

St. Catherine's Nursery School

Principal: Mrs. Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

Email: bwilders592@c2kni.net



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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Note: Monday 4th December 2023

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

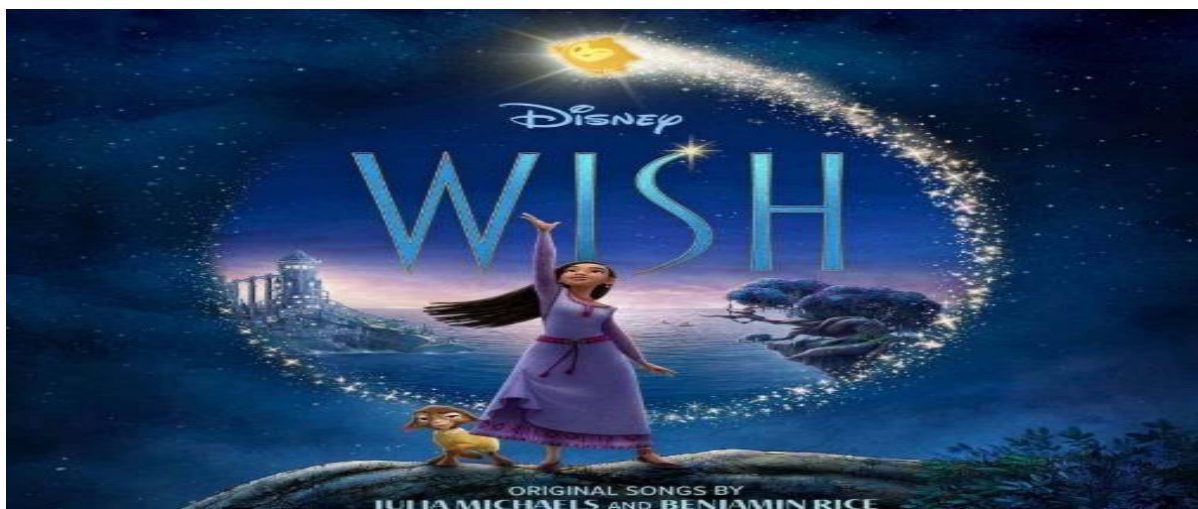
A Trip to see the new Disney Film "Wish" at Lifford/Strabane Cineplex for our littlest learners at Christmas!!

This is a Disney film which focuses on a young girl (Asha) who wishes upon a star and she is answered by a cosmic force called "Star". Asha and Star join together to defeat a villain to make things better for the community! A Disney classic which everyone should enjoy!

Show will take place on : Tuesday 12th December (Staff will take our little children on buses provided)

SEE OVER THE PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE TRIP

The trip this year should cost much more than the usual £7 but we are keeping the cost to £7 and school will pay for the cost of transport to subsidise the trip. We are aware of the challenging times that we are all living in and thought that this would be a lovely Christmas Idea for each and every child. A note has been sent out to each class for Parents to sign to give their consent for their child to go to the panto this year. The £7 fee can be paid via the school app.



Prayer of the Month

December: 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

PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking
Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month December

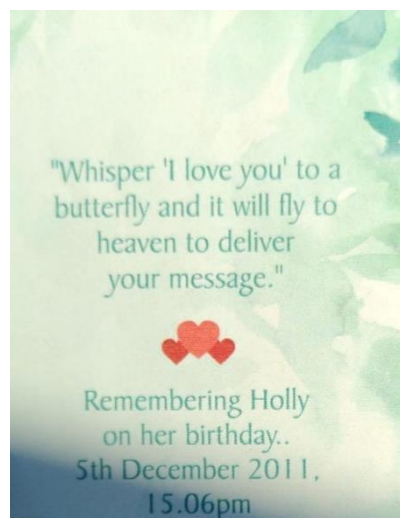
There is so much you can learn
when you listen. You can be a
good friend by listening.
Listening is often the only
thing needed to help someone.
Be a good listener today to
learn new things and to be a
good friend.





As many of you may be aware our wee HOLLY would have been 12 years old on TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER. To mark this occasion her family have designed a "Remembering Holly Memorial Pin". This will be on sale in our school this week for £5. We have 100 of them available to sell if any member of staff or parent wishes to purchase to support the cause and all proceeds will go to The Children's Cancer Unit Charity. These memorial pins will be available from the school office on each site.

God bless Mrs Gormley and all the family at this time of year especially as their journey continues, please keep them in your heart and in your prayers.



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 30th January 2024 at 12 Noon until Thursday 22nd February 2024. 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.



Excitement builds for our Trip to the Panto in Derry .

A few little points to note ahead of our upcoming Panto Trips.

1. All pupils should wear their FULL WINTER UNIFORM on the trip so that they can be easily recognizable to staff
2. All pupils should arrive promptly to school on the day of their panto trip as buses will leave promptly
3. Children should bring a coat
4. Children should bring a packed lunch with no glass bottles (for health and safety reasons). Children may bring a little treat in their lunch bag on this special day.
5. Children in Years 1 and 2 should be collected from school at the later time of 2.30pm on the day of their Panto to allow for traffic and the performance time of the panto.
6. If any delays in travel are experienced; parents will be text messaged to let you know and keep you updated.
7. Children do not need spending money



Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Our Christmas Dinner will take place on

Thursday 7th 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.



Christmas Holidays.

School will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 22nd DECEMBER at 12 Noon and will reopen again for all on TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, it means so much.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2024.



Helping Others for Christmas: DONATE ONE

NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM

We pride ourselves on being a FAMILY SCHOOL. We try to look out for each other and show that we care for each other when we can.

Charity does also begin at home they say and that is why all our fundraising efforts to date have been to enable the FREE Panto Christmas Trip for all pupils in the school so that no one is disappointed and has a lovely treat for Christmas but we are also conscious that times are very hard for so many.

To this end, it has been suggested that we ask each child to bring in ONE NON PERISHABLE item from home for example; tin of beans, tin of soup, bag of rice, bag of pasta...anything in the cupboard that is SPARE and can be donated. Our staff will use these items collected to make Christmas Food Hampers and donate them to the Foodbank. It must be emphasized that this is purely voluntary and people should feel under no pressure to buy things or donate if they are not able to do so.

This is just a thought to try to help in some way for those in greater need than ourselves. If any child contributing could bring their FOOD ITEM to school **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER** and the items will be gathered in the Assembly Hall on each school site where staff and some children will then make the hampers.

Thanks for your support.



Confirmation Dates

Fr Boland will celebrate Confirmation with our Year 7 Pupils this year. Dates are as follows:

Year 7 A (Mrs Gillespie's Class) :
Saturday 9th March at 11am

Year 7 B (Mrs Daly's Class) :
Saturday 9th March at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



First Holy Communion Dates

Fr Boland will celebrate First Holy Communion with our Year 4 Pupils this year. Dates are as follows:

Year 4 A (Ms Mather's Class) :
Saturday 20th April at 11am

Year 4 B (Ms Kelly's Class) :
Saturday 20th April at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



Encouraging School Attendance!

We are delighted that we have no further challenges to our little children attending face to face teaching and learning in school like we suffered during Covid. To this end, we ask for parents support by encouraging school attendance every day. We understand that from time to time a child may be ill and if this happens please email the teacher or ring the school so that the correct absence code can be recorded for your child to explain the absence. Our school policy aims for at least 90% school attendance for every child. Help us to achieve this. To this end we will be giving out termly **BREAKFAST CLUB VOUCHERS** for any child who achieves 90% and more attendance. (Previously we gave for 100% but in order to support and encourage our children trying so hard we will give these vouchers now for any child who achieves between 90-100%). Thank you for your continued support!



Do this in Memory First Holy Communion Programme 2023 2024 for Year 4 Pupils and their Families.

Fr Boland warmly invites you all.....

PARENTS INDUCTION MEETING about Holy Communion Preparation this year on

MONDAY 13th November in the JUNIOR SCHOOL Assembly Hall at 7pm.

And then to the following Family Masses.....



DATES AND TIMES OF THE MASSES OF DO THIS IN MEMORY 2023 2024

Enrolment Sunday (Feast of Christ the King)

Sunday, 26 November 2023 at 12 Noon

Saturday, 13 January 2024 at 6.30pm

Sunday, 3 March 2024 at 10am

Saturday, 23 March 2024 at 6.30pm

*Saturday, 20 April 2024 at 11am (Year 4 A) & 2pm (Year 4 B)
First Holy Communion*

Sunday, 2 June 2024

Feast of Ascension

*Procession from Grotto to Church of the Immaculate Conception for 12 Noon Mass in Holy
Communion Outfits*



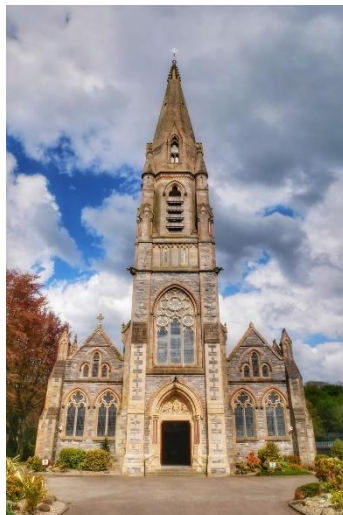
Confirmation Preparation Masses 2023 2024 for our Year 7 Pupils and their families.

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 2nd December 2023

6.30pm Mass

Moved by the Spirit

Sunday 28th January 2024

10.00am Mass

Called by Name

Sunday 4th February 2024

12.00 noon Mass

Confirmation Retreat

Wednesday 6th March 2024

9.30am – 12.00 noon

Confirmation Practice

Thursday 7th March 2024

7.00pm in Church

Confirmation

Saturday 9th March 2024

Year 7 A @11am

Year 7 B @2pm)



Starting Nursery or Primary School in September 2024?

Do you have or do you know anyone who has a little child who is ready to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2024 and would very much like to join our family here at St. Catherine's?

ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF OUR OPEN AFTERNOONS!

Due to Covid these past two years we were unable to facilitate our Open Afternoons however this year marks their return. This provides an opportunity for the parents and prospective new pupils to see our Nursery and Year 1 classes, hear from the Principal about what our school offers and meet the staff and some pupils! A lovely introduction to the family that is St. Catherine's!

If you are interested in a place for your child to attend NURSERY or YEAR ONE in September 2024:

Nursery Open Afternoon will take place on TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER in the SENIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL (For Principal's Welcome) at 1.30pm

Year 1 Open Afternoon will take place on WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER in the JUNIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL (For Principal's Welcome) at 1.30pm

Come along to join us to find out more about what makes our little school so special!

Alternatively of the dates do not suit, if anyone would like to have a PRIVATE tour of the school (either Nursery or Primary) and a talk with the Principal about the arrangements for starting school in September 2024, we can arrange an 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 at a mutually convenient time.

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 (from previous years) which is on our website which you can watch to learn a little more about our Nursery and Primary School in the meantime. 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/>



Just some of the fabulous resource facilities in our School: Our school is a split site campus with many benefits indeed, some of which are listed below;

1. A highly qualified and dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff team who work so hard to give the absolute best provision for all children in their care
2. Two FIVE STAR Canteens (one on each site) where fresh food is made in each one on a daily basis. They host a breakfast club also which is open from 8.15am until 8.50am each day. We serve HOT FOOD FULL BREAKFASTS on FRIDAYS also!
3. Two ICT Suites (one on each site) with a full range of state-of-the-art Hard drive Computers
4. Well-resourced classrooms with Ipads and Clever Touch Interactive Whiteboards in every class
5. Two SENSORY ROOMS (one on each site) to give an additional facility for children with sensory needs. We also have a NURSERY SENSORY Facility for our littlest learners.
6. NURTURE Facility for children who benefit from additional specialist nurture support
7. Two LEARNING SUPPORT Rooms (one on each site) so that specialist support can be given to children who need help with Literacy and Numeracy
8. Two NEW EDUCATION AUTHORITY SPECIALIST LEARNING CENTRE Provisions, one on each school site (Junior School and Senior School) for children who experience Learning Needs and can avail of specialist support in a very small class setting as opposed to full larger mainstream classes. Children are referred into this class by Educational Psychologist.
9. Two LIBRARIES (one on each site) for class use to promote a love of reading
10. FIVE OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS (across both sites including Nursery) to promote a love of outdoor play
11. Two OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS (one on each site) to promote a love of learning outdoors
12. Two OUTDOOR Polytunnels (one on each site) to promote a love of nature and the importance of plant growth and its food importance
13. Two SPORTS HALLS (one on each site) marked out for sports games with well stocked PE Stores full of sports equipment.
14. After school Family Club for pupils of Year 1 and 2 with older siblings in the school to facilitate one home time at 3pm per family
15. A variety of AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS across each site
16. After School Literacy / Numeracy Booster Clubs for Year 6 and 7 Pupils
17. Modern Language Provision Chinese Language and Culture (Years 1-7) and Irish Language and Culture (Year 7)
18. Extensive Opportunities for Music Development (Brass, Strings, Vocals, Musical Pathways)
19. Extensive Opportunities for Drama Development Christmas Nativities (Nursery – Year 4), KS2 Musical Productions
20. A CATHOLIC MAINTAINED ALL INCLUSIVE SCHOOL that embraces all children/ families and focuses on developing each child as an individual
21. A school that values learning in school and out of school.....a modern approach to learning!

All of this and more!!



Guess who is coming to our school for a little visit?

We will have special visitors in the Junior School on Wednesday 13th December and in the Senior School on Friday 15th December...let the excitement and spirit of Christmas build for our precious little children. We are truly blessed.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

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 Tuesday 9th JANUARY 2024 and will close at 12 Noon on Friday 26th JANUARY 2024.

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

Although in operation for three years now, we appreciate that this applications process can be still 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
Tuesday 9 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 10 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Thursday 11 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Friday 12 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Monday 15 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Tuesday 16 th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 17 th 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 upload a copy of their PROOF OF ADDRESS and their CHILD’s BIRTH CERTIFICATE to EA Website



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 upload to the EA Website

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



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 Room 1 : Christmas Nativity “The stars shone bright for Christmas!”

Nursery Room 2 : Christmas Nativity “The stars shone bright for Christmas!”

Year 1 A: Ring Out The Bells for Christmas

Year 1 B: Ring Out The Bells for Christmas

Year 2 A: Ring Out The Bells for Christmas

Year 2 B: Ring Out The Bells for Christmas

Year 3 A & B : A Christmas Nativity Concert Celebration

Year 4 A & B : Christmas Assembly : The Meaning Of Christmas

The children and staff have worked so hard and are really excited to share their efforts.

This year we are also going to give a LIVE PERFORMANCE from each class / year group which will take place in the School Assembly Hall. It must be noted that due to limited seating space, we can only have THREE Members of a child’s family attend. We hope that you can understand and support us in this.

Please see dates below for LIVE PERFORMANCES for each class.

We will ask each parent visitor to make a voluntary donation to our FUNDRAISING Efforts towards our CHRISTMAS PANTO FUND for if they can when 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 2023

Junior School Years 1-4:

Year 1 A: Friday 15th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

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

Year 2 A: Tuesday 12th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 2 B: Monday 19th December at 10am in Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 3 A: Monday 18th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 3 B: Wednesday 20th December at 2pm in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 4 A: Monday 18th December at 10am in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Year 4 B: Wednesday 20th December at 10am in the Junior School Assembly Hall

Nursery:

NR1: Monday 11th December at 10am in the Senior School Assembly Hall

NR2: Wednesday 13th December at 10am in the Senior School Assembly Hall



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 07784037066.

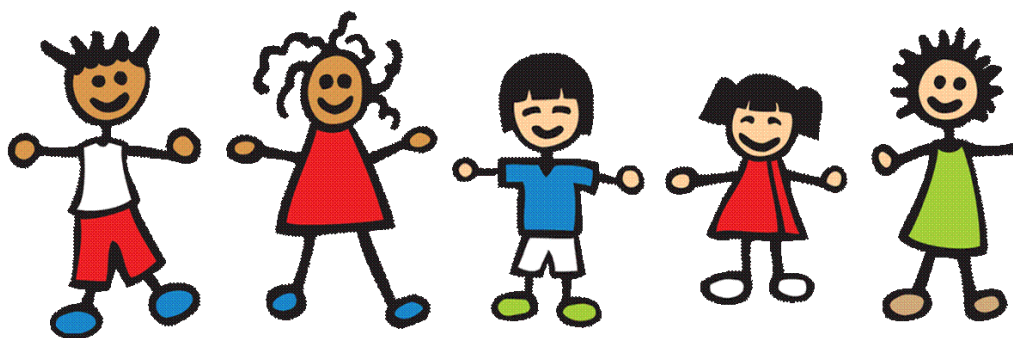
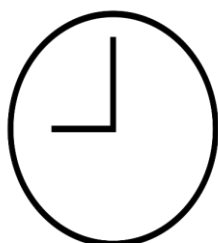
When the helpline number is rung; please leave the name, address and telephone number in a message seeking help and the type of assistance needed. (For example food vouchers, oil vouchers etc).



School Start Times and Collection Times

Year Group	Drop off / Collection Point	Start Time	Finish Time
Nursery Room 1	Nursery Room 1 External Door	9am-9.30am	1.30pm- 1.40pm
Nursery Room 2	Nursery Room 2 External Door	9am-9.30am	1.30pm- 1.40pm
Year 1A (Mrs Doherty)	Pupil Front door facing school gate	8.50am-9am	2.10pm
Year 1B (Miss Hutton)	Back Door opposite the Play Trail	8.50am-9am	2.10pm
Year 2 A (Mrs Mc Glynn)	Back Door opposite the Play Trail	8.50am-9am	2.15pm
Year 2 B (Ms Y Mc Gowan)	Pupil Front door facing school gate nearest to Mrs Doherty's classroom in Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	2.15pm
Learning Centre (Junior School) (Mrs Hamilton)	Middle Floor Door near mobile classroom at the back of the Junior School	8.50am-9am	2.10pm (Year 1) 2.15pm (Year 2) 3pm (Year 3 & 4 Pupils except Feel Good Friday)
Year 3 A (Miss M Maguire)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 3 B (Mrs S Vaughan/ Mrs L Downey)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 4 A (Miss E Mathers)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 4 B (Ms B Kelly)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 5 A (Ms C Gallagher/ Mrs C Gormley)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 5A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 5 B (Miss A Kerr/ Mrs S O'Kane)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 5B	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)

	Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class		
Year 6 A (Miss E Keyes)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door and line up at Year 6A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 6 B (Mrs C Deery)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door and line up at Year 6B Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 7 A (Mrs C Gillespie)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 7A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 7 B (Mrs B Daly)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 7B Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Learning Centre (Senior School)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Learning Centre Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)



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
Ms K Carlin	Nursery Room 2	kcarlin208@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 Y Mc Gowan	Year 2 B	ymcgowan609@c2kni.net
Miss M Maguire	Year 3 A	mmaguire497@c2kni.net
Mrs S Vaughan/ Mrs L Downey	Year 3 B	svaughan325@c2kni.net ldowney759@c2kni.net
Miss E Mathers	Year 4 A	emathers571@c2kni.net
Ms B Kelly	Year 4 B	bkelly663@c2kni.net
Ms C Gallagher	Year 5 A	cgallagher328@c2kni.net
Miss A Kerr	Year 5 B	akerr341@c2kni.net
Miss E Keyes	Year 6 A	ekeyes746@c2kni.net
Mrs C Deery	Year 6 B	cdeery318@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Gillespie	Year 7 A	cgillespie221@c2kni.net
Mrs B Daly	Year 7 B	bdaly611@c2kni.net
Mrs C Connolly	Learning Centre (Senior School)	cconnolly309@c2kni.net
Mrs. C. Hamilton	Learning Centre (Junior School)	chamilton290@c2kni.net



Debutots Update

We are simply delighted to share that we are introducing a new and exciting programme within our school called “Debutots”. This programme is designed to offer interactive storytelling and dramatic play sessions with our children. The classes will help develop children’s language skills and also promote confidence and ability. Please see attached information letter from Debutots.

We have been offering this programme to all our little learners in Nursery, Year 1 and in our Learning Centre.

Lessons will be carried out by facilitators in the classrooms with our staff during the school day and began just after the Hallowe’en Break.

Mondays : Nursery Room 1 and Nursery Room 2 Pupils

Fridays : Year 1A Pupils, Year 1 B Pupils and Learning Centre Pupils

The programme will continue until Easter. Parents can sign up for updates from DEBUTOTS.



School Money App

We are currently exploring the possibility of making an app available to parents to pay school dinners, school trip costs, milk money etc online through the use of the School Money App. This would mean that you would not have to send money in to school with your child, payments could be made securely online.

We hope to be able to launch this facility in the new year. We will be sending you a short survey online shortly to see how many parents feel that this would be a very useful facility which they would like to avail of. We encourage as many parents as possible to respond to this survey.



Site Leadership Rota

Junior School : Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Mrs Wilders

Tuesday, Thursday - Miss J Doherty

Senior School: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Miss J Doherty

Tuesday, Thursday – Mrs Wilders

In the event that the Principal or Vice Principal are not available Senior Leaders or any of the Middle Leadership Team will become available for consultation.



Staff Parking

There is a Car Park on each site for STAFF. Staff arrive at school from 8.20am approx. every morning right up to 9am. To this end, we respectfully request that the entrances to the STAFF Car Parks on each site are always kept clear so that staff can gain access to each site and get ready to start the day with our wee children!!

Parents/carers/ child minders/ taxi drivers etc may NOT enter the school car park for Health and Safety Reasons unless this has been prearranged with school management for a specific reason.





MESSAGE FROM PTFA RE Grand Christmas Draw 2023

DECEMBER Updates :

We have now announced our ANNUAL 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 Sweetie hamper! Tasty! All draw cards should be returned no later than Friday 8th December and the Grand Draw will take place on Wednesday 13th December. Prizewinners will be notified to their mobile number after the draw.

There are 22 fabulous prizes in the draw which are all listed on the back of the Draw Cards.

Heartfelt thanks to local businesses and parents 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!

Sincerely Yours in Community Spirit,

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



Meet the Officers as voted in at our Annual AGM :

Heartfelt thanks to all the PTFA for giving of your time and energy to raise funds for our little children.



Mrs Noeleen Mc Crossan
(Treasurer)



Ms Maria Mc Grath
(Secretary)



Mrs Berni Allen
(Vice Chairperson)



Miss Jennifer Doherty
(Chairperson)

Surestart Message of the Month

December 2023

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



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

Promoting Internet Safety Awareness with Your Child

Although we appreciate that the Internet is a wonderful technological invention and a source of great knowledge for us all, we also appreciate that for our young people, internet and the world of social media can be a more dangerous place unless children are very aware of what is appropriate behaviour and what is safe for them. To support our parents we have included a Safety Help Poster for parents so that you, with us, can educate our little children better regarding safety on the internet and social media. Thank you for your continued support.

NOS National Online Safety

7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WakeUpWednesday

- 1 Which apps/games are you using at the moment?**
THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THEIR DEVICES, ALONG WITH THEIR INTERESTS. REMEMBER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY ARE USING, SO IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO ASK THEM TO SHOW YOU THEIR DEVICE, BECAUSE NEW APPS AND GAMES ARE RELEASED REGULARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING.
- 2 Which websites do you enjoy using and why?**
AS IN THE TIP ABOVE, ASKING THIS QUESTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE, AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY. ASK THEM HOW THEY USE THE WEBSITES, AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY CAN USE THEM IN A POSITIVE WAY, ALSO ASKING THEM TO SHOW YOU IF POSSIBLE.
- 3 How does this game/app work? Can I play?**
SHOW A GENUINE INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING, WHILST YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME OR USING AN APP WITH THEM, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IS A DANGER TO THEM, IF THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH YOU, QUESTION WHY.
- 4 Do you have any online friends?**
CHILDREN CAN FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE ONLINE, AND THIS HAS BECOME MORE COMMON THANKS TO ONLINE MULTI-PLAYER OPTIONS, BUT THEY MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND A STRANGER, YOU COULD MAKE THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHILD, FOR EXAMPLE: "HAVE YOU MET ANYONE ONLINE THAT YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WITH?" THEY MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU, SO ENSURE YOU TEACH THEM ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
- 5 Do you know where to go for help?**
ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE THE ADULT THEY TRUST THE MOST, SOME CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE DUE TO CONFUSION OR EMBARRASSMENT, BECAUSE OF THIS THEY MAY STRUGGLE TO APPROACH THE NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD HELP, SUCH AS YOURSELF OR A TEACHER, HAVE A CHAT TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP, AND HOW THEY CAN REPORT ANY ACTIVITY THAT THEY BELIEVE IS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE.
- 6 Do you know what your personal information is?**
YOUR CHILD MAY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS BUT THEY MIGHT NOT THINK ABOUT HOW IT CAN BE SHARED, HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THEM IF IT IS SHARED BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE DANGERS OF SHARING CONTACT DETAILS OR PHOTOS, AS INFORMATION SUCH AS THIS CAN SPREAD QUICKLY ONLINE.
- 7 Do you know your limits?**
CHILDREN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVICE OR GAME ADDICTION, TALK TO THEM OPENLY ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND ASK WHETHER OR NOT THEM SPENDING TIME ONLINE OR PLAYING A GAME IS AFFECTING THEIR SLEEP, PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL OR IF THEY ARE GENERALLY LOSING INTEREST IN OTHER ACTIVITIES, YOU MAY LEAD ON TO ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSING THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMITS WHEN AT HOME.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /nationalonlinesafety Phone - 0800 368 8061

We are a Healthy Eating School in St. Catherine's.

Below are the list of foods that are acceptable / not acceptable for Healthy Eating Purposes.

If you have any concerns please consult your child's teacher.

<i>Foods we consider acceptable:</i>	<i>Foods that are not acceptable:</i>
Fruit (except kiwi)	Nuts or any other products with a nut content / trace
Fruit pots	Crisps
Rice pots	Sweets
Custard pots (not chocolate flavour)	Chocolate Bars
Jelly pots	Chocolate yoghurts
Vegetables (eg. carrot sticks / celery sticks)	Chocolate Muller Corners
Sandwiches (no chocolate spreads or no peanut butter)	Chocolate biscuits
Scones	Chocolate chip cookies
Wheaten bread	All cereal bars
Pitta bread	Square Bars
Tortilla Bread	Lunchables
Pancakes	Iced Buns
Croissants (no chocolate brioche)	Pepperami
Plain buns	Fruit Winders
Ryvita / crispbreads	
Yoghurts	
Plain biscuits: Rich Tea, Digestives, Plain Crackers and Belvita Plain Biscuits	
Cheese / Dairy Lea Triangles / Cheese Slices / Baby Bel / Cheese Strings	
Breadsticks / Pretzels	
Rice Cakes	
Snack a Jacks	

<i>Foods that are not acceptable:</i>	<i>Reason Why:</i>
Nuts or any other products with a nut content / trace	We have children with a nut allergy
Crisps	High fat and salt content
Sweets	High sugar content
Chocolate Bars, chocolate yoghurts, chocolate Muller Corners, chocolate biscuits and chocolate chip cookies	High sugar content and many brands of chocolate contain traces of nuts
All cereal bars and Square Bars	High in sugar and fat content
Lunchables	High sugar content
Iced Buns	High sugar content
Pepperami	High fat content
Fruit Winders	High sugar content

Healthy
Habits



St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26. 12 noon: Year 4 Do This in Memory Enrollment Mass in Church of the Immaculate Conception.					1. Nursery Schools for Hope: Session 4 with Parents JS Assembly Hall. 10am NR1, / 10.30am NR2 Santa Daily Mile (Whole School) Year 7 Smokebusters Programme 1.15pm Netball Match, Sion Mills – Year 7 Team	2. Confirmation Preparation Mass Enkindling the Spirit: Year 7 @ 6.30pm Church of the Immaculate Conception
3.	4. Debutots: 11.20 – 12.00 NR2 12.45 – 1.25 NR1 Swimming P5B Week 5 Year 6 Your Life programme	5. Morning Athletics Club P6 & P7: 8.15am-8.45am Year 6 Your Life programme 11am Year 7B St Pat's Hall 1.30pm Open Afternoon for Nursery in Senior Site Nursery pupils go home at 12.30pm	6. 11.15am Year 6A Smokebusters Programme 1.30pm Open Afternoon for Year 1 in Junior Site. P1 pupils go home at 12.30pm Slimming World 5.30 – 7.30pm 7pm Lights of Life Mass in Church of the Immaculate Conception	7. Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner	8. Choir - SUPERVALU 11:15AM Nursery Schools for Hope: Session 5: Connecting Passion & Purpose (pupils only) PTFA Christmas Draw Cards to be returned to school.	9.
10.	11. Debutots: NR2 11.20 – 12.00 NR1 12.45 – 1.25 Christmas Panto Trip (JS) Swimming P5B Week 6 10am NR1 Nativity Performance Yr 7 HCC for Carol Service 11.15am – 12.15pm	12. STEPHEN BRADLEY PIANO RECITAL 11AM SENIOR SITE P4-7 E-Safety Workshops: P6 & P7 Morning Athletics Club P6 & P7: 8.15am-8.45am 10am P2A Nativity Performance Nursery Christmas Trip to cinema - Wish	13. 10am NR2 Nativity Performance Christmas Panto Trip (SS) Slimming World 5.30 – 7.30pm PTFA Junior School at 6.30pm Christmas Draw.	14. 10am P1B Nativity Performance Choir: MULVEY HOUSE	15. Choir - SUPERVALU 11:15AM Debutots: Year 1 & LSC Nursery Schools for Hope: Session 6 Pupils only 10am P1A Nativity Performance	16.
17.	18. ASDA CHOIR AT 10:30AM Swimming P5B Week 7 10am P4A Nativity Performance 2pm P3A Nativity Performance	19. Morning Athletics Club P6 & P7: 8.15am-8.45am 10am P2B Nativity Performance	20. 10am P4B Nativity Performance 2pm P3B Nativity Performance Slimming World 5.30 – 7.30pm	21.	22. Christmas Holidays – School closes at 12 noon.	23.
24. Christmas Holidays	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.

Upcoming Events: School closed for Christmas Holidays at 12 Noon on 22-12-23 and will reopen to pupils on TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024.



School Dinner Menu – September 2022 onwards (Please note that soup/ sandwiches are also available daily upon request if pupils do not wish to avail of the hot food choices)



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

ea catering
WEEK 1

Week commencing
Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23,
Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 22

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Spaghetti Bolognaise

SIDES

Baton Carrots
Garlic Bread Slice
Mini Corn on Cob

DESSERT

Banana Yoghurt Pot

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Classic Margherita Pizza

Or

Fish Goujon in Soft Shell
Taco & Zingy Tomato
Salsa

SIDES

Salad/Coleslaw
Chipped Potatoes/
Baked Potato

DESSERT

Strawberry Mousse &
Fruit

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Garden Peas/Sweetcorn
Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Chocolate Sponge &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Carrots & Parsnip/Savoy
Cabbage
Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Strawberry Jelly, Ice
Cream & Fruit

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Hot Dog with Tomato
Ketchup

SIDES

Baked Beans/Salad
Chipped Potatoes/Baked
Potato

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Pot &
Biscuit



MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

ea catering
WEEK 2

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 04, OCT 02, OCT 30,
NOV 27, JAN 01, JAN 29

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Sausage Roll

SIDES

Spaghetti Hoops &
Garden Peas

Chipped
Potatoes/Jacket
Potato

DESSERT

Ice Cream, Chocolate
Sauce and Sliced
Pears

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Pasta Bolognaise with
Garlic Bread

SIDES

Sweetcorn

DESSERT

Zesty Orange Sponge
& Custard

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Garden Peas

Rice

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Salad and
Yoghurt

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day with
Stuffing & Gravy

Or

Poached Salmon

SIDES

Cauliflower/Broccoli/
Carrots

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roasted Potato

DESSERT

Blueberry Muffin

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Beef Burger in a Bap
with Tomato Ketchup

SIDES

Tossed Salad

Chipped
Potatoes/Homemade
Chilli Wedges

DESSERT

Flakemeal Biscuit &
Fruit

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

ea catering
WEEK 3

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 11, OCT 9, NOV 6,
DEC 4, JAN 8, FEB 5

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Golden Crumbed Fish
Fingers

SIDES

Baked
Beans/Coleslaw

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Artic Roll with
Peaches & Pears

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Italian Beef with Crusty
Roll

SIDES

Garden Peas

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Pot

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Mini Corn on the Cob

Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Lemon Drizzle Cake &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Carrot &
Parsnip/Cauliflower
Cheese

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Melon Wedge

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Tasty Pork Sausages
with Tomato
Ketchup/Gravy

SIDES

Peas/Spaghetti Hoops

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Decorated Fairy Cake

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

ea catering
WEEK 4

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 18, OCT 16, NOV 13,
DEC 11, JAN 15, FEB 12

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Beef Bolognese with
Spaghetti or Pasta
Twists & Garlic Bread

SIDES

Peas

DESSERT

Melon, Mandarin &
Pineapple Pots with
Yoghurt Dip

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Ham & Cheese Pizza or
Pepperoni with Garlic
Dip

SIDES

Sweetcorn and Red
Pepper/Coleslaw

Chipped
Potatoes/Baked Potato

DESSERT

Jelly & Mandarin
Oranges

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Green Beans

Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Cornflake Tart &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Broccoli/Turnip

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Ice Cream, Pears &
Chocolate Sauce

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Golden Crumb Fish
Fingers

SIDES

Salad/Baked Beans

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Homemade Ginger
Biscuit and Fruit

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL