

St. Catherine's Nursery School

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

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St. Catherine's PS, Strabane



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Monthly Note: Monday 8th January 2024

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

Happy New Year 2024!

We take this opportunity to wish all our little pupils, parents, families and friends of St. Catherine's a very happy, healthy, positive, peaceful and prosperous New Year 2024. We hope that this year brings many blessings for everyone!



Prayer of the Month January: New Year Prayer

We remember
For all that has been
We give thanks.

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

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

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

PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking
Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month January

A good friend knows how to
take turns, to encourage, to
give compliments, to share
and to allow their friends to
have other friends. Be a good
friend today and your
friendships will grow

A New Year's
Prayer



is always there to help you
plays with you
wants you to be happy
always lets others join in
is kind
is gentle
always listens
always honest
respects you
shares
care about you
does things for you
always looks after you
wouldn't make you sad
is always there
A good friend...



Believe in
children
Barnardo's



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.



Milk Money.....

Milk money from Monday 15th January until 27th March costs £9.40. Parents should pay between 9th and 12th January.

Please note that parents should now pay using the SCHOOL MONEY APP online.



Year 6 Robotics Programme

Facilitated by Sentinus

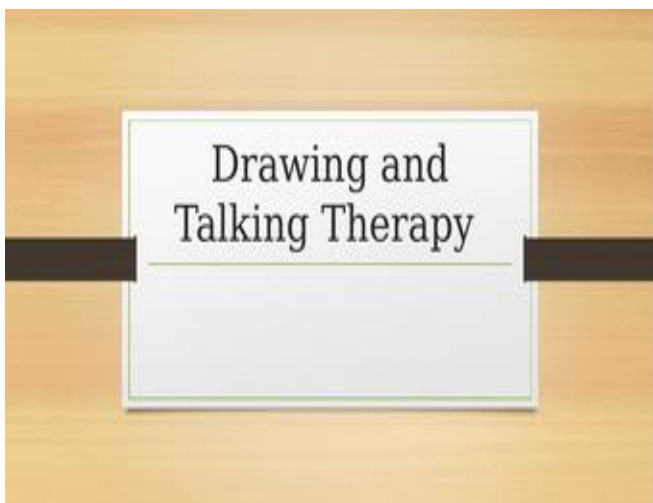
Funded by Extended Schools Cluster, Year 6 Pupils will benefit from a special Robotics Programme Facilitated by Sentinus which will provide opportunities to develop their Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths knowledge and experience through practical lessons and workshops.

These will take place on Tuesday 23rd January for Year 6A and Tuesday 30th January for Year 6B. Exciting opportunities for our little Year 6 Pupils.



Draw and Talk Therapy Starts

AS part of our commitment to promoting emotional well being our Draw and Talk Therapy programme will start this term. We thank Ms Pamela Capriglione for facilitating this valuable programme in our school for our little children.



Young Enterprise

Years 2,3,4,5, 6 and 7 Programme

This term will see staff from Young Enterprise in school to deliver programmes to our Year 4,5, 6 and 7 Pupils under the following themes:

Year 2: Ourselves

Year 3: Our Family

Year 4: Our Community

Year 5: Our City

Year 6 : Our World

Year 7 : Business Beginnings.

These programmes prepare our little children for the Business World and promote creativity, life skills and entrepreneurialism. We are very excited to have this facility in our school to continue to promote a broad and varied curriculum for our children.



“Seed to Pot” Programme facilitated by SHIP

(Strabane Health Improvement Project).

We are excited, this term also, to launch a new Grow Your Own Programme for pupils in Year 3 and in Year 5 which will be facilitated by Strabane Health Improvement Project staff. The programme will explore growing in three different phases;

1. Seeding
2. Podding
3. Potting

We will be making use of the fabulous polytunnels that we have in each school site to develop this programme.



St Catherine's Eco News

Recycling News

This year we have purchased new 'paper Recycling Bins' for each classroom. The waste monitors in each class ensure that the bins are being used correctly and the senior members of the Eco Team on each site empty the recycling bins on a weekly basis.



Waste Free Lunch:

Can you help us to reduce our waste by taking part in our "Waste Free Wednesdays"? Every Wednesday, earn 10 house points by bringing a Waste free lunch to school.

You could use a **lunchbox with compartments**, **small reusable plastic containers** and **reusable drinks bottles**.

The benefits to a plastic-free lunchbox includes a reduction in the amount of waste sent to the landfill. Plastic takes up to 1,000 years to decompose.

Together we can make a difference to our environment.



Grandparents Day Assembly Given by Year 5 Pupils

Our Annual Grandparents Assembly will be given by our Year 5 Pupils. It will take place on TUESDAY 23rd in the Senior School Assembly Hall . There will be two sessions.....

Year 5 A Grandparents at 11am

Year 5B Grandparents at 2pm

All welcome! (See note below about Catholic Schools Week 2024)



Full day of strike action by teachers on 18 January 2024

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and we wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect St. Catherine's Nursery and Primary school?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff members involved in the action will, therefore, not undertake any duties on Thursday 18th January. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

Therefore, the Board of Governors has determined the school will be **closed for all pupils on THURSDAY 18 January 2024** and will reopen as usual on Friday 19 January 2024

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. We would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a VERY unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

We thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding in this matter.

Chinese Competition Winners!

Super news! Our little children entered a Chinese Poster Competition to celebrate the Chinese New Year ...The Year of the Dragon....and St Catherine's have THREE winners!!!

The competition attracted 5582 entries (KS1 (Years 3 & 4) =2150, KS2(Years 5,6 & 7)=3011 & Post Primary=421) from across Northern Ireland! The prize-winning posters will be used for Chinese New Year celebrations across Northern Ireland and prizes will be awarded (to the individual and school) together with a printed copy of their poster at CINIUU's Chinese New Year event on Friday 23 February 2024 in The Great Hall, Belfast City Hall

Our Winners are;

Key Stage 1 Competition:

2nd Place : Alicia Mc Crossan (Year 4B)

Highly Commended : Eimear Brookes (Year 3B)

Key Stage 2 Competition:

Highly Commended : Farrah Logue (Year 7B)

Well done to every child who took part and special congratulations to our winners! We look forward now to the presentation ceremony in Belfast!

Happy Chinese New Year 2024.....the Chinese Year of the Dragon.



Happy New Year!!!

16th Year of Catholic Schools Week 2024

Derry Diocese Events take place between Monday
22nd January - Friday 26th January

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is

Catholic Schools : Communities of Service

Catholic Schools will take place on the theme of Catholic Schools as Communities of Service.

Christian service puts faith into action. In Catholic/ Christian schools, as we study and look to Jesus Christ as our role model and Teacher, we come to a greater understanding of the depth of Christian service. Jesus served every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. He put faith into action by showing all those around him how our Heavenly Father is compassionate, courageous and forgiving. Jesus didn't just talk about His faith; He lived it.

We are called by faith to go into the world to share the love of God with all those we meet. Each person, at every age, is called to become Christ for another by serving every person with a humble heart and with a generous spirit.

For Catholic Schools Week, we will contemplate our schools as communities of service under the following themes:

- Service in Our Community of Friends
- Service in Our School Community
- Service in Our Family Community
- Service in Our Local Community
- Service in Our Faith Community

The resources will reflect on these features within the overarching theme and will make use of scriptural reflection on prayer, action, student voice, and concern for our common home.

Children will complete activities in school based on this important theme during this week

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

(Grandparents Day Assembly will take place on Tuesday 23rd JANUARY at 11am and 2pm in Senior School Assembly Hallsee notice above)

Paired Maths Programme for Year 5 Pupils

We will return this year to hosting our Annual Paired Maths Programme for our Year 5 Pupils and their parents. The purpose of the programme is promote a greater love of Maths and enthusiasm for the subject through playing practical Maths Games at home. This is always a very enjoyable programme which pupils love.

We would like to explain more to you by warmly inviting parents and pupils to a short meeting on TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY in the Senior School at 7pm. A note will go home with each Year 5 child to get a little idea of numbers on the night. Exciting learning times!

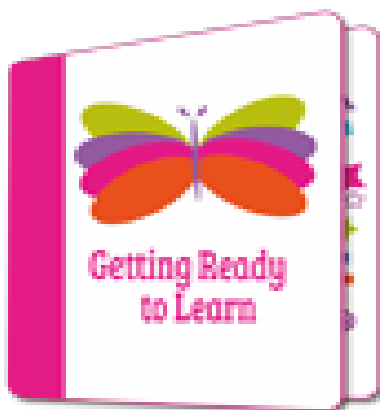


NURSERY: Get Ready to Learn Programme

Please see below details of our upcoming “Getting Ready to Learn” Programme for our parents / pupils in Nursery which will be hosted in the Senior School Site. This is one of the very important education programmes we offer in Nursery. This programme has 4 main components

- **Education Works:** Parents are provided with information about the Nursery Curriculum with a focus on the importance of Play Based Learning and Speech and Language.
- **Happy, Healthy Kids:** Parents are encouraged with staff to focus on Healthy Eating and the promotion of the importance of Physical Development...thereby enabling safe/healthy physical play at home and in school
- **Ages and Stages:** Parents are provided with more information about the stages of development of their child and how best to enhance their learning including the promotion of social skills such as turn taking, cooperating and negotiating.
- **Big Bedtime Read:** This component has a focus on storytelling, nursery rhymes and including these in the very important bedtime routine for their child.

Wednesday	10/01/24 11am	Session 1: Stay and Play Information with Parents
Tuesday	16/01/24 11am	Session 2: Speech and Language Information with Parents
Wednesday	24/01/24 11am	Session 3: Story Telling Session with Parents Session 4: Big Bedtime Read Information with Parents
Wednesday	31/01/24 11am SS Assembly Hall	Session 5: Happy Healthy Kids Information with Parents
Wednesday	7/02/24 11am	Session 6: Ages and Stages Information with Parents
Wednesday	21/02/24 11am SS Assembly Hall	Session 7: Celebration Day with Parents



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*



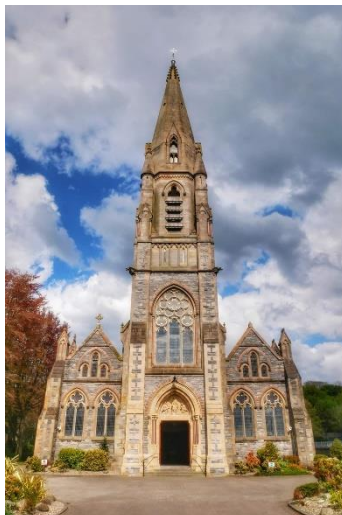
Confirmation Preparation Masses 2023 2024 for our Year 7 Pupils and their families.

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?

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

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 has been 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!!



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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)



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.

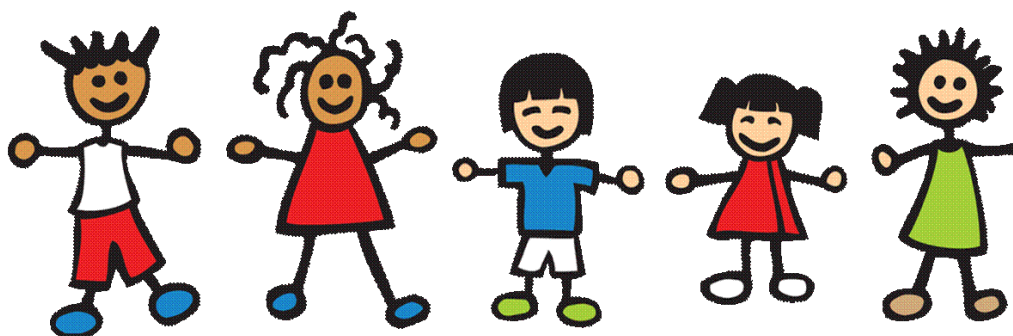
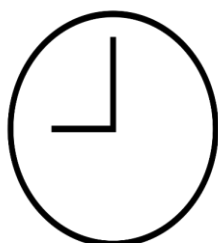
When the helpline number is rung; please leave the name, address and telephone number in a message seeking help and the type of assistance needed. (For example food vouchers, oil vouchers etc).



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	jdoheraty742@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 continuing our 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.

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 have made the app available to parents to pay school dinners, school trip costs, milk money etc online through the use of the School Money App. This means that you should not have to send money in to school with your child, as payments can be made securely online. If you have any issues/problems with using the school money app please contact the Clerical Staff on any of the school sites between 9.30am-3pm on any day at all.



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.

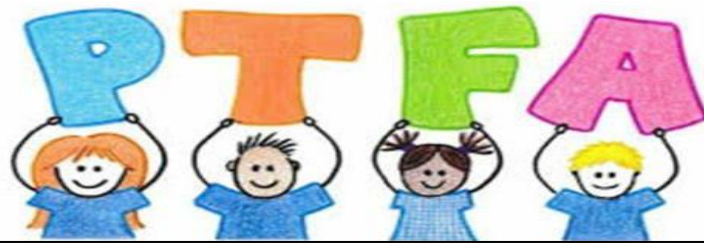


Staff Parking

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

January Updates :

Annual Christmas Draw :

Our PTFA are delighted to announce that our Grand Christmas Draw raised an amazing.....total of £5014 for School Funds.

Nativity Raffles and Donations: £1385.32 raised

This will go to subsidize transport and other costs for trips as well as purchasing additional resources for our little children.

Heartfelt thanks to each and every family for supporting the draw and 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.

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

January 2024

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



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 below 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. We also send an ONLINE SAFTY NEWSLETTER to parents every month via email which we hope that you find helpful in supporting your child's safety online.

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

January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christmas	1. Christmas Holidays	2. Christmas Holidays	3. Christmas Holidays	4. Christmas Holidays	5. Christmas Holidays	6.
7.	8. SDD 2	9. Back to school Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation. EA Online Admissions Portal for Nursery & Year 1 opens at 12 noon	10. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation. Nursery Programme: GRTL Stay and Play 1pm Draw and Talk Therapy Parent Session	11. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation. Draw and Talk Therapy Parent Session P3B Rugby Tots Session 3: 3pm –4pm	12. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation.	13. 6.30pm P4 Do This in Memory Mass in Church of the Immaculate Conception.
14.	15. Young Enterprise: Business Beginnings: 9.30 – 11.30am P7A & P7B Our City: (Session 1) 1.15 – 2.15pm P5A & P5B Year 4 A Football Skills 3pm-4pm	16. Catholic Schools Week Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry Nursery Programme: GRTL Speech & Language. 11am 7pm Year 5 Paired Maths Programme in Senior School Beginners Golf Senior School 3pm-4pm	17. Draw and Talk Therapy Pupil Session 1	18. Full Day Teacher Strike	19.	20.
21.	22. Catholic Schools Week Nursery – Year 4 Curriculum Newsletters to be sent out to Parents. Chinese Cultural Day: Junior School Young Enterprise: Our Community 9.30 – 12 noon P4A & P4B Our City: (Session 2) 1.15 – 3pm P5A & P5B Year 4 A Football Skills 3pm-4pm	23. Catholic Schools Week Grandparents Assembly: 11am P5A 2pm P5B Year 6 Robotics Workshop Beginners Golf Senior School 3pm-4pm	24. Catholic Schools Week Nursery Programme: GRTL Story Telling & Big Bedtime Read 11am Draw and Talk Therapy Pupil Session 2	25. Catholic Schools Week Draw and Talk Therapy Pupil Session 1	26. Catholic Schools Week EA Online Admissions Portal for Nursery & Year 1 closes at 12 noon	27. SEAG results.
28. 10am P7 Confirmation Preparation Mass Moved by the Spirit Mass in Church of the Immaculate Conception.	29. Chinese Cultural Day: Senior School Year 4 A Football Skills 3pm-4pm	30 . Year 7 Parents note: EA Online Admissions Portal for Post Primary opens at 12 noon Year 6 Robotics Workshop Beginners Golf Senior School 3-4pm	31. Nursery Programme: GRTL Happy Health Kids: 11am Draw and Talk Therapy Pupil Session 3	01.02.24 Draw and Talk Therapy Pupil Session 2		

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

Savoury
Mince

SIDES

Baton Carrot

Mashed Potatoes or
Pasta

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 Bolognaise 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
Dip

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