

St. Teresa's Primary School



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Dear Parents,

31st August 2022

A big welcome back to everyone, I hope you all had a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer, a special welcome to all our new pupils entering the Primary One class this year.

The following are some of the procedures and routines for this school year 2022-2023 and a list of our school holidays and closures are also included in this Newsletter.

Payments to School Secretary

All money which needs to be paid for School dinners/Afterschool should be placed in an envelope each Monday morning and sent in to School with your child. Please put details of money enclosed on the outside of envelope.

Home School Links

In order to maintain our good home-school links, should any parent wish to speak to a member of staff, we encourage you to contact our School Secretary Nicola who will arrange for your child's teacher to contact you. Nicola is in the office every morning from 8.15am to 9.00am.

I would like to remind parents to visit our school website www.stteresaspstullyherron.com to keep up to date with news items, relevant documents and events. We also encourage parents to download the school app (details can be found on the website) so you can receive updates throughout the year.

We are continuing to use the Seesaw App this year, further details to follow.

School Dinners

School Dinners will be available from Thursday 1st September for pupils entitled to Free School meals and other pupils who wish to avail of them, the cost is **£2.60**. A Dinner Menu will be displayed on our School Website each month and a copy will be given to all pupils who regularly take a school dinner.

This year pupils will eat their school dinner in the Dining Room seated in their class groupings.

Children will eat their lunch in a nominated classroom in their class groupings.

As we promote Healthy Living children may only bring in fruit for Break-Time, fruits such as, Grapes and Strawberries should be cut into small pieces and only **water** must be contained in the water bottles.

As we have a pupil who suffers from a specific food allergy we request that that our pupils do not take any food containing **Nuts or a Nut product for snacks or lunch into school.**

Information, advice and online application forms for free school meals, school transport and uniform grants for 2022/23 are available on the Education Authority website (www.eani.org.uk).

It is very important that you register your child(ren) for free school meals even if they take lunch as the school receives extra funding from the Department of Education for children who are eligible for free school meals.

School Uniforms

All pupils should wear their school PE tracksuit on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and their full-School uniform on Wednesday and Thursday. All children must wear plain black footwear (shoes or runners) with their Full-School uniform, girls should wear bottle green socks or tights and children are permitted to wear their own coloured runners with their P.E. uniform. A school coat should be brought into school.

Please label your child's uniform-sweatshirts, jumpers or cardigans.

Homework Routines

Our Class Teachers will begin setting Homework Tasks from Monday 12th September.

We very much encourage all our pupils to read every evening and to revise Literacy and Maths Facts especially High Frequency Words, Times-Tables/Number Bonds etc.

As with previous years we will be utilising some online learning forums such as Mathletics and Accelerated Reading for pupils to complete as part of their homework routines.

Reception/Primary 1/Primary 2 Afterschool Club

This Afterschool Club is an excellent facility for parents and pupils as it enables one pick-up at 2.35pm or the Primary 1 and 2 pupils maybe eligible to travel home on the school bus. It is also a good social opportunity for pupils to engage and play with their class peers and develop friendships.

This Club will commence on **Monday 5th September 2022** for Reception, Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils from 1.35pm to 2.35pm. For Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils it will cost **£2.50** per day, **£12.50** for the week. For Reception pupils it will cost **£3.00** per day, **£15.00** weekly, as they will remain in school from 1.00pm to 2.35pm. We do not receive any funding from the Department of Education to provide this service to parents and if there are only a few children attending the Afterschool it is difficult for us to finance, it will only continue for the rest of this school year depending on pupil numbers attending. Further information will follow at the end of September.

Drop off and Collection Routines

The School Bus will be arriving at the school in the morning at **8.20am**. In order to give the children travelling on the bus adequate time to enter the school premises and to stagger arrival times we would like children travelling by car to arrive at school from **8.30am- 8.45am**.

Punctuality will be key to ensure that this system is effective.

Primary 3 – Primary 7 children must be left at the school gate where the children will be met by a member of staff.

Reception, Primary 1 and Primary 2 children may be escorted to the Foundation Classroom Entrance where they will be met by members of staff. An older sibling may also accompany their younger brother or sister to the classroom.

The School Bus will be leaving school in the afternoon at **2.20pm**. Children who travel by car should be collected between **2.25pm – 2.35pm**.

Traffic Management

To ensure the safety of pupils, parents, staff and vehicles, parents and carers can help us achieve this by adhering to the following guidance:

- **Park away from the school entrance.**
- **Do not stop in the middle of the road to drop off or collect your child/children.**
- **Do not exceed the school speed limit of 5mph when either moving off or passing the school during drop off or collection times.**

Instrumental Lessons

We are extremely fortunate to be able to provide musical tuition to our Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils this year. Pupils may receive tuition from a specialised Music Teacher and learn to play either the Violin, Ukulele or the Guitar during weekly music lessons and work towards a music qualification. The lessons are an

addition to the curriculum so will include a cost for the year. If you would like your child to begin or continue these lessons in the next school year please contact Mrs Mc Court by **Friday 9th September**.

Healthy Kidz and Relax Kidz

Healthy Kidz Coaching will continue to be provided this year to all pupils by Mark Mc Kinley each Tuesday, **commencing on Tuesday 13th September**.

We will also be continuing the **Relax Kidz** programme this year, facilitated by Joanne Callan, it is **commencing on 15th September**.

Further information will follow.

Both the Healthy Kidz and Relax Kidz programmes will contribute greatly to the Health, Well-Being and development of Resilience in our pupils during this school year.

Yours Faithfully, Sinead Mc Court

Below is list of the School Holidays and other dates for this School Year 2022-2023:

Staff Training Day	Monday 3 rd October, School is Closed for Pupils on this day
Halloween Fun Day	Friday 28 th October - Pupils wear their Halloween Costumes and each class will have Halloween Fun Activities
Halloween Holidays	Monday 31 st October - Friday 4 th November 2022 (Inclusive)
Flu Vaccination	Monday 5 th December, All Parent Consent Forms need to be returned by Friday 2 nd December 2022
Christmas Holidays	Begin on Wednesday 21 st December @ 10.30 am - Wednesday 4 th January (Inclusive) School re-opens on Thursday 5 th January 2023
Mid-Term Break	Monday 13 th February - Friday 17 th February 2023 (Inclusive) School re-opens on Monday 20 th February 2023
St. Patrick's Celebrations	Friday 17 th March 2023

Easter Holidays	Begin on Holy Thursday 6 th April @ 10.30 am – Friday 14 th April (Inclusive) School re-opens on Monday 17 th April 2023
1 st May Bank Holiday & 2 nd Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd May & Monday 29 th and Tuesday 30 th May 2023