

St. Teresa's Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

4th September 2023

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 Primary 4, Primary One and the Reception classes this year. The following are some of the procedures and routines for this school year 2023-2024 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 into School with your child for our School Secretary, Nicola. Please include your child's name and 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 the class teacher, 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.

We are continuing to use the Seesaw App this year to communicate to parents. Your child will receive their new Seesaw Family invite sheet to connect to their new class tomorrow.

Please scan the QR Code on your phone/tablet to join.

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.

If any parent's contact details have changed, we request that the new details are given to Nicola this week. (Mobile Number or Home Address)

School Dinners

School Dinners will be available from Friday 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. 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 2023/24 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 for Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils from Monday 11th 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.

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 for the Primary 1 and 2 pupils 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 4th September 2023** for 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.

This Afterschool Club will commence For **Reception pupils on Monday 11th September**, 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 safely enter the school premises and to stagger arrival times we would like children travelling by car to arrive at school from 8.25am- 8.35am.**

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

Primary 3 – Primary 7 children must be left at the school gate and walk into the main school building themselves.

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 approximately 2.30pm, Children who travel by car should be collected at 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.**

Below is list of the School Holidays and other dates for this School Year 2023-2024:

Healthy Kidz Coaching	PE Coaching Sessions with Mark Mc Kinley commencing on Tues. 12 th Sept. to Tues. 12 th Dec. Further information will follow.
Relax Kids Programme	Health & Well-Being Sessions with Joanne Callan will commence later this Term, there will be no cost for these sessions – Further information to follow.
Instrumental Lessons	Musical Tuition for P.3 to P. 7 pupils, Pupils can learn to play either the Violin, Ukulele or Guitar during weekly music lessons & 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 this year please contact Mrs Mc Court by Monday 11th September.
Beginning of Year Mass	Wednesday 13 th September at 10am in St. Teresa’s Church, Tullyherron. All parents & Carers are invited to attend.
Staff Training Day	Monday 2nd October, School is Closed for Pupils on this day
Flu Vaccination	Friday 20 th October, Parent consent forms completed by this date
Halloween Fun Day	Friday 27 th October -Pupils wear their Halloween Costumes
Halloween Holidays	Monday 30 th October – Friday 3rd November 2023 (Inclusive)
First Holy Communion- Enrolment Ceremony	Saturday 11 th November in St Malachy’s Ballymoyer at 7.00pm for All Primary 4 Pupils and Parents.
Parent/Teacher Meetings	Monday 13 th November School will be closed for Parent/Teacher Meetings. Further information will follow.

Christmas Performance	Tuesday 19 th December at 1.30pm in St. Teresa's Church, Tullyherron
Christmas Holidays	Begin on Friday 22 nd December @ 10.30 am – Friday 5 th January School re-opens on Monday 8 th January 2024
Mid-Term Break	Tuesday 13 th to Friday 16 th - The school will re-open on Monday 19 th February
Book Fair & World Book Day	The Book Fair will be delivered on 29th February to 7th March 2024 bringing an unbeatable range of the latest and best children's books. We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 8 th March
St. Patrick's Green Day	Friday 15 th March- All pupils wear something green into school.
St. Patrick's Celebrations	Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th March 2023 - School will re-open on Wednesday 20 th March.
Confirmation Ceremony	This date has not yet been confirmed, it is expected to be on a Wednesday evening at 5pm in March or April
Easter Holidays	Easter Holidays begin on Thursday 28 th March @ 10.30am to Friday 5 th April, the school re-opens on the 8 th April
1 st May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
First Holy Communion	Sunday 12 th May at 11.30pm in St. Teresa's Church, Tullyherron
2 nd May Bank Holidays	Monday 27 th May to Wednesday 29 th May, school re-opens on Thursday 30 th May