

# St. Catherine's Primary School

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Newsletter : January 2020

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

## BREAKING NEWS

Do you (or does someone you know) have a child who is due to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2020?

You should apply ONLINE at

[www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

Online portal opens

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 @12 Noon

and closes @12 Noon

on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

If anyone would like to complete their application with the assistance of our Admissions Officer

Mrs Clare Kelly a session can be booked in January to facilitate this ...just ring 02871 382614 to book!



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



### Keeping our parents updated with Curriculum Teaching and Learning for your child in our school.

Curriculum Information Newsletters for Term 2 Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be sent home to Parents on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of these is to give parents an opportunity to know and support the teaching and learning keypoints in school for this term. Feel free to support this learning at home when you get an opportunity.

We appreciate that Year 5, 6 and 7 Pupils can explain this to parents independently.

**#workingtogethertosupportlearning**



## **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.



## **Health & Hygiene**

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



**NEWSFLASH:** We will be installing hand sanitisers also across both sites of our school to promote a greater awareness of the need to sanitise our hands and prevent the spread of infection in our wee school in addition to regular handwashing in line with Health Guidance.



## **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!**



## **Normal Nursery Entrance Route Reopened**

As you are aware, in Term 1 the entrance/ collection route to our Nursery was restricted due to essential Roof Maintenance Work on site.

We are now pleased to report that this work has been completed and parents/ pupils can now resume their normal routes!!

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this essential maintenance works programme.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Year of Catholic Schools Week January 2020

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is

### **Catholic Schools : Living in Harmony with God's Creation**

We are reminded of the importance of

1. Living in Harmony with God
2. Living in Harmony with Our Neighbours
3. Living in Harmony with the Earth
4. Living in Harmony in Our Catholic School

Children will complete activities based on this important theme this week

Talk to your children at home about the importance of our school and the very special family atmosphere we have in our wee school, which makes it so special.



### Celebrating our School and Family Atmosphere with Pride.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, our annual special Grandparents assembly (Shared by Year 5) will take place in the Junior School on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10am and 2pm in the Senior school on the same day. Our Grandparents Assembly is always so important and special to us all. We give thanks for our Grandparents who are here with us and also for our Grandparents who are in heaven. The importance of family values, role of family and the generations cannot be underestimated!



## Families First NI Awards

We are proud to share that our school has had two nominations for Families First NI Awards this year. This is the first time that this has happened but we are truly delighted and honoured to have received the nominations.

The nominations are ;

**Mrs S.O'Kane**

**(Best Teacher)**

**And Mrs Wilders**

**(Best Principal)**

These Education Awards will take place in Belfast on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

For more updates please follow **FACEBOOK** Page ...

### **Families First NI**

Many congratulations to staff and sincere thanks to parents that nominated them!!

We are so proud of ALL our staff both teaching and non teaching as each and every one of them give so much to our children and our school! As a family in St Catherine's; pupils, parents, staff and Governors it's lovely to be valued for the efforts that we make! Thank you!!





## **Extended Schools Update: Piloting our NEW FAMILY CLUB**

### **....read all about it!**

We at St.Catherine's P.S are delighted to announce that we will be providing a Family Club on the Junior Site from 2.15pm – 3.00pm, Monday to Friday , beginning Monday 20th January 2020. The purpose of the Family Club is to facilitate parents and guardians who have children in Foundation Stage ( Years 1 and 2 ) who are in school until 2.15pm and who also have siblings in years 3 – 7 who are in school until 3.00pm. The aim of the Family Club is to bridge the gap from 2.15pm until 3.00pm to allow for one pick up only. We have previously sought feedback on the idea of this club and many parents/guardians have already expressed written interest. These parents/guardians will receive priority in the allocation of places. We aim to facilitate forty places. The remaining places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. There will be staffing and snack costs involved to provide this club and we gratefully ask that those who receive a place would help by subsidising a small cost of £2 per week per child. Our school will fund the majority of the cost. At St.Catherine's, we are a family school in the heart of the community and we believe that a Family Club would greatly assist parents and guardians. Please note that our Extended Schools Newsletter for Term 2 will also be sent out this week! If you would like to seek a place for your Year 1 or Year 2 Child in this club please complete the attached booking form and we will get back to you to confirm a place.



## **Senior School Musical .....BREAKING NEWS!!!!**

You may be aware that in June 2017 our Senior School Pupils performed The Lion King Musical in St. Patrick's Hall , Strabane.

This production involved a lot of hard work and expertise on the part of all staff involved ,coupled with such pride and dedication on the part of our pupils and the unbelievable support of our parents. To this end the production was highly acclaimed and gained widespread commendation.....and was just so much fun!

Well we have decided that it is Musical Showtime again....this year in June 2020...we are proud to announce we will be performing .....

## **MARY POPPINS!!!!**

Casting will begin shortly and further details will follow!!

Exciting times ahead indeed!!



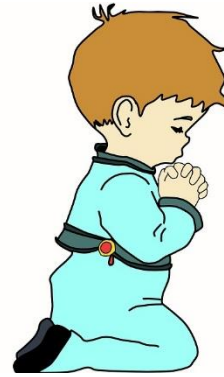
## Prayer of the Month January

### New Year's Prayer

We remember  
For all that has been  
We give thanks.

We look forward  
For all that will be  
We say yes.

All time is God's time.  
We let go of the past and  
We welcome what is to come.



And all the time we pray in the name of Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen

Prayer is very important for our children's peace of mind and well being....please encourage your child to pray and take a few moments of peacefulness every day!



## PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

### PATHS Quote of the Month January

Our feelings are as much a part of us as our hands, feet or hair.  
Feelings, while on the inside, often show on the outside. All people have feelings. Keep your eyes open today and look out for feelings



## **ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSION PROCESS.....MORE DETAILS!**

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!)



## Surestart Message of the Month January 2020

Kind words and gentle touch  
.....help me explore and learn so much



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**



## **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 27<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Music Feis will take place from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £1.50. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 its 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**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Year Groups who can enter</b>
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**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Year Groups who can enter</b>
Girls' Song	Nursery- Year 7
Boys' Song	Nursery – Year 7
Sacred Solo	Years 5,6 and 7 Pupils only
Musical Theatre	Years 4-7 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.

## **Feis 2020: PARENTS PLEASE COMPLETE TO ENTER YOUR CHILD IN FEIS**

I have ticked below the event(s) that I would like my child to be entered for in Feis. I understand that it costs £1.50 to enter an event.

<b>Speech Feis Event</b>	<b>Tick ✓ Yes</b>	<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Year /Class</b>
<b>Verse Speaking (Girls) Nursery -Year 7</b>			
<b>Verse Speaking (Boys) Nursery -Year 7</b>			
<b>2 minute speech (Year 6 and 7 Pupils Only)</b>			
<b>Creative Verse (Years 5,6,7 Pupils only)</b>			

<b>Music Feis Event</b>	<b>Tick ✓ Yes</b>	<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Year /Class</b>
<b>Song (Girls) Nursery -Year 7</b>			
<b>Song (Boys) Nursery -Year 7</b>			
<b>Sacred Solo (Years 5,6,7 Pupils only)</b>			
<b>Musical Theatre (Years 4-7 Pupils only)</b>			

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian**

# **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





## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

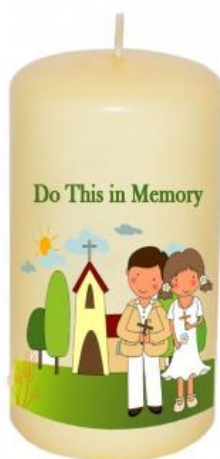
3rd Sunday of Easter

12.00pm

Saturday, 13 June 2020

Feast of Corpus Christi

6.30pm



## **Year 7 Parent / Teacher Transfer Meetings**

The thought of your Year 7 child moving from Primary to Post Primary School is an exciting but also challenging time for some!

Post Primary Schools will be offering you and your child the chance to visit them now for their Open Days/ Evenings. This will give you and your child a chance to see the work of the schools and staff first hand and may help you and your child decide which school they would really like to transfer to in September 2019.

To this end, we have listed the dates/times of open days for some post primary schools below where our children have transferred to in the past. We also invite you to come in to our school to speak with your child's class teacher and the Principal to complete your transfer form for your child to be given to the Education Authority. The forms (with your post primary school preferences) must reach EA by WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY. Therefore we will be arranging these meetings ahead of this date so that forms can be completed and arrive at EA on time!

We will be hosting the meetings on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you to arrange suitable times for these meetings. You are NOT OBLIGED to attend but parents have reported in the past that they find these meetings very helpful indeed.

If you have any further queries at all about the Year 7 Transfer Process, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or a Senior Leader/ Principal.



## **Open Days/ Evenings**

<b>Post Primary School</b>	<b>Open Day</b>	<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Holy Cross College	Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> January 10am-12 Noon & 1pm-3pm Principal's Address @10am & 1pm	35 Melmount Road,Strabane
Christian Brothers' Grammar School	Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> January 10am-1pm	Kevlin Road, Omagh
Loreto Grammar School	Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 5.30pm-8.30pm	James Street, Omagh
Thornhill College	Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> January 4pm – 6.30pm Principal's Address @ 4pm	142 Culmore Road, Derry
Lumen Christi College	Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> January Principal's Address 4pm & 6pm	Bishop Street, Derry
Strabane Academy	Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> January 7pm	61 Derry Road, Strabane
Drumragh Integrated College	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> January Principal's Address 6.30pm	

These are just a few of the Open Days for schools that our children have previously moved on to..... a complete list including any additional schools not mentioned is available on EA Website.

## Shared Education New Partners.....

As you may be aware, Shared Education is a programme funded by Peace IV Funding.

## What is PEACE IV?

- Shared Education Project supported by Europe
- Northern Ireland & the border counties
- Managed by the Education Authority /Partner organisation in South – Léargas
- €29m (2017 – 2022)

## What is Shared Education?

Schools, of different management types, providing opportunities for pupils, staff & the community to engage in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences.

**Purpose of Shared Education;**

- (a) to deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;*
- (b) to promote the efficient and effective use of resources;*
- (c) to promote equality of opportunity;*
- (d) to promote good relations; and*
- (e) to promote respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.*

**To this end, we will now collaborate with our NEW Primary School Partner : Raphoe National School**

**We look forward to an exciting shared curricular programme enhancing the teaching of STEM with our cross border partner. This programme will be developed with Year 7 Pupils and Staff this year.**

**A note will be sent to Year 7 Pupils regarding this exciting initiative with our Donegal Friends!!**



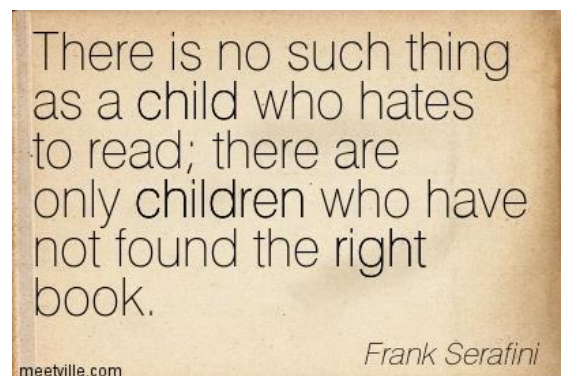
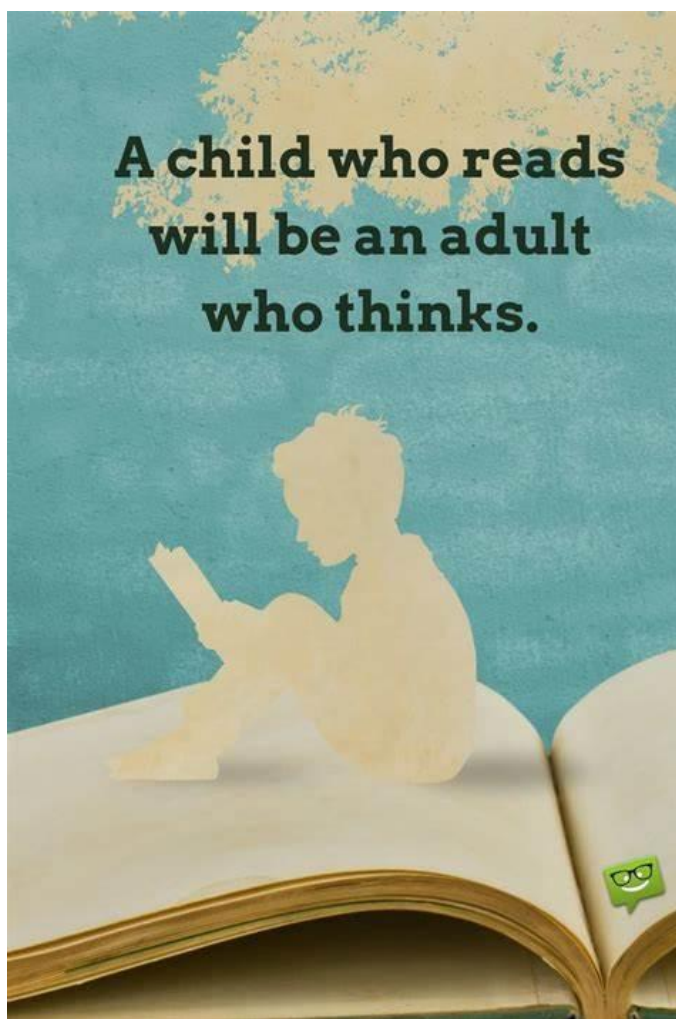


# Attention Literacy NEWS!!

## Year 3 UPDATED Reading Programme

We at St Catherine's understand how important reading development is for every child. We also understand that our parents are keen to help their children in every way they can. To this end we are providing a Literacy Information Evening for **PARENTS ONLY** on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm on the Junior Site. This session promises to provide parents with all the information they need to help their child with Linguistic Phonics. The evening will also introduce parents to our Paired Reading Programme which can be carried out at home over the next 4 weeks with their child. We will also introduce you to our wonderful Accelerated Reader Programme we have at school, which we would encourage your child to avail of on a daily basis. We look forward to seeing you then!

If you would like to avail of a place, please sign the attached reply slip in this newsletter



## **Year 3 Updated Reading Parent/Pupil Programme**

I .....parent/guardian of

.....(Pupil Name)

Class Teacher .....

can/cannot attend the Literacy Information session on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

## Year 1 & 2 Family Club

I .....parent/guardian of  
.....(Pupil Name)

Class Teacher .....

Would like to book a place for my child in Year 1/ 2 to attend the Family Club.

I understand that this means that my child will stay in school until 3pm (Starting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January). I understand that I will contribute £2 every Monday towards running costs of the club.

My child's older sibling(s) :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



# St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

## January 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>		1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	<b>6.</b> Back to School. Feast of the Epiphany: Mass for Year 4 – 7 children. Extended Schools: Year 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS	<b>7.</b> Nursery & P1 Online Admissions. Young Enterprise for Year 4: Our Community. Year 7 Shared Education.	<b>8.</b>	<b>9.</b> Extended Schools: Year 7 Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	<b>10.</b> Year 5 Swimming Final Week. Young Enterprise for Year 6.	<b>11.</b> P7 Confirmation Preparation Mass at 6.30pm in Church of the Immaculate Conception. Enkindling the Spirit.
12.	<b>13.</b> Year 7 Business Beginnings Programme, Extended Schools: Year 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS	<b>14.</b> Fire Drill 2 in Senior Site. Paired Reading Year 3 JS @ 7pm.	<b>15.</b> Fire Drill 2 in Junior Site Nursery GRTL: Stay and Play at 1pm. Extended Schools: Year 3 Irish Dancing 3pm-4pm	<b>16.</b> Extended Schools: Year 7 Soccer Club 3-4pm JS PTFA at 7pm in Junior Site.	<b>17.</b> Five Aside Hurling & Camogie Teams (am)	<b>18.</b>
19.	<b>20.</b> Curriculum Newsletter 2 to go out to parents Nursery to Year 4. Extended Schools: Year 1 Yoga 2.15pm-3pm Year 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS Year 1/ 2 Family Club starts 2.15pm-3pm (Mon – Fri)	<b>21.</b> Paired Maths Year 5 in Senior School at 7pm. Year 7 Shared Education.	<b>22.</b> Nursery GRTL: Education Works at 1pm. Year 7 Flight. Feis Entries Final date to be submitted Extended Schools: Year 3 Irish Dancing 3pm-4pm	<b>23.</b> Extended Schools: Year 7 Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	<b>24.</b>	<b>25.</b>
<b>26.</b> P4 Do this in Memory Mass at 10 am in Church of the Immaculate Conception.	<b>27.</b> Catholic Schools Week: "Living in Harmony with God's Holy Creation." Extended Schools: Year 1 Yoga 2.15pm-3pm Year 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm SS Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS	<b>28.</b> Year 7 Transfer Interviews	<b>29.</b> Year 7 Transfer Interviews Extended Schools: Year 3 Irish Dancing 3pm-4pm	<b>30.</b> Year 7 Transfer Interviews Extended Schools: Year 7 Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	<b>31.</b> Year 5 Grandparents Assembly. Junior School @ 10am Senior School @ 2pm. Nursery & P1 Online Admissions closes.	

A smile will light up the day.

