

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 14th January 20189

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

Update of Parent Mobile Phone Numbers



Some of you may have got new mobile phones for Christmas or indeed for some reason you may have a different number since the start of the year. If so have you let the school secretary know so that it can be changed at school? This is very important incase we have to contact you for any reason regarding your child. This is also important so that you can receive school text messages.

If you have changed your number and not updated the school.... Please do so!

God bless you all! Bridget Wilders, Principal

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

A Parent's Guide

We have enclosed the Parents Guide for School Attendance issued by the Department of Education for all parents. Please have a wee read! Thank you for your ongoing support.



WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT –

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- ☒ To learn.
- ☒ To have fun.
- ☒ To make new friends.
- ☒ To experience new things in life.
- ☒ To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- ☒ To achieve.
- ☒ To gain qualifications.
- ☒ To develop new skills.
- ☒ To build confidence and self-esteem.
- ☒ To have the best possible start in life.

**Miss School -
Miss Out!!**

A graphic with a dark, textured background and the text "Miss School - Miss Out!!" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Key Point

A graphic with a dark, textured background and the text "Key Point" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.



WHAT THE LAW SAYS –

Under Article 45 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (“the 1986 Order”), it is the duty of parents who have a child of compulsory school age¹ to ensure their child receives efficient, full time education suitable to their age, aptitude, ability and to any special educational needs they may have. Such education may be provided by regular attendance at school or otherwise, for example home education.

Paragraph 3 (1) of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order states that it is the duty of a parent of a registered pupil of a school to secure their regular attendance at school. This applies to all children of compulsory school age who are on the roll of a school. As a parent you are legally responsible for making this happen.

Under Part III of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order, if a child or young person who is registered at a school does not attend regularly, a parent can receive a fine not exceeding £1,000 in court (for each child). An Education Supervision Order (ESO) could also be made by a court under Article 55 of the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Key Point

Education is not an option – it’s compulsory.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS –



You can demonstrate your commitment to your child’s education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work.

In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.

Key Point

Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.

¹ www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/admission-and-transport/pupils-and-classes/compulsory-school-age.htm



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ☑ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ☑ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ☑ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ☑ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ☑ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ☑ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ☑ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ☑ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- ☑ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ☑ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

**Key
Point**

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.



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 counts.



Strabane Feis

It's that time of year again.....we are a school that places so much emphasis on providing a variety of opportunities for our children's learning. We promote a love of learning in the classroom and beyond for all subjects, sport music and drama too! Feis promotes confidence and aptitude in Speech and Language, Drama and Music in particular. It is quite a skill to get up in front of an audience to say a poem, make a speech, sing a song or play an instrument! Regardless of what level each child can perform at, we acknowledge the effort that any child makes in order to take part in the Feis..... this is overcoming fear at such a young age and promoting a skill that will serve our children well in the future! We encourage all our children from Nursery – Year 7 to take part in the Feis events and teachers will encourage and promote this in school also!

There is a Speech Feis and a Music Feis.

Speech Feis will take place from Thursday 21st February to Monday 25th February.

Music Feis will take place from Thursday 28th February to Monday 4th March.

Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £2. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Wednesday 16th January.

Sometimes we notice that children do not enter the Feis by the closing date and then when they hear all the children rehearsing for Feis in school, they want to enter then but it's too late! We advise that children strongly consider entering by the closing date as they will be guaranteed to enjoy it and join in the fun of it with their class in the lead up to the event itself!

All children who enter the Feis will get a certificate of participation from school..... regardless of the adjudicator's decision in St. Patrick's Hall!!



The poems and songs for the Feis will be sent out shortly.

Speech Feis Events

Event	Year Groups who can enter
Verse Speaking Girls	Nursery- Year 7
Verse Speaking Boys	Nursery – Year 7
2 Minute Speech	Year 6 & 7 Pupils only
Creative Verse	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that various class teachers may also enter an entire class for the Choral Poem Competitions.

Music Feis Events

Event	Year Groups who can enter
Girls' Song	Nursery- Year 7
Boys' Song	Nursery – Year 7
Sacred Solo	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only
Musical Theatre	Years 4-7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that our choirs in school may also enter competitions in the Feis under the direction of the Choir Directors.

School Development Plan

You will be sent home a summary of Year 1 of our new three year School Development Plan. We consulted parents on our service last year and we have made a plan to address concerns and also to address other necessary school priorities to improve the quality of our provision for our little children. Please sign the response form when you get a copy of the plan. Thank you!



Year 5 Paired Maths Programme

Every year we offer the opportunity for pupils and parents in Year 3 to take part in the PAIRED Maths Programme.

We supply the Maths Games from school and our children are encouraged to play a Maths Games every night for 4 weeks. We assess our children's attitude to Maths at the start of the programme and again at the end. Every year our children's Maths enthusiasm and ability improve as a result of taking part in this very simple programme.

What does it involve?

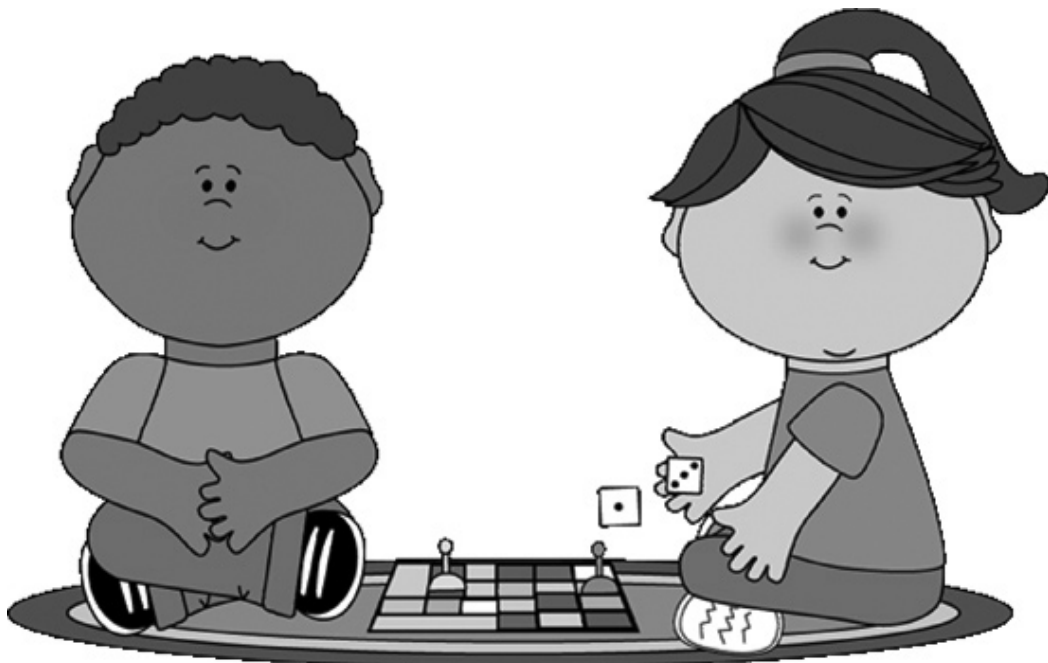
1. A launch meeting where you are shown the correct paired Maths strategy to use with your child and to pick up the pack to get started. **NO FURTHER MEETINGS ARE REQUIRED**

2. Playing a Maths Game for 10-15 minutes every night with your child for the 4 weeks of the programme...the more your play Maths Games together the better the outcome for your child will be!

This year the information for you and your year 5 child will take place on TUESDAY 22nd JANUARY at 7pm in the Senior SCHOOL.

Come along....join inget involved!!

MATH ROCKS



Year 4 “Do This in Memory” Programme

The dates for the masses for the Do This in Memory Programme are as below. We look forward to seeing all our Year 4 Pupils and Families at these very special masses.

DATE	THEME OF MASS	TIME
26/01/2019	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm
03/03/2019		10am
14/04/2019	Passion (Palm) Sunday	12 Noon
11/05/2019		6.30pm
23/06/2019	Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)	10am

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 25th May, 2019



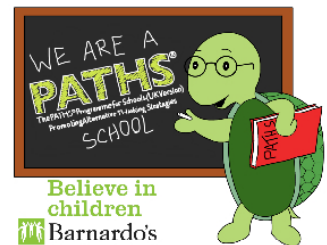
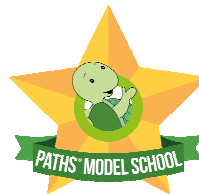


PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month - January

***Friendship is one of life's greatest gifts. If you
think someone could use a friend.
Be one!***



Prayer of the Month - January

NEW YEAR'S 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*



Confirmation Preparation for Year 7 Pupils and their parents

Our children this year will be confirmed by Fr Boland P.P.

In preparation for this very special sacrament our children and parents are warmly invited to attend three masses dedicated especially to focusing on Confirmation Themes.

The dates and times for these masses, preparation and Confirmation itself are :

Venue	Mass Theme	Day/Date	Time
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Moved by the Spirit	Sunday 3 rd February	10am
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Called by Name	Sunday 17 th February	12 Noon
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Practice for Confirmation for Pupils and their Sponsors (<u>This is NOT a preparation Mass</u>)	Thursday 7 th March	7pm
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Confirmation Day	Saturday 9 th March	11am

ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSION PROCESS

For any parent who could not attend the Open Afternoons but have a child due to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2019, we are offering "Drop IN" Sessions this year as the applications have to be online. If you would like to book a session they run from 7-1-19 until 18-1-19. If you wish to book a session please give Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer) Senior School a wee ring on 02871 382614 OPTION 1 and she will be happy to book you in!!

Some sessions have been booked already.

You DO NOT have to attend these sessions but if you do the staff in school will help you make your application online there and then and you can be confident that all has been done and breathe a sigh of relief! Please note that you will need to have the following with you.....



1. YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL username and know your password
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your proof of address
4. DSS Income Support Form (Only if this applies to you!)



Nurse Health Checks for Year 1 Pupils

The School Nurse will be in school this Thursday 17th January, Monday 21st, Thursday 31st January and Friday 1st February to carry out Year 1 Health Checks.

Year 7 Parent / Teacher Transfer Meetings

The thought of your Year 7 child moving from Primary to Post Primary School is an exciting but also challenging time for some!

Post Primary Schools will be offering you and your child the chance to visit them now for their Open Days/ Evenings. This will give you and your child a chance to see the work of the schools and staff first hand and may help you and your child decide which school they would really like to transfer to in September 2019.

To this end, we have listed the dates/times of open days for some post primary schools below where our children have transferred to in the past. We also invite you to come in to our school to speak with your child's class teacher and the Principal to complete your transfer form for your child to be given to the Education Authority. The forms (with your post primary school preferences) must reach EA by WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY. Therefore we will be arranging these meetings ahead of this date so that forms can be completed and arrive at EA on time!

We will be hosting the meetings on Monday 28th January, Tuesday 29th January and Thursday 31st January. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you to arrange suitable times for these meetings. You are NOT OBLIGED to attend but parents have reported in the past that they find these meetings very helpful indeed.

If you have any further queries at all about the Year 7 Transfer Process, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or a Senior Leader/ Principal.

Open Days/ Evenings

Post Primary School	Open Day	Date / Time	Location
Holy Cross College	Saturday	19 th January 10am-12 Noon & 1pm-3pm Principal's Address @10am & 1pm	35 Melmount Road, Strabane
Christian Brothers' Grammar School	Saturday	19 th January 10am-1pm	Kevlin Road, Omagh
Loreto Grammar School	Wednesday	23 rd January 5pm-8pm	James Street, Omagh
Thornhill College	Tuesday	29 th January 4pm – 6.30pm Principal's Address @ 4pm & 6pm	142 Culmore Road, Derry
Lumen Christi College	Monday	21 st January Principal's Address 4pm & 4.45pm	Bishop Street, Derry
Strabane Academy	Thursday	24 th January 7pm	61 Derry Road, Strabane





Year 5 Paired Reading Meeting

I can / cannot attend the Paired Maths Meeting for my
Year 5 Child on Tuesday 22nd January at 7pm in the
Junior School Assembly Hall.

Signed: _____

Parent/Gaurdian of: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____



Feis 2019

(If you have completed this already you do not need to complete it again!)

I have ticked below the event(s) that I would like my child to be entered for in Feis. I understand that it costs £1.50 to enter an event.

Speech Feis Event	Tick ✓ Yes	Child's Name	Year /Class
Verse Speaking (Girls) Nursery -Year 7			
Verse Speaking (Boys) Nursery -Year 7			
2 minute speech (Year 6 and 7 Pupils Only)			
Creative Verse (Years 5,6,7 Pupils only)			

Music Feis Event	Tick ✓ Yes	Child's Name	Year /Class
Song (Girls) Nursery -Year 7			
Song (Boys) Nursery -Year 7			
Sacred Solo (Years 5,6,7 Pupils only)			
Musical Theatre (Years 4-7 Pupils only)			

Signed: _____
Parent/Gaurdian