

St. Catherine's Nursery School

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Note: Monday 7th February 2022

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

Reminder: Mid Term Break

Our little children and staff have been very busy indeed since returning to school in January at the start of this new school term. We are aware that although everyone has been working so hard, it has not been without considerable challenges presented by the ongoing impact of Covid in our community.

Our little pupils and family will welcome our planned Mid Term Break in February.

School will be closed from Monday 14th February through to Friday 18th February (inclusive) and will reopen as usual on Monday 21st February as usual.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date this term and sincerely hope that all our little families have a well earned break and a good rest spending quality family time together!



Prayer of the Month for February

Prayer For the Family

Lord, we thank you for our family

For the talents and good things that you have given each of us
Please guide us, protect us and equip us

This day and every day

As we grow together in Your love

Amen.

PATHS Quote of the Month

February

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 February's quote...

Remember to compliment yourself, you are awesome. By being yourself you put something beautiful and unique into the world.

Think of all your lovely qualities and give yourself a compliment today



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 at 4pm. Further information on the process will be available from the EA Website . Please click on link below.

[Post-Primary School Admissions Guide | Education Authority Northern Ireland \(eani.org.uk\)](https://eani.org.uk)

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!



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

We are delighted that Family Club will open after the Mid Term Break for pupils in Years 1 and 2 who have older siblings in our school. The names of the pupils who were previously registered can attend this club from Monday 21st February onwards!!



Keeping in Touch!

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 important 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 ckelly452@c2kni.net . 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!



KEEP IN TOUCH
- . . . - . / . . - . / -

SUPERHERO WEEK

7TH - 11TH FEBRUARY 2022

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Get your school's superheroes to assemble for Autism NI's **SUPERHERO WEEK** and help raise autism awareness in your school and at home!

FUN

Wow!



cool!

- Each pupil will be given five superhero tasks to do at home.
- Once all pupils complete their superhero tasks, they will receive their Superhero Status from Autism NI and hold a dress up day.



Pupil Name: _____



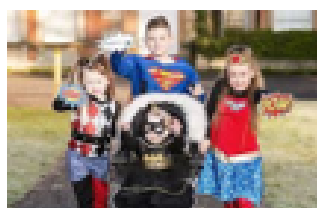
Superhero Week – 7th – 11th February 2022

Help us join primary schools across Northern Ireland and get our school's Superheroes to assemble for Autism NI's Superhero Week running from 7th – 11th February 2022, to help raise awareness of Autism in school and at home and earn points for your House!

To take part each pupil will be given five Superhero Tasks to do at home. Then, on day five, our school will hold a Superhero Dress-Up Day with each pupil coming to school dressed as their favourite Superhero! They will bring in £1.00 to donate to Autism NI.

They will earn 10 points for their TEAM Houses for each completed task!!

They can earn up to 50 House points by Friday!!!



SUPERHERO TASKS



Task 1 Be as STRONG as SUPERMAN

•help carry the shopping

Signed: _____



Task 2 BE as SMART as IRONMAN

•Do your homework

Signed: _____

Task 3 Be as KIND as WONDERWOMAN

•Share your toys

Signed: _____

Task 4 Be as GENEROUS as BLACK PANTHER

•Give a compliment

Signed: _____



Task 5 BE AMAZING like SUPERMAN

•Tidy your room

Signed: _____

Your Super Parent/Carer will sign to say you have completed your Superhero tasks.

Confirmation

Confirmation will take place for all our Year 7 Pupils and their families on Saturday 26th March 2022 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception with our own Fr Boland PP.

Confirmation Mass for Year 7 A (Mrs O’Kane’s Class) will take place at 11am

Confirmation Mass for Year 7 B (Mrs Daly’s Class) will take place at 2pm

Further guidance and details will follow closer to the date.



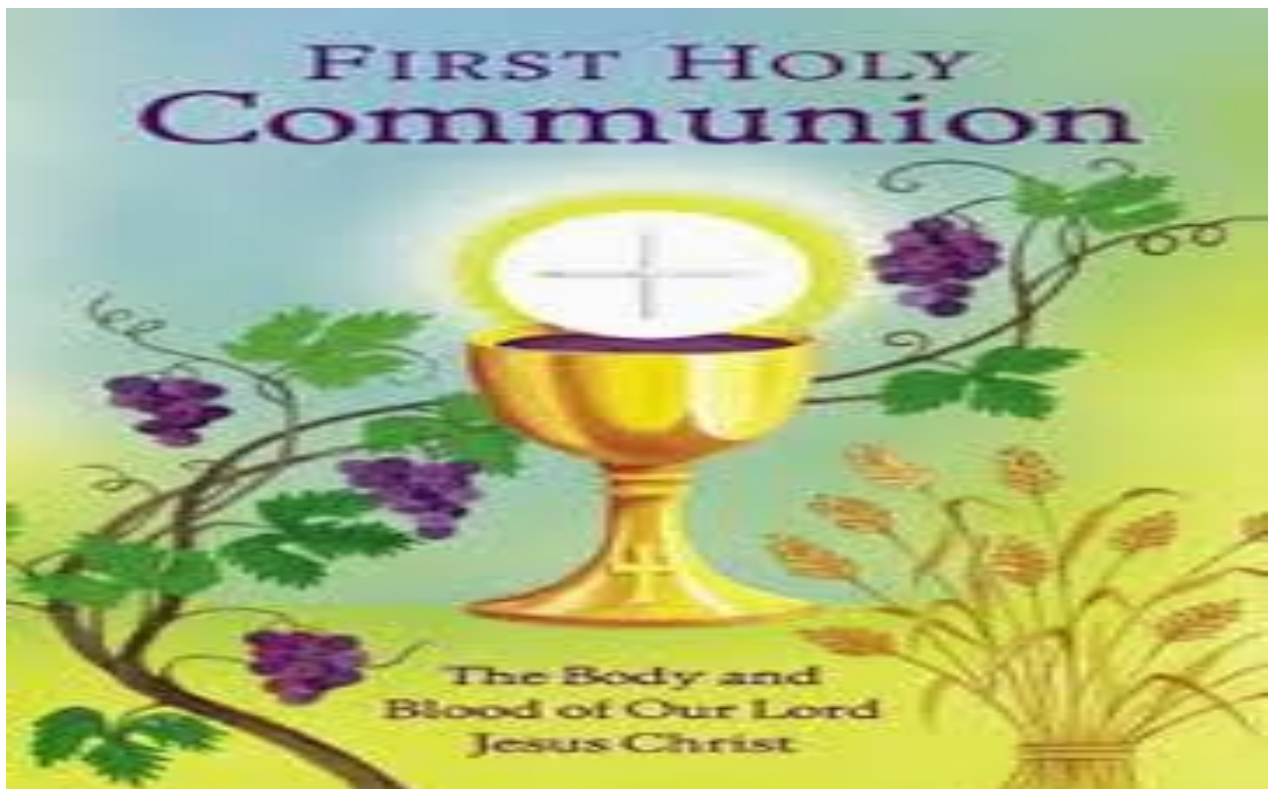
First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place for all our Year 4 Pupils and their families on Saturday 30th April 2022 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception with our own Fr Boland PP.

First Holy Communion Mass for Year 4 A (Mrs Vaughan's Class) will take place at 11am

First Holy Communion Mass for Year 4 B (Mrs Connolly's Class) will take place at 2pm

Further guidance and details will follow closer to the date.



Extended Schools Clubs Newsletter Term 2

A copy of the Term 2 Extended Schools Newsletter with available after school clubs will be distributed this week in school. Please feel free to sign up for any relevant clubs that interest your child.

It is to be noted that after school Family Club for pupils in Years 1 and 2 who have older siblings in Years 3-7 will begin on Monday 21st February.

Other clubs upcoming will include Year 1 and 2 Mini Me Yoga, Year 4 Irish Dancing, Year 6 Booster Club, Year 6 and 7 Soccer/ Netball/ Fundamental Movement etc. See Newsletter for details.

Your patience with after school clubs is much appreciated, as we continue to operate class bubble groups as part of our safety plans in school. Mrs. C. Gormley (Extended Schools Leader)



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!! This work is ongoing and continues.

So far we have raised £485 from our Hallowe'en Cinema Activity in school and then we raised a massive £6888 from our Grand Christmas Draw. We are totally delighted with this and have already ordered TWO NEW WHITEBOARDS. Thank you so much to pupils, families and friends who supported this initiative.

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!!

We had to postpone our PTFA AGM (Annual General Meeting) in January but we will now hopefully be able to host this on WEDNESDAY 2nd March at 6.30pm. If anyone would like to attend please email Mrs Wilders (Principal) on bwilders592@c2kni.net so that we have an idea of numbers and hence ensure safety.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

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

Surestart Message of the Month for February:

Crawlers to walkers babblers
to talkers... talking is as important as
walking



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

Upcoming Sponsored Funfitness Fundraising Day

All proceeds in aid of our Clever Touch Interactive Whiteboards Fund.

More details will follow regarding a SPONSORED FUNFITNESS Day in school for all our children.

More news will follow shortly!!

We thank you for your continuing support in our bid to gain the absolute latest technology to enhance our little children's learning.



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 in January

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).

† St. Vincent de Paul



Neighbors helping neighbors.®

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.
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/ Lateral Flow COVID TEST. Note Lateral Flow Test Results are now considered as confirmation of Covid. 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.**

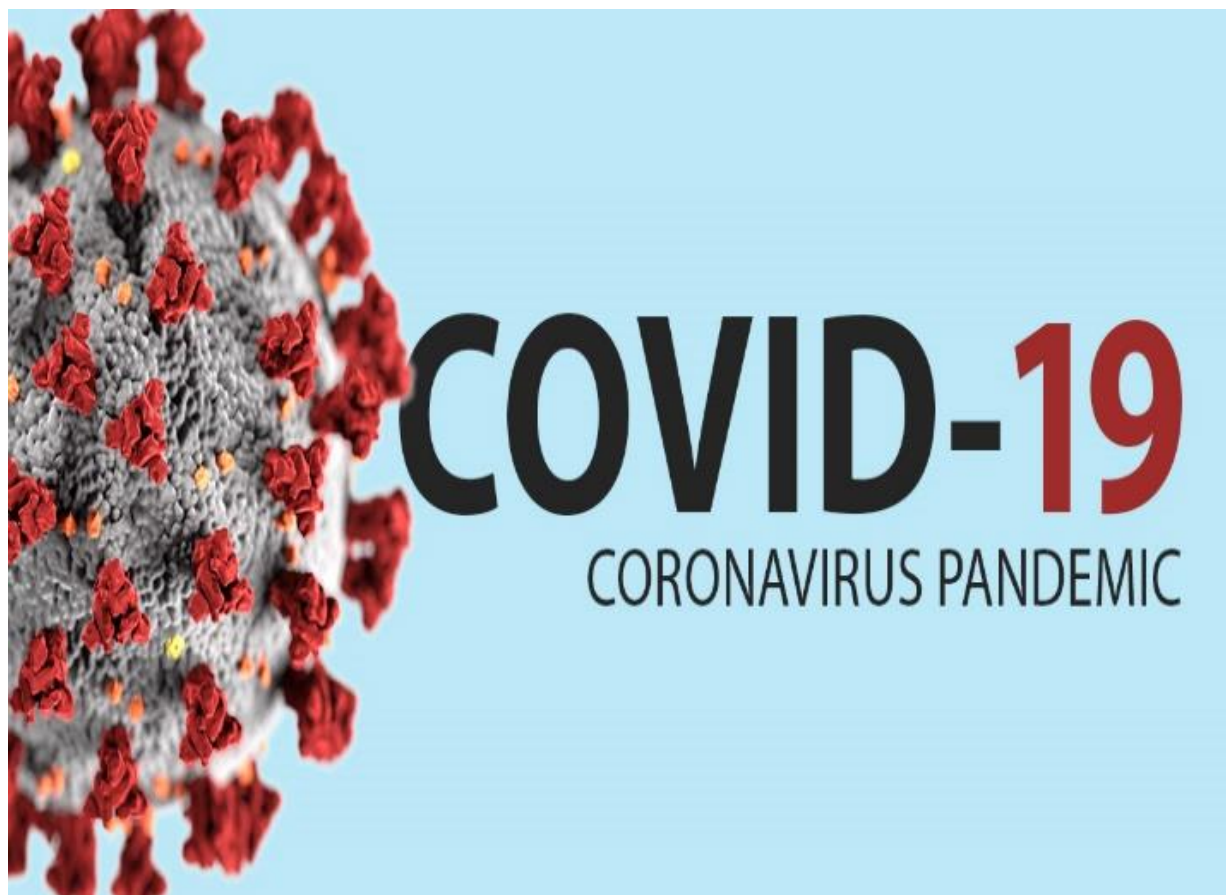
11. Every effort is being made to ensure safety in school. Parents/ carers have a responsibility for their own safety outside of the school gates. We encourage you to wear face coverings if you can and adhere to Social Distancing measures to protect yourselves and your children.

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.



Top 5 online safety tips for kids

1

Set up your device to protect your information.

2

Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.

3

Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.

4

Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.

5

Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.



Safer Internet Day in St. Catherine's on TUESDAY 8th February.

As part of our education programme, children will take part in little activities in class to promote safety while using the internet.



The image shows a tablet with a grey screen. On the screen, the text "Tuesday 8th February 2022" is at the top. Below it is a blue box with the text "#PlayYourPart in creating a better internet". In the center is a large orange box with the text "ALL FUN AND GAMES" and a large black question mark to its right. Below the orange box is a blue box with the text "Exploring respect and relationships online" and a small icon of a person with a plus sign. At the bottom of the screen is the website "saferinternetday.org.uk". The tablet is decorated with colorful cubes (orange, blue, purple, yellow) on the top left and bottom right corners.

Tuesday 8th February 2022

#PlayYourPart in creating
a better internet

ALL FUN AND GAMES ?

Exploring respect and
relationships online

saferinternetday.org.uk

Safer Internet Day 2022

UK Safer Internet Centre

ALL FUN AND GAMES ?
Exploring respect and
relationships online

#SaferInternetDay

saferinternetday.org.uk

#PlayYourPart



St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1. Online Admissions for Post-Primary opens at 12 noon	2. Nursery Programme: GRTL Happy Healthy Kids	3.	4.	5.
6. AutismNI Superhero Week	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
		Safer Internet Day: <i>"All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online"</i>	Drum Therapy P5 9am – 10.30am Nursery Programme: GRTL Big Bedtime Read		Superhero Dress- Up Day	
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
Midterm Break						
20.	21. Year 1 and 2 Family Club Starts 2pm-3pm (Mondays to Thursdays)	22. Year 6 Afterschool English/ Maths Booster Club starts 3pm-4pm	23. Drum Therapy P5 9am – 10.30am Nursery Programme: GRTL Story Telling Year 4 A Irish Dancing Afterschool 3pm-4pm	24.	25.	26.
27.	28. Year 1 A Mini Me Yoga Starts 2pm- 3pm					

Happiness is being among friends.



School Dinner Menu – December 2021 onwards

St Catherine's P.S.

Winter Menu 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One 29-Nov-21 27-Dec-21 24-Jan-22 21-Feb-22 21-Mar-22	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 Flakemeal 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 06-Dec-21 03-Jan-22 31-Jan-22 28-Feb-22 28-Mar-22	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 15-Nov-21 13-Dec-21 10-Jan-22 07-Feb-22 07-Mar-22 04-Apr-22	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 22-Nov-21 20-Dec-21 17-Jan-22 14-Feb-22 14-Mar-22 11-Apr-22	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 Flakemeal 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

**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



try something new today