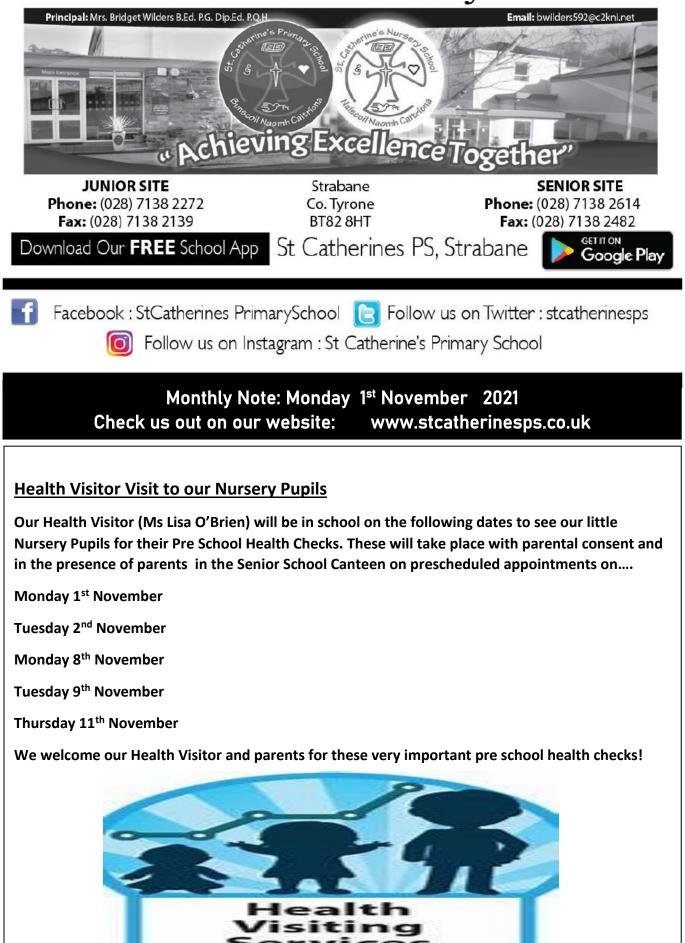
St. Catherine's Nursery School



PTFA Meeting:

Our next PTFA Meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th November at 7pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Internet Safety Education Workshops for Key Stage 2 Pupils (Years 5-7)

Every year we host specialised Internet Safety Education Workshops for our Year 5-7 Pupils to upskill them in how to make most use of the Internet but in a safe and appropriate way.

Workshops will be facilitated by ALLSTATE and REIM SOLUTIONS.

The following dates below are for each year group;

Year 5:Wednesday 3rd November

Year 6: Thursday 4th November



Parent Teacher Prescheduled phone appointment meetings

Due to the present restrictions we will not be able to host face to face Parent / Teacher Meetings for the whole school in November (as we usually have done Pre Covid). We will however be hosting phone meetings. This means that teachers will contact parents by phone (at a prearranged time) and will update you over the phone about how your child is getting on at school. Please make sure that you are somewhere private to take the call without any background noise or interruptions. We look forward to speaking with you then. In the event that you miss the call please telephone the school office. A letter with the details of the appointment time will be sent home with your child.

We hope that parents will take some heart from speaking with the teacher over the phone to hear updates and to share any concerns that they too might have. The phone appointment time will be scheduled for 10 minute appointments. As other parents will have been given phone appointment times also, we will have to stick to time on the allocated days.

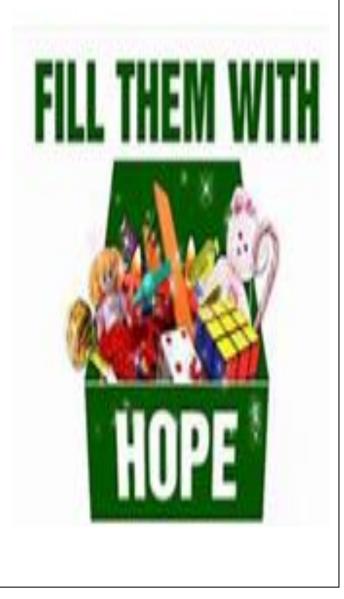
It is also to be noted that parents may email teaching staff at any time to find out about the progress that your child is making at school and to ask any questions or raise any concerns that you might have. You may also contact Miss J Doherty (Learning Support Leader/ Vice Principal) or Mrs Wilders (Principal) about any concerns regarding their child's holistic education at school. Many thanks in anticipation of your understanding in this matter.

Email address reminders for staff are also contained in this newsletter.



ATTENTION ALL PRIMARY 5 CHILDREN

Please remember to send your shoeboxes into school as soon as they are ready. They will be collected very soon in order to reach their destination on time. These boxes will bring so much joy to families around the world at Christmas. Thank-you for supporting this worthy cause.



Staff roles and Email addresses.

Staff Member	Class / Role	Email Address
Mrs Bridget Wilders	Principal	bwilders592@c2kni.net
Miss Jennifer Doherty	Vice Principal	jdoherty742@c2kni.net
Mrs B. Porter	Nursery Room 1	bporter544@c2kni.net
Mrs T. Mc Corkell	Nursery Room 2	tmccorkell825@c2kni.net
Mrs D. Doherty	Year 1 A	ddoherty115@c2kni.net
Miss C. Hutton	Year 1 B	chutton763@c2kni.net
Mrs A.M. Mc Glynn	Year 2 A	amcglynn388@c2kni.net
Ms K.Carlin	Year 2 B	kcarlin208@c2kni.net
Ms Y. Mc Gowan	Year 3 A	ymcgowan609@c2kni.net
Miss E. Mc Kane	Year 3 B	emckane332@c2kni.net
Mrs S. Vaughan	Year 4 A	svaughan325@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Connolly	Year 4 B	cconnolly309@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Gillespie	Year 5 A	cgillespie221@c2kni.net
Miss M. Whoriskey	Year 5 B	mwhoriskey245@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Deery	Year 6 A	cdeery318@c2kni.net
Miss E. Keyes	Year 6 B	ekeyes746@c2kni.net
Mr. A. Mc Guigan	Year 6 C	amcguigan559@c2kni.net
Mrs S.O'Kane	Year 7 A	sokane510@c2kni.net
Mrs. B. Daly	Year 7 B	bdaly611@c2kni.net
Mrs. C. Hamilton	Learning Class	chamilton290@c2kni.net



Book Week 2021

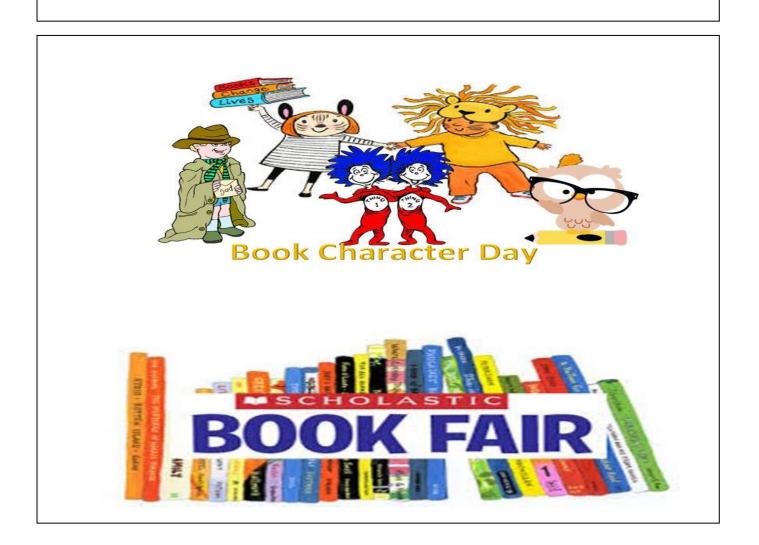
We had a fabulous Book Week from Monday 11th October to Friday 15th October in St Catherine's!

Book Character Day (as always was also a brilliant experience shared by all our little children in school. We saw many Nursery Rhyme, Fairytale and Novel Characters in school.

Heartfelt thanks to our parents for supporting Book Week in School. Our little children get so much out of it as it promotes an awareness of Literacy, Reading and Books and helps encourage good reading habits and an overall love of learning! Parents, as always, support this by preparing children so well for Book Character Day and also by allowing children to purchase a story/ novel / non fiction book from the Book Fair. This year our Book Fair totalled £ 2520.90 of which we are allowed a percentage commission of this to buy more books for our little children...so thank you so much!

Thanks also to all staff for facilitating Book Week and ensuring that the teaching and learning is centred around this very important theme. We had a focus on book/ nursery rhyme/ fairytale characters; their costumes, speeches about them, art work depicting them, dramatizing them, reading activities and much more!

Special thanks also to Mrs Connolly (Language and Literacy Leader) for organising all events in school providing an amazing literary experience for our little pupils.



<u>Keeping in Touch!</u>

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

1. Text messages

2. Text messages with links to letters

3. Emails

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

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

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

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

Thank you all so much for your support to date!



Neuronimo Well Being Programme for pupils in Years 1-7

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

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

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

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

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



Our INTERIM School Development Plan (Year 4) FINAL YEAR due to setbacks caused by COVID 19.

Normally every three years we design a new three year school development plan which plans out the priorities and actions that we want to complete for the greater good of our pupils, staff and parents in our wee school. We also update this every year just to check that we are on target! We started our current plan in September 2018. We are only now in the last interim year of our plan (due to COVID 19), we will be due to finish the Plan at the end of this year and start a new plan for 2022 2023.

In the meantime We NEED YOUR HELP!

Have you any ideas/ suggestions for what types of activities that you would like to see on the interim school development plan for this year only?

Your ideas and opinions are very valued indeed and if we can make changes to improve ...then we will! You may have concerns that you wish to address due to the challenges that COVID 19 presents for our children.

The plan also includes ideas and suggestions from pupils, staff and governors.

When the plan has been completed we will email a summary the plan to all parents to keep you updated. A response slip will be sent home with your child this week to invite your ideas for the plan for this year at our wee school. Please return this form by MONDAY 9th November 2020. The form can be given to your child who will in turn give it to the class teacher.

Thank you in advance!





<u>Anti Bullying Week</u>

Monday 15th – Friday 19th November

The theme this year is "ONE KIND WORD" .



Ask if someone's OK. Say you're sorry. Just say hey. In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today.

Please see below a link to a video that you can watch with your child to promote this theme.

https://youtu.be/oJQg2JyQ3mM

All children will complete various activities in school linked to this theme for Anti Bullying week. We hope that our little children enjoy this work and gain something important from it.



Prayer of the Month 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



Believe in children M Barnardo's

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 November'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. Remember to make an okay choice or find an adult to help you solve your problem. Refuse to fight!!



Starting Nursery or Primary School in September 2022?

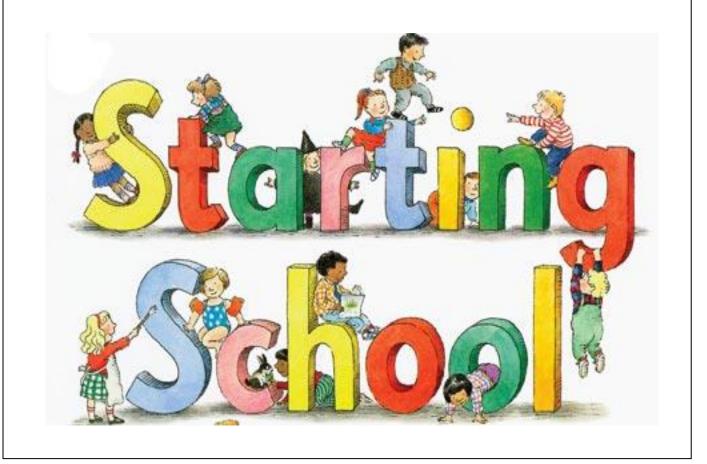
Do you have or do you know anyone who has a little child who is ready to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2022 and would very much like to join our family here at St. Catherine's?

Normally we would have Open Afternoons in November/ December but due to the present COVID 19 Restrictions we have to make slight adjustments.

If anyone would like to have a tour of the school (either Nursery or Primary)and a talk with the Principal about the arrangements for starting school in September 2022, we will arrange a SOCIALLY DISTANCED APPOINTMENT and TOUR for you!! To arrange this your should just drop a little email to Mrs B. Wilders (Principal) at her email address <u>bwilders592@c2kni.net</u> and this can be arranged asap. A School Prospectus will also be emailed to all parents of our school currently to let you know more about our little school (so spread the word!!) or alternatively can be posted upon request if you email the Principal at the email address above or ring the school office on 02871 382614.

We have a little Nursery Video and Year 1 Video which is on our website which you can watch to learn a little more about our Nursery and Primary School. See links below.

Nursery: <u>https://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk/admissions/open-day-films/nursery-421/</u> Primary One: <u>https://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk/admissions/open-day-films/primary-1/</u>



Celebrating Pupil Achievement

We have always felt that it is so important that we celebrate the achievements of our little pupils. We do this informally on a daily basis through conversations with them and class celebrations but we also celebrate success on a weekly/ monthly basis to share with each other on our school site. We feel that praise and recognition for work effort is crucial to our little children feeling happy, confident and proud of themselves and proud of their learning in school. Below is just a little reminder of some of the main achievements that we celebrate.

Weekly : Pupil of the Week

Every Friday we recognize that although all the pupils in the class work very hard, one little pupil may have shone a little brighter on that particular week and the teacher saw this and was duly impressed. It can be because they tried/ persevered so hard with their school work or it may be because they have been such a good friend, shown lovely manners or just displayed a lovely act of kindness...either way they have just shone!

Throughout the year every pupil in the class will have shone brightly and will have had this award given to them! Well done! Please celebrate this award with your children at home!



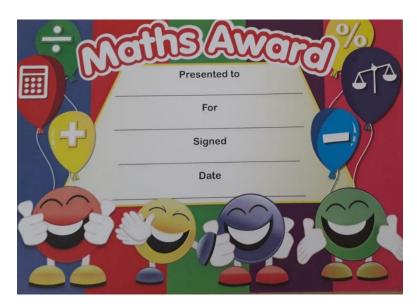
Monthly: Reader of the Month

We value the importance of reading in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with reading as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to reading and has shown dedication and exceptional reading work. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging reading at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



Monthly: Mathematician of the Month

We value the importance of Maths in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with maths and mental maths as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to maths, mental maths and problem solving maths plus has shown dedication and exceptional mathematical work. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging mathematics, mental maths and problem solving at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



Monthly: I.C.T Pupil of the Month

We value the importance of I.C.T. and digital technology in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with digital technology as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to I.C.T. and digital technology and has shown dedication and exceptional work and enthusiasm in this area. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging I.C.T. and Digital Technology at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



Daily / Weekly/ Monthly/ Termly/ Annually; Harry Potter House Award System

Each child in our school is a member of a HOUSE TEAM. We operate under the Harry Potter House Awards System so each child is either in the house of...

- 1. Hufflepuff
- 2. Slytherin
- 3. Gryffindor
- 4. Ravenclaw

Each day of each week our little pupils have opportunities to gain points for their HOUSE TEAM by for example; showing kindness, completing homework, showing pride in their uniform, completing classwork to a high standard, healthy eating, sports endeavours, musical endeavours, good manners in/ out of school, recognition in / out of school etc. These points are accumulated in every class at the end of the week and tallied at the end of the month. The House Team in the lead at the end of every month has their points announced and receive a HOMEWORK PASS. At the end of the year the WINNING HOUSE TEAM receive a plaque for their team on each site, a medal and a school trip away together. The other HOUSE TEAMS receive a lovely certificate for having participated and given their best! Every child has an opportunity here to shine and gain points for each other in their HOUSE TEAM. This is to promote and enhance a sense of school family spirit for all pupils! Please support us by encouraging participation in the school house points system at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement and teamship with your child!



St. Catherine's Primary School

Holiday List for 2021/2022

The school will be closed on:

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

Friday 24th September 2021 (Staff Training Day 1)

Hallowe'en – Mid Term Break

Monday 25th October 2021 – Friday 29th October 2021 (Reopens on Monday 1st November 2021)

Christmas Break

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

(School Reopens for our everyone on Thursday 6th January 2022)

Spring Term Break

Monday 14th February 2022 until Friday 18th February 2022

(School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 21st February 2022)

St. Patrick's Day Break

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

Easter Break

School closes on Holy Thursday 14th April 2022 at 12 Noon School Reopens on Monday 25th April 2022

Monday 2nd May 2022 (Bank Holiday)

Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June 2022 (Bank Holiday and Platinum Jubilee Holiday)

School Closes on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 12 Noon.

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

Message from Surestart.....

Barnardo's Barnardo's Barnardo's Strabane Believe in children Barnardo's Strabane Believe in Children Barnardo's Strabane

Are you concerned about your child's development? Would you like some support?

Barnardo's Strabane are calling on all our lovely parents who have children aged 18 months plus who may be experiencing difficulties with routine, behaviour, speech and language, developmental delay or concerns around autism.

To register your interest please ask your Health Visitor or Social Woker to put in a request for the pre-diagnostic ASDSLC Mace's package. You will then be contacted by Ruth Huey. You will be invited to a workshop for parents, followed by 2 home visits. Resources will also be provided, e.g. sensory toys, visuals, schedules, social stories etc.

COVID 19 Top Tip Reminders for Parents/ Carers:

1. Every possible precaution will continue to be taken to keep our little children and their staff safe in school.

2.Temperatures of children will no longer be taken upon arrival to school but if a child seems unwell or appears to have a high temperature, staff will take the temperature and if a child's temperature is 38 degrees centigrade or above, parents will be called to take child home from school until they feel better.

3.Children will be encouraged to handwash regularly. Children do not have to use sanitiser but it is available if they wish too. Children may also bring their own sanitiser.

4. Children will be organised in Class Bubble groups which will not mix with other Bubble Groups so as to control any spread of infection. In the canteen there will only ever be two bubble groups at any given time and each class will be seated at a distance from each other so as to allow safe social distancing

5. There will be no gatherings of pupils/ staff for morning prayers, assemblies or canteen lunchtimes. Teaching and learning will begin immediately upon entry to class. There will be no breakfast club/ family clubs for the foreseeable future. We will let you know if this changes. After school clubs for bubble class groups will begin in October.

6. Children may bring their school bags.

7. Reading Books, spellings and tables/ number facts and written homework have all now begun. Parent/ pupil surveys indicated that homework issued at the start of the week and returned on a Friday was a preferred method of working as it gave our little children and their families greater freedom during the week to complete it, so we will continue with this idea this year.

10. Communication between home and school has never been more important than it is now. If your child is sick or has COVID 19 Symptoms or if someone in the family has symptoms or has tested positive....PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY and keep your child at home for the correct isolation period as guided by Medical Staff. In order to control the spread of COVID 19 it is crucial that the school know what is happening. If your child has Covid Symptoms do not send them to school. Keep them at home and seek to get a PCR COVID TEST. Note that there is a difference between a PCR Test and a Lateral Flow Test . A Lateral Flow Test is only an INDICATOR of possible Covid 19 and if a lateral flow test is positive we are asked to then go to carry out a PCR test. The Public Health Agency only deals with PCR Test results. Please keep the school informed at all times as we can record a child's absence with the correct code when we know what is happening. It is to be noted that all advice that school give to parents has been directed by the Department of Education and The Public Health Agency. It is NOT singularly the policy of the school. School must follow directives from the Public Health Agency regarding positive cases of Covid 19. Your understanding, patience and support is greatly appreciated regarding this.

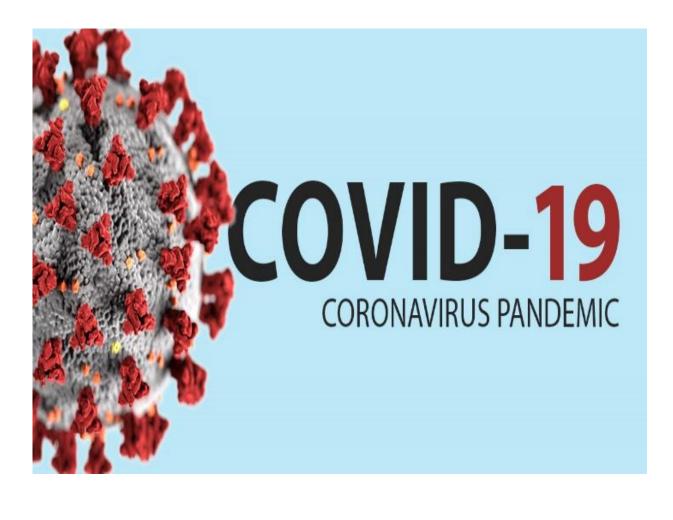
11. Every effort is being made to ensure safety in school. Parents/ carers have a responsibility for their own safety outside of the school gates. We encourage you to wear face coverings if you can and adhere to Social Distancing measures to protect yourselves and your children.

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

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

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

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







<u>Coronavirus Advice</u>

<u>Super Safe Superheroes</u>

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



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



- Children and adults are very good at fighting flu
- Just like all colds and flus, it can be harder for older people or people with illnesses to stay healthy from the flu

I can stay healthy by:

- Washing my hands in soap:
- ✓ After preparing food
- \checkmark After sneezing or blowing your nose
- ✓ Before eating
- \checkmark After using the bathroom
- ✓ After playtime



I can stay healthy by:

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

I can keep others healthy by:

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



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





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St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School November 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Photographer Mop Ups Internet Safety Week	2.	3. Allstate Cyber Safety for Kids P5 A and P5B	4. REIM Internet Safety Workshops P6	5. REIM Internet Safety Workshops P7	6.
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
14. 15. Parent/ teacher meetings via phonecall Anti-Bullying Week	Parent/ teacher meetings	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
	Parent/ teacher meetings via phonecall					
28.	29.	30.				

There is an opportunity to be found in every difficulty.



school Menu for september 2021. Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Monday Packed Lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Week One try Something New today 06/09/2021 www.schoolfoodni.com Oven roasted sausages Home-made Roast turkey crown Breaded oven baked fish 100% NI beef burger 04-Oct-21 Baked Beans/peas chicken goujons roast/mashed potatoes steamed mixed vegetables in a sesame roll 01-Nov-21 Fresh bread, cheese & Mashed Potato sweetCorn Cauliflower Mashed Potato sweetCorn crackers, seasonal 29-Nov-21 salads, fresh fruit, Herb diced Potatoes stuffing/roast gravy Chipped potatoes chilled yoghurt, water Home-made fruit muffin Frozen yoghurt & milk available daily Flakemeal Biscuit Home made cookie Ice cream tub Week Two Packed Lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch 13-Sep-21 NI pork sausage If you require any additional information Breaded oven baked fish Homemade served in a soft finger roll 11-Oct-21 Roast NI Chicken plain beef burger on allergens or special diet please contact the school in the first roast/mashed potatoes Oven roasted dice potato pasta bologanise Mashed potatoes topped with 08-Nov-21 potatoes/mixed vegetables Crusty roll Carrots steamed mixed vegetables saute onions 06-Dec-21 instance sweetCorn/salad stuffing/roast gravy ♦ beans Chipped potatoes Homemade shortbread Fruit Jelly Artic Roll Flakemeal biscuit ICe Cream tub Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Week Three 20-Sep-21 18-Oct-21 Savoury pizza with fish Cakes Roast join of NI pork Succulent home-made 100% NI beef burger 15-Nov-21 fresh toppings Salmon fish Cakes roast/mashed potatoes chicken gouions/garlic dip in a sesame roll Baby baked potatoes Baby baked potatoes Oven roasted herb dice sweetCorn 13/12/2021 peas green beans brocolli & beans stuffing/roast gravy potatoes & peas Chipped potatoes Frozen yoghurt Home-made fruit muffin Decorated sponge4custar Fruit Jelly ICe Cream & Fruit Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Packed lunch Week Four 27-Sep-21 NI pork sausage served in a soft finger roll 25-Oct-21 Golden Fish fingers or Hearty home-made Roast Gammon chicken bites Oven roasted dice potato Chicken Curry&rice roast/mashed potatoes tosssed salad. topped with 22-Nov-21 20/12/21. green beans made with fresh Carrots Creamy mash saute onions baked beans N.I. produce stuffing/roast gravy Carrots Chipped potatoes garlic cubes Flakemeal biscuit Fresh fruit pot Artic Roll Homemade shortbread Ice Cream tub Packed Lunch: 1. Freshly cut sandwiches/baguette/flour tortilla try Something New today 2. Whole milk or spring water 3. Salad tub or vegetable sticks 4. Vanilla rice pot/jelly pot/whole fresh fruit/homemade biscuit or chose from desserts above

(packed lunch includes one item from each group)