

St. Catherine's Nursery School

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Note: Monday 6th December 2021

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

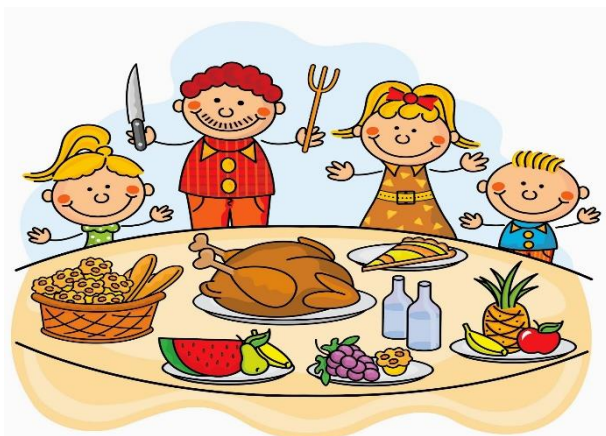
Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Our Christmas Dinner will take place on

Friday 10th December.

Any child may choose to take Christmas Dinner on this day if they wish. Christmas Dinner is the same cost as normal school dinner £2.60

It will also be Christmas Jumper Day and we ask all children to wear their Christmas Jumper and casual clothes to school on this day. We invite children to make a small donation of £1 to help with school funds for raising much needed money for our new interactive whiteboards!



Attention Year 7 Parents:

Year 7 Post Primary Applications

If you are the parent of a pupil in Year 7, you will be required to make an application for their new Post Primary School using an ONLINE system this year (just like the one that the parents of Nursery and Year 1 Pupils use). The Online Portal will open for applications on Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 12 Noon until Wednesday 23rd February. Further information on the process will be available from the EA Website in due course.

As we get more information in school we will share this with you.

If your child has a statement of Special Educational Needs you will go to school in the usual way to complete a Transfer Review and you do not have to apply online.

If any parent would like to meet with Principal / Year 7 Staff ahead of the Online admissions process please email Principal Mrs B Wilders at bwilders592@c2kni.net and an appointment can be arranged.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back open again across our two sites. Breakfast Club is for our little pupils only (due to ongoing safety restrictions).

Breakfast Club opens at 8.15am and closes sharply at 9am. If any child starts class at 8.50am they should leave breakfast club in time for class!

BIG FRIDAY Breakfast has NOT returned to the Senior School Site yet. We will keep you updated if this changes!



Celebrating Christmas Nursery – Year 4

All the children in our school are staff are of course thinking about and preparing for Christmas as we enter the season of Advent but our littlest children are also preparing a little Christmas showcase.

Nursery : Our little Twinkling Stars in Nursery will sing a little selection of
of Christmas Songs.

Year 1 A: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 1 B: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 2 A: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 2 B: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 3 A: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 3 B: The Christmas Nativity Story

Year 4 A: Christmas Assembly : The Meaning Of Christmas

Year 4 B : Christmas Assembly : The Meaning Of Christmas



The children and staff have worked so hard and are really excited to share their efforts. We will film their performance for you and upload to Social Media. When we get each class recorded, we will upload them to our website and email the link out to you (before the Christmas Holidays so that you can get a wee chance to look at the efforts of the children in each class bubble and get into the feeling of Christmas through the eyes of our children! This obviously can be shared with extended family members.

This year we are also (for the first time since December 2019) going to give a LIVE PERFORMANCE from each class bubble group which will take place in the School Assembly Hall. It must be noted that due to health and safety advice, we can only have TWO Members of a child's family attend. As we will be trying our best not to overcrowd and to socially distance we have to be firm about the number of adults that can safely be accommodated into the size of our school assembly hall. We hope that you can understand and support us in this. We will respectfully request that visitors wear a face covering during the visit as per our visitors guidance in school.

Please see dates below for LIVE PERFORMANCES for each class.

We will ask each parent visitor to make a donation to our FUNDRAISING Efforts for Clevertouch Interactive Whiteboards if they attend their child's LIVE PERFORMANCE. There will also be a raffle at the event. So dig deep for our little children!!



Nativity Live Performances December 2021

Junior School Years 1-4:

Year 1 A: Monday 13th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 1 B : Tuesday 14th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 2 A: Wednesday 15th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 2 B: Thursday 16th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 3 A: Monday 13th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 3 B: Tuesday 14th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 4 A: Wednesday 15th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 4 B: Thursday 16th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Nursery:

NR1: Monday 20th December at 10am in the Senior School Assembly Hall

NR2: Tuesday 21st December at 10am in the Senior School Assembly Hall



Family Club (For Year 1 and Year 2 Pupils who have older brothers/ sisters in school).

Family club for pupils in Years 1 and 2 will reopen on Monday 10th January .

A note was sent home last week about this. Please return this note if you would like your child in Year 1 or Year 2 to remain at school until 3pm Monday – Thursday if they have an older brother or sister in school. We hope that this will help parents to facilitate only ONE collection time from Monday – Thursday for their families.



Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas Holidays on Wednesday 22nd December at 12 Noon.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2022.

Thank you so much for all your patience, understanding and support. It means so much to us.

God bless you all.



Uniform Recycling

We have Uniform Recycling Bins at the front of each school site. If anyone has any unwanted / outgrown items of St. Catherine's Uniforms that they would like to donate please place the items in the BLUE Uniform Recycling Bin at the front of each site.

Many thanks in advance for your kindness.



General Clothing Recycling

We have a large General Clothing Recycling Bank at the front of the Senior School Site on the left hand side of the walk way to Nursery. All items of clothing, bedlinen, curtains, fabric etc can be placed in this bin. It is emptied regularly by the Recyclers and any money raised goes towards school funds. You can help our school funds and become even more Eco Friendly by using this facility. Thank you in advance for any support that you can give.





Latest News:

Our hard working P.T.F.A. have been beavering away trying to find ways to raise much needed money for new CLEVERTOUCH INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS for our little children's classes. These are state of the art technology...only the best for our little children! We have interactive whiteboards in all classes but some of these now need updated! They cost £3400 each approximately. Now there's a challenge!!

So far we have raised £485 from our Hallowe'en Cinema Activity in school.

We have now announced a GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW.

DRAW CARDS with 20 lines each on them have been sent home to our little children ..one for each pupil. We know that times are difficult for families so we only ask that each child does their best to sell some or ideally ALL of the lines on their card. The lines cost £1 each so each card raises £20 per child if filled. If our little children can fill their card, they will then be entered into a special draw for those who sold a full card. The prize is a chocolate hamper! Tasty! All draw cards should be returned no later than Friday 10th December and the Grand Draw will take place on Wednesday 15th December. Prizewinners will be notified to their mobile number after the draw.

There are 25 fabulous prizes in the draw which are all listed on the back of the Draw Cards.

Heartfelt thanks to local businesses for very kindly donating gifts both for our Christmas Draw and also for prizes for Christmas Nativity Raffles and other upcoming fundraising events in our school. We have made a little film to thank our sponsors for their generosity in these very challenging times.

If anyone would like to join our P.T.F.A. to give a little time to helping raise much needed funds for our little children in school, you are more than welcome....always happy to have more in the team!

Keep an eye out for future upcoming fundraising events!!

Many thanks , St. Catherine's Nursery and Primary School P.T.F.A.

Prayer of the Month for December

Prayer for Advent

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





Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

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...

There is so much you can learn when you listen. You can be a good friend by listening. Listening is often the only thing needed to help someone. Be a good listener today to learn new things and to be a good friend.



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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 you should just drop a little email to Mrs B. Wilders (Principal) at her email address bwilders592@c2kni.net 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: <https://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk/admissions/open-day-films/nursery-421/>

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



ONLINE DIGITAL Admission Process

Every year the application process for both NURSERY and YEAR ONE Places must be completed online by parents.

The ONLINE system will open at 12 NOON on Monday 10th JANUARY 2022 and will close at 12 Noon on Friday 28th JANUARY 2021.

The ONLINE link is below www.eani.org.uk (Click on admissions)

We appreciate that this is new to some parents and some parents might find this process a little unnerving. Some parents may apply online with ease, however for any that would like a little extra support and guidance, we have arranged for little “Drop in Sessions” in school so that parents can come in and apply for a place for their child with staff there ready to help and guide in the process.

The times that staff will be available to help are in the table below.

Day /Date	Location	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Monday 10th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Tuesday 11th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 12th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Thursday 13th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Friday 14th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Monday 17th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Tuesday 18th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 19th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm

It should be noted that even though Parents make their applications for places ONLINE, they must also bring a paper copy of their PROOF OF ADDRESS and their CHILD’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE to their first preference school by 12 Noon on Friday 4th FEBRUARY 2022 at the latest.

What should I do now?

- ▶ Parents need to set up an email account if you do not already have one
- ▶ Check out the Education Authority (EA) website regarding Guidance on applications.....
www.eani.org.uk/digitaladmissions
- ▶ Plan for how to complete the application ...perhaps plan to attend a drop in session in school. You can book today by emailing Mrs C Kelly (Admissions Officer on ckelly452@c2kni.net or ring the school to get booked in on 02871 382614 and asking for Mrs Clare Kelly!)

It should be noted that even though Parents make their applications for places ONLINE, they must also bring

- ▶ 1. A paper copy of their PROOF OF ADDRESS,
- ▶ 2. CHILD's BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- ▶ 3. DSS (Confirmation of Income Support)

to their first preference school by 4th FEBRUARY 2022 before 12 Noon at the latest.

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.

Community Support Notice

If your family or any family that you know needs any emergency help for Christmas Help can be sought by contacting the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

The helpline number is 02871 384488.

When the helpline number is rung; please leave the name, address and telephone number in a message seeking help and the type of assistance needed. (For example food vouchers, oil vouchers 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.**

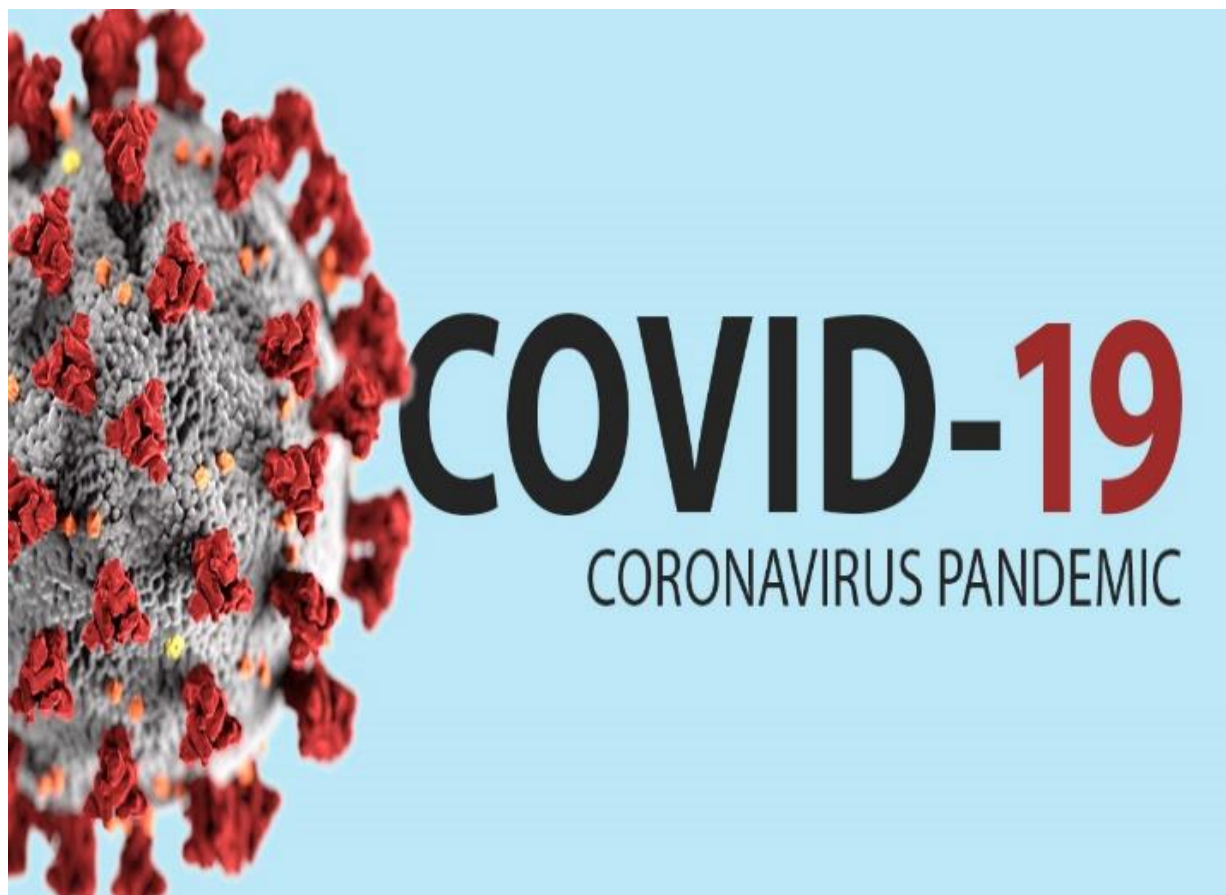
11. Every effort is being made to ensure safety in school. Parents/ carers have a responsibility for their own safety outside of the school gates. We encourage you to wear face coverings if you can and adhere to Social Distancing measures to protect yourselves and your children.

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.



Coronavirus Advice

Super Safe Superheroes

- 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
- ✓ After sneezing or blowing your nose
- ✓ Before eating
- ✓ 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:

- ✓ Coughing and sneezing into my elbow
- ✓ Putting used tissues in the bin
- ✓ 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.





St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2..	3.	4.
5.	6. P5 – P7 Pantomime Trip to Millennium Forum, Derry: Sleeping Beauty	7. P3 & P4 Pantomime Trip to Millennium Forum, Derry: Sleeping Beauty	8. P1 & P2 Pantomime Trip to Millennium Forum, Derry: Sleeping Beauty	9.	10. Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Christmas Draw cards to be returned to school	11.
12.	13. Nativity Performances for Parents: 10am P1A 2pm P3A 7pm: School Choir Group Performance in Church of the Immaculate Conception for Lights of Love Event	14. Nativity Performances for Parents: 10am P1B 2pm P3B	15. Nativity Performances for Parents: 10am P2A 2pm P4A	16. Nativity Performances for Parents: 10am P2B 2pm P4B	17.	18.
19.	20. Christmas Performance for Parents: Nursery Room 1 Senior School Assembly Hall at 10am	21. Christmas Performance for Parents: Nursery Room 2 Senior School Assembly Hall at 10am Christmas Party Day	22. Christmas Holidays: Home at 12 noon.	23.	24.	25. Christmas Day Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	

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



Nursery School Dinner Menu – December 2021 onwards

St Catherine's Nursery 2021/2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One Nov 29th Dec 27th Jan 24th Feb 21st Mar 21st	H/M Chicken Bites Green Beans Salad Herb Dice Mashed Potatoes Semolina/ Fruit Crackers & Cheese RMF	Salmon Fish Cakes Peas / Salad Mashed Potatoes Parsley Sauce Flakemeal Biscuits / Fruit Custard (RMF)	Baked Gammon Stuffing & Gravy / Creamed Potatoes Cabbage / Carrots Salad Fruit Salad Artic Roll (H)	Spaghetti Bolognese Scone Topping / Salad Broccoli / Carrots Mashed Potatoes Fruit Muffin / Fruit Custard (H)	O/B Sausages Baked Beans / Carrots Chips Mashed Potatoes Salad Decorated Sponge Fruit & Custard
Week Two Dec 6th Jan 3rd Jan 31st Feb 28th Mar 28th	Chicken Curry Rice Mixed Vegetables Salad Mashed / Baked Potatoes Decorated Mousse Fruit / Ice Cream (H)	Cheese Tomato Pizza Baked Beans / Broccoli Oven Dice / Baby Boiled Potatoes Salad Rice Pudding & Fruit Cheese & Biscuits (RMF)	Roast Meat Dinner Stuffing & Gravy / Salad / Creamed Potatoes Baton Carrots / Cabbage Wholemeal Biscuits / Fruit / Custard (H)	Oven Baked Fish Peas / White Sauce Salad Mashed Potatoes Fruit Muffin / Fruit Custard (RMF)	Home Made Beef Burger & Bap Sweetcorn / Green Beans Salad Chips / Mashed Potatoes Fruit Sponge / Fruit Custard
Week Three Nov 15th Dec 13th Jan 10th Feb 7th Mar 7th-Apr 4th	Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets Carrots / salad Baby Boiled / Mashed Potatoes Jelly / Fruit Ice Cream	Oven Baked Beef Burgers & Onion Gravy Peas / Sweetcorn Herb Dice / Mashed Potatoes / Salad Fruit Cookies / Fruit Custard (H)	Roast Chicken / Turkey Stuffing & Gravy Creamed Potatoes Cabbage / Carrots Salad Fruit Sponge / Fruit Custard (RMF) (H)	Oven Baked Fish Sweetcorn / Peas Mashed Potatoes Salad Date Squares / Fruit Custard (RMF)	Hot Dogs Baked Beans / Carrots Tossed salad / Coleslaw Chips / Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Biscuits Fruit / Custard
Week Four Nov 22nd Dec 20th Jan 17th Feb 14th Mar 14th-Apr 11th	Oven Baked Fish Green Beans / Mixed Vegetables Salad Mashed / Baked Potatoes Fruit Cracknell / Fruit Custard (RMF)	H/M Chicken Bites Broccoli / Carrots Salad Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding/ Fruit Frozen Yoghurt	Roast Beef / Pork Stuffing & Gravy Creamed Potatoes Turnips / Carrots Salad Fruit Crumble / Sponge Fruit / Custard (H)	Beef Burger & Bap Mixed Vegetables Oven Dice / Mashed Potatoes / Salad Fruit Muffins / Fruit Custard (H)	O B Sausages Baked Beans Chips Mashed Potatoes Flakemeal Biscuit / Fruit Custard (RMF)

**school
food**

try something new today

www.schoolfoodni.com

**Bread, Fresh Fruit,
Yoghurt, Milk and Water
are available daily.**

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

