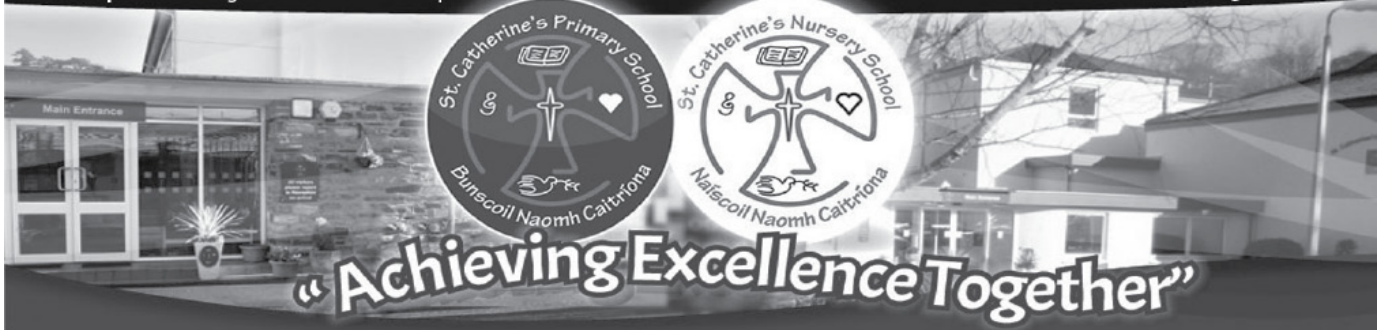


St. Catherine's Primary School

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

Email: bwilders592@c2kni.net



JUNIOR SITE

Phone: (028) 7138 2272

Fax: (028) 7138 2139

Strabane
Co. Tyrone
BT82 8HT

SENIOR SITE

Phone: (028) 7138 2614

Fax: (028) 7138 2482

WEEKLY NOTE - Monday 17th September 2018

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

Download Our **FREE** School App

St Catherines PS, Strabane



Facebook : StCatherines PrimarySchool



Follow us on Twitter : stcatherinesps



Follow us on Instagram : St Catherine's Primary School

Roots of Empathy

Have you a baby aged 2-4 months? Would you be interested in your baby becoming our 'Tiny Teacher' this year? As part of our Roots of Empathy programme which runs in our Primary 1 classes a baby or 'Tiny Teacher' visits our classes, with his/ her parent, once a month during the school year for around 30 minutes. The children observe how the baby grows, develops and the bond between baby and parent. It is an exciting



Roots of Empathy

programme for the children and the Roots of Empathy Family. If you and your baby are interested or would like more information, contact Miss Ciara Hutton on the Junior Site. Thank you !!

#recruitingyoungestteachers

Headlice

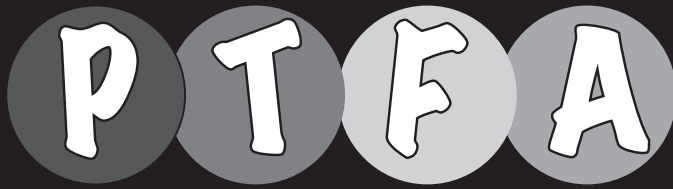
Headlice can visit our little children's hair at any time. They just love clean heads!

We ask that our parents carefully check our children's hair every week and if necessary treat the hair if headlice are present.

Thank you for your careful attention.

God bless you all! Bridget Wilders, Principal

St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School



Parent, Teacher,
Friends Association
**Working together
for our children**

JOIN US!

**WHY NOT COME ALONG
TO OUR NEXT MEETING?**

Thursday 27th September

at 7pm in the Junior School



We have a PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) whose members work so hard to raise funds for our school in order to best support our little children.

We invite everyone that is available to come along and join our wee group. The work of the PTFA involves mainly fundraising activities for our wee pupils so that we can provide the little extras for them in school!!!

Everyone is welcome! Your child's school needs you!! Our first PTFA Meeting this school year will take place on Thursday 27th September at 7.00pm in Junior School Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



Confirmation

Confirmation will be celebrated this year by Fr Boland on Saturday 9th March at 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Such an exciting event also for our Year 7 Pupils, their parents and families.

Further details about the preparation for the sacrament this year will follow.

Parenting NI

Parenting NI are now taking names of parents who would like to access our support/counselling service which will be based in St. Catherine's Primary School this term. Parents of primary school children living anywhere in Strabane are very welcome to avail of this service.

Attached is a flyer about the Time for Parents service and also an image if you wish to share on social media.

Time for Parents is a support/counselling service available for any parent who would like some support to deal with any issue they may be struggling with.

Depending on what a parent feels they need, they can avail of a one off session for an hour or up to six sessions over a couple of weeks.

This service is available face-to-face, over the phone or via Skype.

Free, confidential and available on Tuesdays throughout the Term.

Interested? Parents can register online, ring the free phone number 0808 8010 722 or send a text to 07887429054.

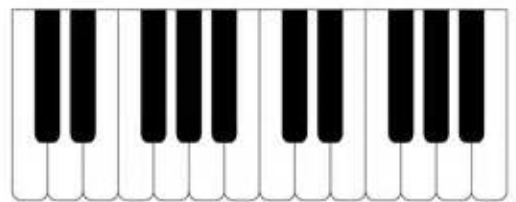
Schools can also refer parents to this service via the Co-ordinator (with permission from parents).

After School Piano Lessons

We are delighted to offer our pupils the opportunity to take Paired Piano Lessons at St Catherine's this year.

The 20 minute lessons will be delivered by Mr Paul Harley and will be based on the initial, pre-grade rudiments of playing with progression to playing entertaining pieces for fun. Lessons will not be based on Grade Examinations but will give the children an initial, fun experience of Piano Playing.

Lessons will be delivered to children in pairs and will cost £20 for 4 x week block. We would endeavour to pair brothers/



sisters/ friends together.

If you would like to register your interest in this opportunity, please sign the form below and make a note at the bottom if there are any days that do not suit your child.

Many Thanks

Our New School Development Plan

Every three years we design a new three year school development plan which plans out the priorities and actions that we want to complete for the greater good of our pupils, staff and parents in our wee school. We will also update this every year just to check that we are on target! We NEED YOUR HELP!

Have you any ideas/ suggestions for what types of activities that you would like to see on our new three year plan? If so please indicate on the attached slip.

Your ideas and opinions are very valued indeed and if we can make changes to improve ...then we will! When the plan has been completed we will display the plan on the parent Noticeboards in both of our school sites and a copy of the key points of the plan will be sent out to all parents upon request.

All staff, governors and pupils (through Pupil Council, Surveys) have also been consulted in the creation of this plan.

Thank you in advance!

School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in school to take our children's photographs on

Wednesday 17th October, Thursday 18th October and Friday 19th October.

More details will follow in the weekly note.

All children will have their photos taken in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 7. All classes

will be taken in their class groups. If any parent of a child from Years 2-6 would like individual photos of their child or indeed a family group please sign the attached Photograph Expression of Interest Slip.

Parents will have a proof sent to them and you may purchase if they wish to but you are under no obligation to purchase photos for your child.

Clothing

It is vitally important that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name as children become upset in school if they lose items of their clothing.

Site Leadership Rota

Junior School : Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Tuesday, Thursday

Senior School: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Tuesday, Thursday

– Mrs Wilders
– Miss J Doherty
– Miss J Doherty
– Mrs Wilders

Attendance

Attendance at school is so important as this enables our wee children to learn, have fun, make new friends, experience new things, achieve, develop new skills, build confidence and self esteem and to have the best possible start in life! We recognise pupils who have 100% attendance each term by praising their efforts at Assembly. Every child in a class who has 100% attendance will receive a FREE BREAKFAST VOUCHER The EWO (Educational Welfare Officer visits our school regularly to monitor our pupils' attendance. There is guidance below from the EWO which shows us how important it is to come to school every single day. For more details a Pupil Attendance Policy is available in school. Just ask at reception and a copy can be supplied.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance 0 Days Missed
Excellent

95% Attendance 9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
Satisfactory

90% Attendance 19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
Poor

85% Attendance 28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
Very Poor

80% Attendance 38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
Unacceptable

75% Attendance 46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed
Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Give your child the best start in life – every school day

From time to time we understand that children may have to be collected early from school for Dental/ Medical Appointments.

We would appreciate it if you could try your best to arrange appointments for out of schools hours if possible. If you do have to collect your child early please let the class teacher know at the earliest opportunity. Thanks!



PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

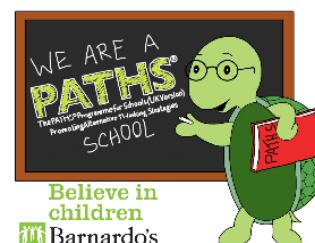
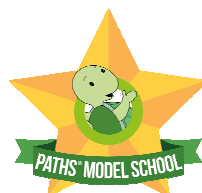
PATHS Quote of the Month - September

We are delighted that our school is a PATHS Model School and that PATHS is taught in all classes from Nursery right through to Primary 7. The PATHS programme involves lots of fun activities dealing with important issues such as Feelings, Behaviours, Solving Problems, Making Friends and Self-Esteem.

It links directly with our Personal Development and Mutual Understanding curriculum and aims to help children develop the fundamental skills needed for life. From time to time your child will have fun home activities to complete relating to the programme. Get involved! Ask your child in the coming weeks about our fantastic PATHS programme and help prepare them with the essential skills they need for their life ahead. There will be an inspirational PATHS quote each month in our newsletter highlighting key PATHS ideas.

Check out September's quote...

“Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone followed the Golden Rule? Let's show the world how to do it by treating others the way we want to be treated. ”



Staff Training Day

School will be closed on Friday 28th September due to a staff training day.

Introduction of Whole School Rewards System

At present, there are various reward systems in place in classrooms throughout the school. As a whole school we want to have a continuity throughout, amongst pupils and staff. By introducing a Whole School Rewards System we will be adding a fun, competitive and motivating element for the children! It is a focus for everyone which will assist with rewards across the curriculum (ie. academic learning, homework, creativity/practical activities, sporting skills, music, good behaviour/attitude/manners, uniform, etc...).

We will have four 'Houses' throughout the whole school, so each class will be split, as evenly as they can, into the four Houses; for example: like the Hogwarts Houses from Harry Potter (Hufflepuff, Slytherin, Gryffindor and Ravenclaw). Pupils will be able to earn points for classwork, homework, etc... They will also have the opportunity to win prizes. We would like you and your child/children to help us choose the four names for the 'Houses'.

At the moment we have these choices....

4 Houses from Harry Potter:

Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff

☐

4 Saints Names:

St. Catherine, St. Anne, St. Patrick and St. Joseph

☐

4 Provinces:

Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht

☐

4 Countries:

Ireland, France, Spain and Italy

☐

4 Animals from the Chinese New Year:

Tiger, Monkey, Ox and Dragon

☐

If you would like the 'Houses' to be named any of these, please tick the appropriate box.... **OR** if you have thought of four other 'House' names that you like, please write them below. Thank you for your cooperation.

Macmillan Cancer /Foyle Hospice Charity Coffee Morning

We all know the impact that Cancer has had on our society. It is a widespread frightening disease that strikes nearly every family at some stage in their lives. We are sure that we all know someone that has suffered from this dreadful disease. Therefore we thought we would host a "Coffee Morning" in order to raise some money for this very worthy cause. We are having the Coffee Morning in both our school canteens on Thursday 27th September at 10.30am approx. (Just after school mass). We ask for your support. Please come along to join us in having a cuppa to support a very worthy cause!!

Start of Year School Mass

We are excited to begin another year in our wee school!! We ask for God's Blessings upon us all ... pupils, parents, staff, Governors and friends! To celebrate our new school year we will have our start of

year Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 27th September at 10am. We would like you to join us if you can!! Thanks for your support! We will pray together!

Book Week

We feel it is crucial to celebrate the joys of Reading and Literature by having our book week. This year Book Week will take place Week Beginning Monday 1st October . On Friday 5th October children will have their Book Character Day. Every child should come to school dressed up as a book character under these themes.

**Nursery / Year 1 / Year 2 :
Nursery Rhyme Characters**

Year 3 / Year 4 : Fairytale Characters

Year 5/ Year 6 / Year 7 : Characters from Novels

Many prizes will be given out to our children who dress up on this day!! So join in the fun!!! You can get thinking now of who you could dress up as !!!

More details will follow!!!

Physical Education

For health reasons it is so important that our children bring a change of clothes for PE activities.

When children exercise a lot they sweat and this can cause infections, colds and flu. If they have a change of clothes they can change back into their warm cosy uniform after and take the PE clothes home for washing!

Each child should wear a plain white t shirt and Navy jogging bottoms for PE with plain dark trainers.

A fantastic new programme for P2 pupils only



Want time to support your child's learning?

Want more time together having fun?

Meet up with other parents?

Then Come along to our coffee morning information session on

**Wednesday 26th September 2018
10 am**

Junior Assembly Hall

And enjoy some tea, coffee and sweet treats while you learn about our amazing programme.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SLIP**

After School Guitar Lessons

We are also delighted to offer our pupils the opportunity to take Paired Guitar Lessons at St Catherine's this year.

Again, the 20 minute lessons will be delivered by Mr Paul Harley and will be based on the initial, pre-grade rudiments of playing with progression to playing entertaining pieces for fun. Lessons will not be based on Grade Examinations but will give the children an initial, fun experience of Guitar Playing.

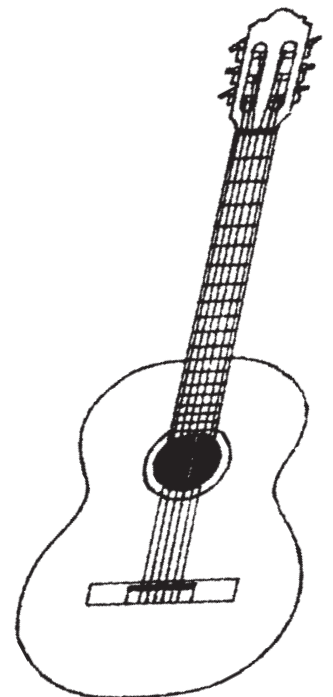
Lessons will be delivered to children in pairs and will cost

£20 for 4x week block. We would endeavour to pair brothers/sisters/friends together.

** Guitars will be provided for any child who doesn't have their own, but unfortunately, for insurance reasons, we cannot let the children take them home**

If you would like to register your interest in this opportunity, please sign the form below and make a note at the bottom if there are any days that do not suit your child.

Many Thanks



Calling all parents/carers and friends of St. Catherine's!

Junior School Parking

For Safety reasons we respectfully ask parents/ visitors NOT to park in front of the school gates at any time. Hometime is a very busy time outside school, and EA Buses need to collect children, if the school gate is blocked then the buses and other cars outside the school will get congested and this can be a safety risk for everyone. With respect, we request that everyone cooperate with the school crossing patrol outside the school to

help ease congestion and ensure safety for all.

We also ask that parents do NOT drive into the school grounds in the morning to drop children off at school as too many cars driving into the grounds becomes a safety risk for children walking into school. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter. There is a car park behind Doran's Shop just across from the school which may be used for parking.

Sisters of Mercy and Local Community Residents

We are so blessed to have such kind and thoughtful neighbours around the buildings of our school who look out for us and keep a watchful, protective eye over our school all year round!

We respectfully ask that all our parents and carers who leave children to school every day and collect them again in the afternoon be mindful of our neighbours and are kind and patient with each other

in terms of where and how we park our cars while going to collect our children. Health and Safety for all is paramount.

We have also had a special request from the Sisters of Mercy that Parents/ Carers DO NOT turn their vehicles in the grounds of the convent as some elderly nuns may be outside and may get injured if not clearly seen. We hope that everyone respects this very special request



First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place this year on Saturday 25th May at 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by Fr Boland.

Exciting times indeed for our Year 4 Pupils, their parents and families!

Further details about the preparation for the sacraments this year will follow.

School Start Times and Collection Times

Start Times

Class Teachers are on duty on both sites at 8.50am every morning. All children should be in school for 9.05am at the latest as we gather for prayer at this time in the assembly halls of both sites before each class will begin their school day. It is to be noted that school staff (Principal/Vice Principal) are available for supervision in the assembly halls across both sites from 8.30am onwards. There are electronic doors on the Junior School Site which will automatically unlock at 8.30am.

Collection Times

Please note that Nursery and Year 1 have a staggered intake as part of our settling in policy.

Nursery:

Nursery should be collected at 11.30am for the first three weeks.

Week 4 (24th September) Nursery Children should be collected at 12.30pm after lunch.

Week 5 (1st October) Nursery children will have a full day and should be collected between 1.30pm and 1.40pm.

Year 1 :

Year 1 should be collected at 12 Noon for the first two weeks.

Week 3 (17th September) Year 1 should be collected at 12.45pm after lunch.

Week 4 (24th September) Year 1 should be collected at 2.15pm at the front pupil exit on each site.

Year 2 :

All Year 2 children should be collected at 2.20pm at the front exit on each site from the very start of the year

Year 3 – Year 7 :

All children should be collected from school at 3pm every day.

Prayer of the Month - September



Back to School Prayer

*Dear Lord,
Help me to use my eyes to see new friends.
Open my ears to hear my teacher.*

*Open my mind to learn new things.
Let my heart remember you are near when I'm afraid.*

*Help me to love others like you do.
Help me to shine my light so bright in our school.*

Amen

Curriculum Information Newsletters

Every year we send out Curriculum Information Newsletters to the parents of our pupils from Nursery – Year 4. We believe that this is helpful to parents to let them know what their child is learning in school and hence parents can work with their children at home too to support the work of the school. Curriculum Information Newsletters for Term 1 will be sent home on Monday 1st October.....so keep a wee eye out for it!! If you have any questions at all about the newsletter or the work that your child is studying in school, please do not hesitate to ask the teacher who will be happy to help!



Families Connect Programme for Year 2 Pupils and their Families

I am interested /not interested in Families Connect Programme this year.

I can / cannot attend the Coffee Morning



Pupil Name: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent/Gaurdian: _____

School Photographer

(Please tick as appropriate)

I would like my child to have

1. An Individual photo **ONLY** taken by the school photographer

☐

2. A family photo taken only

☐

3. BOTH a family and an individual photo taken

☐

My Child's Name is: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Other family members in school are:

Names:

Class:

_____/_____

_____/_____

_____/_____

School Development Plan Parent Consultation 2018-2021

I would like the following ideas to be considered in this year's school development plan.

You do not have to complete all sections of this consultation form. If you have suggestions for some areas please feel free to include them and leave other areas blank.

Suggestions for :

Curriculum & Staff Development :

Monitoring & Assessment :

Pastoral Care & Pupil Welfare:

Extended Schools:

Home School Links:

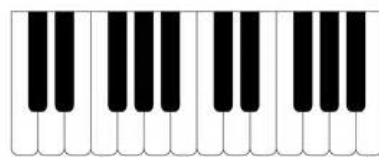
School & the Community:

School Resources:



Piano Lessons

I would like to register my interest in
Paired Piano Lessons for my child/
children at St. Catherine's.



Pupil Name: _____

Class: _____

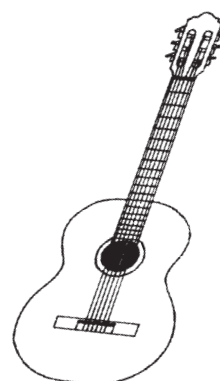
Teacher: _____

Parent/Gaurdian: _____



Guitar Lessons

I would like to register my interest in Paired Guitar Lessons for my child/ children at St. Catherine's



Pupil Name: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent/Gaurdian: _____