each. The raffle will take place just before the Christmas Holidays in December!

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL GRAND DRAW THIS YEAR ONLY PUPIL RAFFLE

Junior School Raffle:

This year we have Lily the Llama who wants a good home!



We also have a DINO Dinosaur who just wants someone to care for him!



Senior School Raffle

We have a LEGO Set and a Girls Beauty Pack!



Please note all items are available to view on each site.

Parking at our School Sites

We understand that parking at the front of our school sites can be a little stressful at times. Local Residents are very patient especially when access to their homes can be restricted.

We respectfully request, in the interests of safety that everyone be patient and understanding of each other for the few minutes that it takes to drop off and collect our little children from school. Thank you!



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.



Year 4 Christmas Assembly

This year our most senior pupils in the Junior School, our Year 4 Pupils will host a very special Christmas Assembly for their parents in the Junior School Assembly Hall. This will be instead of their performing at the Nativity Production in St Patrick's Hall. This will be the third time event for Year 4 in school and both pupils and staff are very excited about a separate event for them in school with a Christmas Theme.

This very special assembly will take place on **Monday 16th December in the Junior School Assembly Hall at 1.30pm**. Calling all Year 4 Parents to come along and join in this very special event!



Year 6 Diwali Multicultural Assembly

Parents of Pupils in Year 6 are warmly invited to take part in their Shared Prayer Assembly in the Senior School Site on Friday 6th December at 2pm.

The theme of the assembly is Diversity ...Celebrating the Indian Diwali Festival Celebration.



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

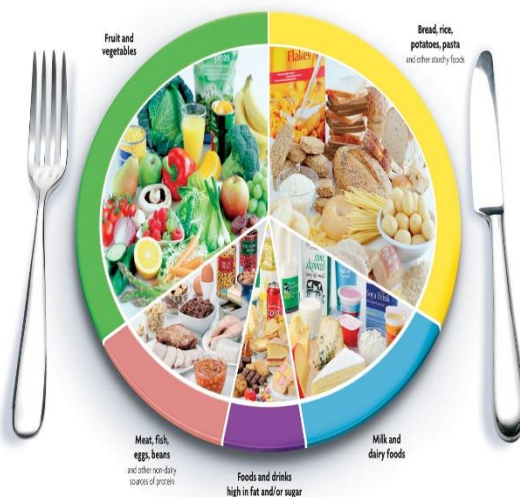
and available on the school app. Our app is free to download....

St Catherine's PS, Strabane

The eatwell plate



Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.



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!



Scheduled School Closures

School will be closed on **THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER** due to the elections as our school is used as a **POLLING STATION**. Many apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

School will also close at 12 Noon on **Friday 20th December 2019**

For the Christmas Holidays and will reopen again as usual on

Monday 6th January 2020.



We take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents, families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous, healthy New Year 2020. God bless you all!

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

The Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving

Every year the staff of St. Catherine's Primary School make this little appeal to parents

Our staff know that you and your child really appreciate the work that they do in educating our children and we know that Christmas is a time of great joy but there is also hardship for some. To this end we ask that instead of spending money on a Christmas Gift for staff, that you might like to make a small donation to the class teacher in school and this will be invested in two main charitable causes this year.....

1. Trocaire Gifts for those in Need in Developing Countries
2. Help the Homeless in our own Local Area.

This is a voluntary gesture only. We hope that you understand and appreciate the gesture that we are all trying to make in the spirit of giving and generosity.

Thank you!



Prayer of the Month for December

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint

The Lord never lets us down

Pope Francis

Advent Prayer

Jesus, we are waiting with joyful hearts
to remember and celebrate the wonder of your birth.
You came into the world as a helpless baby,
but already you were holding within your tiny, beating heart
a beautiful hope for mankind: a sacred dream
in which we live together in peace, love, and truth.
Throughout this time of waiting, may we do our very best
to turn your sacred dream for us into reality, so that at Christmas
we can offer you a present for your birthday,
fashioned out of peace and perfect love.

Amen



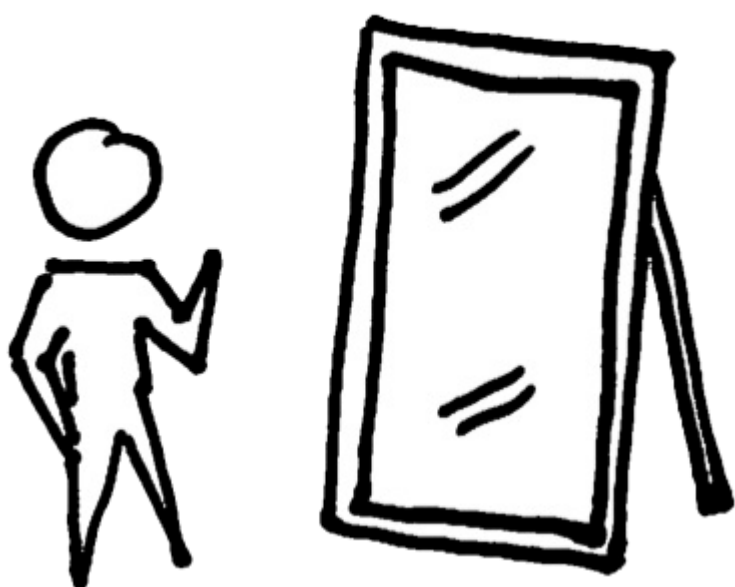
PATHS Quote of the Month December



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 December's quote...

*Mirror, mirror on the wall, Give a compliment
and that's not all, Make it nice, make it kind, A
deserving person is easy to find.*



ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSION PROCESS

For any parent who could not attend the Open Afternoons but have a child due to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2020, we are offering “Drop IN” Sessions as the applications have to be online. If you would like to book a session they run from 7-1-20 until 17-1-20. If you wish to book a session please give Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer) Senior School a wee ring on 02871 382614 OPTION 1 and she will be happy to book you in!!

Some sessions have been booked already.

You DO NOT have to attend these sessions but if you do the staff in school will help you make your application online there and then and you can be confident that all has been done and breathe a sigh of relief! Please note that you will need to have the following with you.....

1. YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL username and know your password
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your proof of address
4. DSS Income Support Form (Only if this applies to you!)



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!

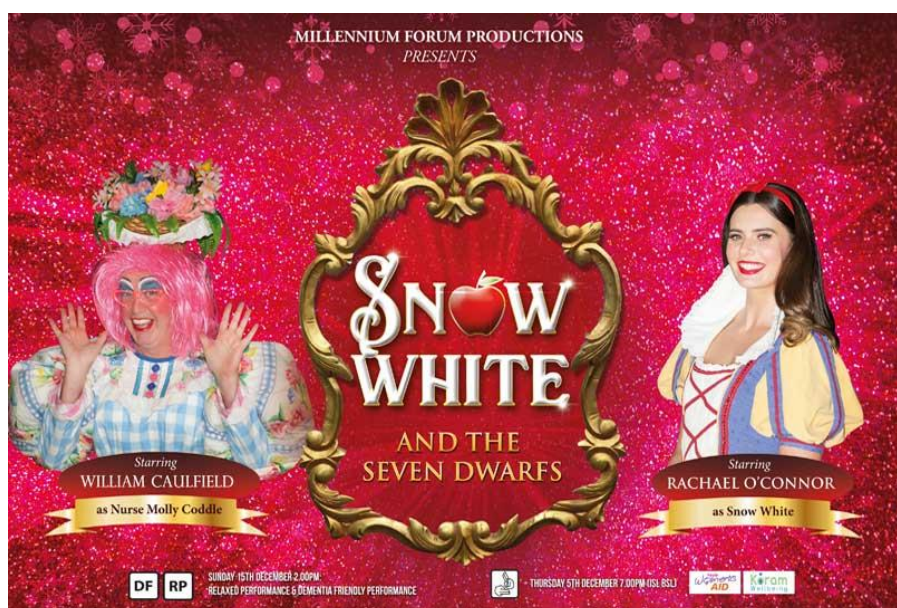
This year, the panto is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!

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!

Children will need a packed lunch on this day. Children who are in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a packed lunch from the canteen. Children should wear their FULL SCHOOL WINTER UNIFORM on this day. Year 1-2 children should be collected from school at the slightly later time of 2.45pm on this day. All other children will have usual 3pm hometime!



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!

The dates for the masses for the Do This in Memory Programme are as below. We look forward to seeing all our Year 4 Pupils and Families at these very special masses.

DATES OF THE SUNDAYS OF DO THIS IN MEMORY 2019-2020

Enrolment Sunday

Sunday, 24 November 2019

Feast of Christ King

12.00pm

Saturday, 14 December 2019

3rd Sunday of Advent

6.30pm

Sunday, 26 January 2020

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Sunday, 8 March 2020

2nd Sunday of Lent

12.00pm

Sunday, 5 April 2020

Palm Sunday

10.00am

Sunday, 26 April 2020

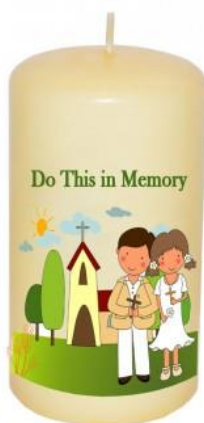
3rd Sunday of Easter

12.00pm

Saturday, 13 June 2020

Feast of Corpus Christi

6.30pm



Year 7 Confirmation

Preparing children for the sacrament of Confirmation is a shared responsibility and we feel that it is vitally important that you are invited to become involved from the very beginning. Confirmation marks a time for children when they are preparing to move from one stage of their lives to the next. You as parents will have many fears and concerns about how your children will cope in the coming years with the choices they will have to make. Through your involvement in your child's Confirmation, you are being offered the chance to discuss with them their values, attitudes and beliefs. We want to reassure you of the important role you play in developing your child's faith.

Here are some practical ways to get involved:

- Bring your child to Mass on a Saturday evening/Sunday morning with the rest of your family.
- Help your child to learn the prayers which are being taught in school and discuss the Confirmation work they are doing in class.
- As a family light a candle and say a prayer each day with your child in preparation for Confirmation.
- Read together the story of Pentecost and talk about how the Apostles felt before and after receiving the Holy Spirit.
- Talk about your child's Baptism and Holy Communion – when and where they took place, who was there etc.
- Attend Masses and any special liturgies which are organised in connection with Confirmation.
- Help your child choose a suitable Confirmation name. If he or she chooses the name of a saint or family member, talk about the person whose name they have taken.

Confirmation Liturgy Team

Enkindling the Spirit

Saturday 11 January 2020
6.30pm Mass

Moved by the Spirit

Sunday 9 February 2020
10.00am Mass

Called by Name

Sunday 1 March 2020
12.00 noon Mass

Confirmation Retreat

Wednesday 4 March 2020
10am – 12.00 noon

Confirmation Practice

Tuesday 10 March 2020
7.00pm

Confirmation

Thursday 12 March
5pm
Bishop Donal McKeown



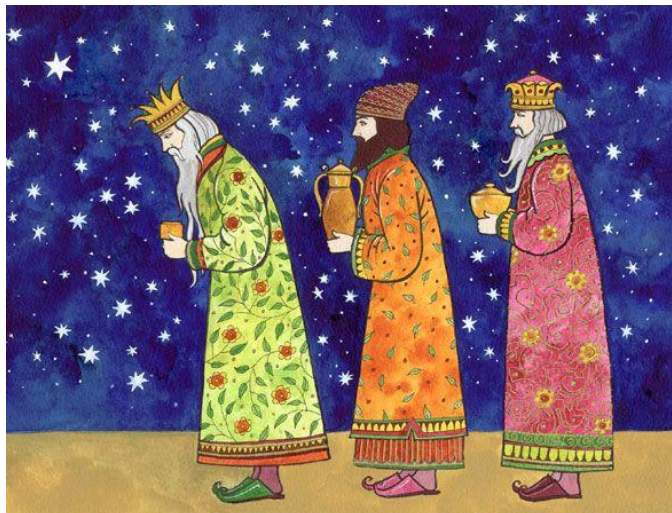
Junior School Christmas Nativity Production : A Gift for a King.

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.



Arrangements for the nights of our Nativity Show in St. Patrick's Hall

Each child from Nursery – Year 3 should arrive at St. Patrick's Hall at 6.30pm and enter via the side STAGE DOOR. Staff will be waiting for children upstairs in the Minor Hall. Children should arrive at the hall in their show clothes as outlined by the class teacher. Children should then be collected again from the hall at 8.30pm approx..

Strabane Feis

It's that time of year again.....we are a school that places so much emphasis on providing a variety of opportunities for our children's learning. We promote a love of learning in the classroom and beyond for all subjects, sport music and drama too! Feis promotes confidence and aptitude in Speech and Language, Drama and Music in particular. It is quite a skill to get up in front of an audience to say a poem, make a speech, sing a song or play an instrument! Regardless of what level each child can perform at, we acknowledge the effort that any child makes in order to take part in the Feis..... this is overcoming fear at such a young age and promoting a skill that will serve our children well in the future! We encourage all our children from Nursery – Year 7 to take part in the Feis events and teachers will encourage and promote this in school also!



There is a Speech Feis and a Music Feis.

Speech Feis will take place from Thursday 27th February to Monday 2nd March.

Music Feis will take place from Thursday 19th March to Monday 23rd March.

Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £1.50. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Wednesday 22nd January.

Sometimes we notice that children do not enter the Feis by the closing date and then when they hear all the children rehearsing for Feis in school, they want to enter then but it's too late! We advise that children strongly consider entering by the closing date as they will be guaranteed to enjoy it and join in the fun of it with their class in the lead up to the event itself!

All children who enter the Feis will get a certificate of participation from school..... regardless of the adjudicator's decision in St. Patrick's Hall!!

The poems and songs for the Feis will be sent out after Christmas.

Speech Feis Events

Event	Year Groups who can enter
Verse Speaking Girls	Nursery- Year 7
Verse Speaking Boys	Nursery – Year 7
2 Minute Speech	Year 6 & 7 Pupils only
Creative Verse	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that various class teachers may also enter an entire class for the Choral Poem Competitions.

Music Feis Events

Event	Year Groups who can enter
Girls' Song	Nursery- Year 7
Boys' Song	Nursery – Year 7
Sacred Solo	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that our choirs in school may also enter competitions in the Feis under the direction of the Choir Directors.

More details will follow in the January Monthly Newsletter.

Play your part right from
the start...I need you to talk and
play everyday



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



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust



Public Health
Agency



SureStart



St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. KS2 Choir Strabane Craft Fair	2. Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS	3.	4.	5. Senior School Choir ... Guildhall Square Memorial Event, Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	6. Year 5 Swimming Week 9. Families Connect Celebration Year 6 Shared Assembly at 2pm in Senior School	7.
8.	9. Whole School Flu Vaccination Extended Schools: Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm cc	10. Choir Group to Visit Day Centre @ 11am Nativity Show 7pm St Pat's Hall.	11. Nativity Show 7pm St Pat's Hall.	12. Election Day: School closed.	13. Year 5 Swimming Week 10. Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day. Senior Choir in Alley Theatre at 7pm.	14. P4 Do this in Memory Mass at 6.30pm in Church of the Immaculate Conception.
15. Choirs by Candlelight in Church of the Immaculate Conception. Senior & Junior Choirs	16. Pantomime "Snow White", Derry, Senior Site. NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK	17. Pantomime "Snow White", Derry, Junior Site. (Years 1-4) Years 1-2 should be collected at 2.45pm	18. Santa to visit Junior Site Christmas Party Senior Site	19. Santa to visit Senior Site Christmas Party Junior Site NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS	20. Christmas Holidays: School Closes at 12 noon. Will reopen Monday 6 th January 2020 as usual.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.				

Show a little kindness today, tomorrow could be too late.



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: _____

St Catherine's NTK

Winter Menu 2019/2020

**school
food**

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**



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

try something new today