

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

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Monthly Note: Monday 2nd September 2019

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

It is with great excitement and joy that I, coupled with the entire staff and Governors, welcome you and your child(ren) to St. Catherine's Primary School. We value your child and we will work so hard to ensure that your child's educational experience at St. Catherine's will indeed be a valuable and beneficial one preparing them for the future. Thank you for entrusting your child to us. We are very proud of all our children and look forward to this year with much excitement, hope and enthusiasm. Thank you for your support to date and we appreciate your continued patience, understanding and dedication as we embark on this year! God bless you all!

BREAKING NEWS

There are some changes to the news updates that you will receive from our school. The YOUNGEST child in each family will receive a MONTHLY NEWSLETTER on the FIRST MONDAY of every month. This newsletter will give you all the school information that you require for each month ahead. It will also come with a CALENDAR at the back(that you can place on your fridge!!). This calendar will give you an overview of the MAIN events happening in school in the month ahead. If arrangements change during the month we will text you to update you regarding this. If your child is absent from school on the first Monday of any month, a paper copy of the newsletter will be kept by the teacher for the child. The newsletter will also be uploaded and available to our parents on our website and also available on our FREE School APP which you can download to your phone. (Details of these are on the letter head above)

P.T.F.A.

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 **Tuesday 24th September at 7.00pm in Junior School Assembly Hall**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Nut Allergy/ Healthy Breaks

In the interests of Health & Safety we ask our parents/ carers/ pupils not to allow any break/ lunch items that may contain nuts or kiwi.

We do have children in the school who has a nut allergy and as you may be aware if there are any foods with nuts at all, this may prove very serious for this child. Therefore any food item which has a chocolate trace to it is unacceptable as there can often be nut traces contained therein. Children should only bring a healthy break to school eg. Sandwich, cheese strings, fruit, yoghurt. No crisps/chocolate bars allowed as we are a Healthy Eating School.

All children from Year 2-7 should bring their own healthy breaks.

For their first year in school our Year 1 children will be provided with Free Fruit to encourage and promote Healthy Eating.

We really appreciate your cooperation and support in this m



Swimming Lessons for Year 5

Swimming lessons for Year 5 begin on Friday 13th September. The total cost for these lessons (including transport) is £28. If you wish your child to participate in this activity please complete and return the attached permission slip by Friday 6th September. This is a fun, exciting experience for our children and a great opportunity. Please complete the attached permission form for your child so that he/she can avail of this great opportunity! [Notes re Swimming were sent out in June 2019 so if any parent has already paid please ignore this reminder]



Updating our School Records

As I am sure you will appreciate, it is vitally important that we hold accurate records, contact numbers and details of any health issues about all our pupils in the event of an emergency. Therefore we ask you to complete a "Data Capture Form" for each child so that the information we hold about our pupils is correct. Please complete and return this form immediately. Sometimes parents do not receive text messages and this can be because parents mobile numbers may have been changed. If your mobile phone number, address or any of your contact details have changed please let us know immediately. Sometimes parents do not receive written notifications as they may have moved house and forgotten to let us know their new address! Please keep us up to date.

Photo Permissions and Medical Information

Every year we ask for parental permission with regard to photography of your children and we also ask to be made aware of your child's medical needs. Your child will receive forms today for you to complete and send back into school via their class teacher. We ask for you to complete these forms and return to school by **Monday 16th September**. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

After School Clubs Term 1

After School Clubs for some Year Groups will begin before the end of September. It is important to note that schools are facing many budget cuts at present and Extended Schools Funding is one area that has to be carefully planned and managed to afford something for everyone. However we will do the best we can with the allocated funds! More details will follow in the Extended Schools Newsletter!

Milk Money

Years 1-7: Milk starts on Monday 16th September. The cost of milk from Monday 16th September until

17th December is £12. Milk money is due by Friday 6th September so that orders can be placed to the dairy.

School Photographer

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

Friday 8th November, Tuesday 12th November and Wednesday 13th November 2019.

More details will follow in the October's Monthly 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 you will be asked to sign a 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.

School Dinners

Children may bring their own lunch or they may have a school dinner prepared by our kitchen staff in the two sites of St. Catherine's. Both canteens have acquired 5 Star status and we are very proud of them indeed. The cost of school dinner this year will be £ 2.60 per day. For any child who is entitled to Free School Meals ... parents should apply to the Education Authority (EA), Omagh. Phone 02882 411411. If you haven't applied or your application has not yet been processed please ring EA immediately.

The Education Authority has advised us that it should be noted that if you have not applied for Free School Meals yet the application if approved will NOT be backdated. If your child's application has not been approved yet parents can either send a wee packed lunch with your child or alternatively pay for school dinner until the application has been approved.

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.**

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.



School Lunches

As mentioned earlier we are a "Healthy Eating School" and in keeping with our Food in Schools Policy we would ask you to provide a healthy break for your child and a healthy lunchbox. A list of acceptable foods are listed at the back of this note.

Health & Hygiene

As we begin a new school year we would like to increase your child's awareness of the importance of good handwashing, because, as you know, children are more prone to sharing bugs. We feel that this will help reduce the likelihood of the spread of any infections both in the school and at home. We would be grateful if you would go through the handwashing steps with your child. Little rhymes such as "This is the way we wash our hands" [for our younger children can make handwashing a fun experience. It is important that handwashing is carried out after certain activities, for example, using the toilet, before eating, after touching animals, the garden or rubbish. "Happy Handwashing!"

School Rules and Guides to making school life a happy experience for everyone!

We have three simple school rules in St. Catherine's which everyone should adhere to and they are

- 1. WORK HARD.**
- 2. ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST.**
- 3. TREAT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING WITH RESPECT.**

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 4th 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!!!



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 3rd October 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 3rd October at 10am.** We would like you to join us if you can!! Thanks for your support! We will pray together!

Staff Training Day

School will be closed on Friday 27th September due to a staff training day.



Curriculum

You child (P2-P7) will receive a reading book on Thursday 5th September . Spellings and Number Facts Homework will begin for each child in Years 3-7 from Monday 9th September .Written homework will begin for every child from Year 2- 7 from Monday 16th September. Each child from Year 1 – Year 7 will receive a reading record book ... please sign this book for your child to indicate that you have overseen their reading homework every night. Each child from Year 3-7 will also receive a Homework Diary, This is to ensure that you as parents are kept in touch with your child's homework expectations and it also helps your child in their own independence and personal organisation. We ask that parents sign the Homework diary to indicate that you have overseen your child's written homework also! Thank you!

We respectfully request that our little children take good care of books and look after them well. Books are so expensive and when they are lost or damaged the cost of replacement is quite high. In times of economic pressure, we thank you in advance for your support and understanding!



Updated School Attendance Policy

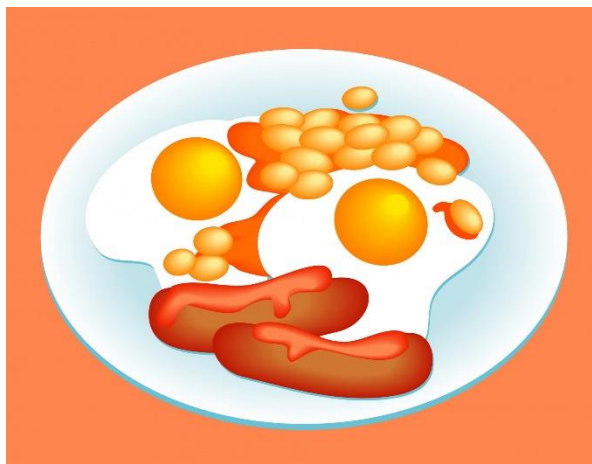
Our little children should be encouraged to keep their attendance **NO LESS THAN 90%** . If attendance falls below 90% then a letter will be sent from school to raise awareness. It is understood that from time to time children may have illness which prevents them from coming to school.If this happens your child please let the school know as soon as possible and send a **WRITTEN NOTE** with your child explaining the absence when they return to school so that teachers can change the attendance code on the computer system which reflects this explanation. If your child experiences any other issues that prevents them from being able to attend school, please approach the teacher immediately and all efforts will be made to help and support. Remember if your child misses school, they miss out! (Please note that attendance at Nursery is not compulsory but we encourage good school attendance practices for all our little pupils!)

Thank you!!



Breakfast Club

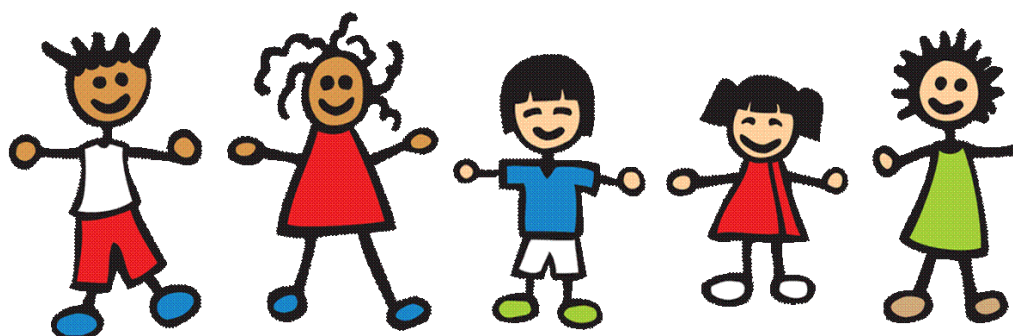
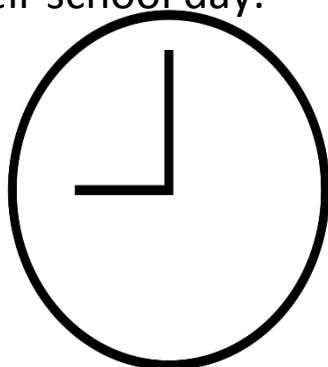
Both sites of St. Catherine's operate a Breakfast Club every morning. Breakfast Club opens from 8.30am on both sites. Parents and children are welcome to avail of a nice little breakfast(at very reasonable prices!) to begin their day. The Hot food FRY UP is available Senior School Site every Friday for an end of week treat!. Miss Doherty and Mrs Wilders may avail of a little morning appetiser also!!!



School Start Times and Collection Times

Start Times

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.



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 (23rd September) Nursery Children should be collected at 12.30pm after lunch.

Week 5 (30th September) 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 (16th September) Year 1 should be collected at 12.45pm after lunch.

Week 4 (23rd 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.

Where do I collect my child on each site?

Nursery: All children should be collected from their classrooms.

Junior School :

Year 1(a) Mrs Doherty's class and Year 2 (b) Mrs Hamilton's Class should be collected from the front pupil exit beside their classrooms.

Year 1 (b) Miss Hutton's Class and Year 2 (a) Mrs Mc Glynn's Class should be collected from the exit door beside their classroom.

All Year 3 and Year 4 Classes will be escorted by their teachers to the front of the School where they can be collected. Parents/ carers/ older siblings may collect pupils from the front of the school.

It should be noted that there is a Metal Bridge (at the front of the Junior School) and a Play Trail at the back of the Junior School but we respectfully request that parents do not allow children to play on this equipment as there is no staff member available at hometime to supervise safe play on this equipment and accidents may happen! Thank you!

Senior School :

Nursery: Nursery children must be collected from the actual door of the Nursery itself.

Year 5 should be collected at 3pm from the front main exit gate of this school site at the side of the Vice Principal's Office

Year 6 will be escorted by their teachers to the gate at the side of the Vice Principal's Office of this school site where they can be collected.

Year 7 will be escorted to the main door at the front of the Senior School where they can be collected.

PLEASE NOTE:

We expect that all children (Nursery , Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3) will be collected by a responsible adult to ensure their safety going home from school. If your child is in Year 3-7 and you wish them to walk home by themselves then please indicate this to the class teacher via a little note. If you wish your child to be collected by taxi then you should send a note to the class teacher indicating this. For Child Protection and Safeguarding purposes we cannot release a child to any adult without parental consent. If a parent changes the usual method of collecting their child/children please contact the school to inform the relevant teacher(s) of the change. Thank you!

Child Protection and Safeguarding

We will be sending out our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy this week .Please read this policy and return the parent form that comes with it [to the class teacher by Wednesday 11th September] to let us know that you have received the policy. We thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

School Closures

We have attached a list of school closures for this year.

Complaints Policy and Procedures

We welcome comments, suggestions and compliments at any time! We have parents suggestions boxes in the front foyer of both our school sites... please feel free to use them. You can also contact the Principal or Senior Member of staff by phoning the school and making an appointment at any time. You may also email the principal at the email address stipulated on the front of this weekly note.

Thank you!

Prayer of the Month for September

Back to School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help me to listen and learn in school.

Help me to persevere when things are difficult.

Help me to face challenges with strength knowing
you are by my side.

Help me to be the best I can be and to show kindness
to everyone I meet.

Be my guide Lord.

Amen



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. "



Old Uniforms

If you have uniform pieces at home that no longer fit your child or you have no further use for, we would appreciate it if you would like to donate them to school. We can in turn use these to help other children. Thank you!



Holiday List for 2019/20

The school will be **closed** on:

Five Allocated Staff Training Days which have been allocated throughout the Year.

Friday 27th September 2019 (**Staff Training Day 1**)

Hallowe'en – Mid Term Break

Monday 28th October 2019 – Friday 1st November 2019

(Reopens on Monday 4th November 2019)

Christmas Break

School closes on Friday 20th December 2019 at 12 Noon – Friday 3rd January 2020

(**School Reopens for our everyone on Monday 6th January 2020**)

Spring Term Break

Monday 17th February 2020 until Friday 21st February 2020

(**School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 24th February 2020**)

St. Patrick's Day Break

Monday 16th March 2020 (Staff Training Day)

Tuesday 17th March 2020 (St. Patrick's Day Public Holiday)

(**School Reopens for our pupils on Wednesday 18th March 2020**)

Easter Break

School closes on Holy Thursday 9th April 2020 at 12 Noon

School Reopens on Monday 20th April 2020

Friday 8th May 2020 (Bank Holiday)

Monday 25th May 2020 (**Staff Training Day -School closed for pupils**)

School Closes on Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 12 Noon.

Please note there are three other Staff Training Days that teachers will complete during the year (Staff Training Days 2,3 and 4). These will be encompassed into the plan above. If there is any change to this we will let parents know as soon as possible.

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 in the Junior School, Mrs T Mc Granaghan (Senior Leader) 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!!



EXCITING NEW FREE PROGRAMME !!

Top Tips for Parents(Open to all parents/carers in our school....but book your place!)

A new programme called “Top Tips For Parents” will run in the SENIOR SCHOOL every Tuesday Morning from 9.15am-10.15am. This is a fabulous programme packed with ideas for helping their child develop friendship skills, advice regarding managing behaviour of our children, advice regarding promoting our children’s independence, managing emotions , improving communication with our children and finally helping to make our children more resilient!! WOW!!

Come along every Tuesday morning, have a cuppa, meet others, share ideas and know that you are not alone help and advice is always at hand..... come along to find out more!!

If you would like to attend please sign the attached expression of interest slip and return to school this Friday 6th September!

Community Event :

Everyone is welcome to go along to Melvin to join in the Sensory Mile Event. This event is suitable for everyone including people with learning, physical and sensory difficulties, autism and long term health conditions, their carers and family. This promises to be a great event....don't miss out!!

Sensory Mile at Melvin Centre Strabane on Tuesday 10th September 11am-1pm



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

Top Tips for Parents Programme

I will/ will not be attending the new FREE Top Tips for Parents Programme in St. Catherine's SENIOR School starting on Tuesday 17th September 2019 from 9.15am – 10.15am.

Signed: _____

Parent/guardian of: _____

Class Teacher: _____





St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

September 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	2. Back to School	3.	4.	5. Reading Books sent home for Years 2 – 7. Parents sign Reading Record Books.	6. Pupil of the Week begins. (Primary School)	7.
8.	9. Spellings, Tables/ Number Facts given out to children in Year 3 to 7 for the week.	10.	11.	12.	13. Year 5 Swimming Week 1.	14.
15.	16. Written Homework begins for Years 2 to 7. Parents sign homework/ homework diaries.	17.	18.	19.	20. Year 5 Swimming Week 2.	21.
22.	23. Nursery Curriculum Parent Information Session. 1.30pm Nursery School.	24. 7.00pm PTFA Meeting Junior School.	25. Families Connect Coffee Morning for Year 2 Parents – 10.30am Junior School.	26.	27. Staff Development Day 1. Pupils off school.	28.
29.	30. Book Week begins. Paired Reading Meeting for Year 3 at 7.00pm in Junior Site. Curriculum Information Newsletters sent home to parents of pupils in Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4.					

Knowing how to learn is life's most important skill.



