

St. Catherine's Nursery 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

Download Our **FREE** School App

St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Follow us on Instagram : St Catherine's Primary School

Monthly Note: Monday 2nd October 2023

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

Keeping in Touch!

Communication has never been more important than it is at this very time. We are only sending out essential paper communications to you that may require your signature; all other communications are being sent in the following key ways;

1. Text messages
2. Text messages with links to letters
3. Emails

Occasionally we will reinforce messages via facebook but important messages will be sent in one of the three main ways above.

To that end, please ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address. If you wish to change these please let Mrs Kelly (Clerical Officer) know by emailing her at ckelly452@c2kni.net . If you do not update us you may not receive VITAL INFORMATION going forward.

You can also email your child's teacher or a Senior Member of staff and we will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible during the working day. Email addresses have already been sent to you in the Welcome Pack and other text letter link messages.

We also appreciate it when you update us if your child has symptoms of COVID 19 or if your child or a close contact tests positive. It continues to be very important that we know this in order to minimise infection risk.

Thank you all so much for your support to date!



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!"



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 have 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 matter.



School is CASHLESS! School Money App

We have been using School Money App since last year and so far it works well. We will be adding more payment opportunities to it and now encourage all parents to use SCHOOL MONEY APP as the way to pay school dinners, milk money, school trip money etc. If you have any queries or difficulties with using this facility please contact Clerical Staff on any of our school sites. Thank you!



schoolmoney

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, home address, email 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 9th October. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have already returned your forms please ignore this gentle reminder.

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. Meals will be served in the canteen with only two class bubbles in the canteen at any given time. 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 (£2.50 Nursery) and should be paid via the SCHOOL MONEY APP. There are NEW DINNER MENUS attached to this newsletter...one for each week of the month. Dates are in the top corner of the menu. Please read carefully.

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.



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.



Physical Education (Primary School ONLY)

It is crucial that our children have opportunities for physical fitness and learning more about their bodies and having a healthy lifestyle.

Our children will have opportunities to play at breaktime and lunchtime in their bubble groups (Weather permitting)

As soon as our little children settle in at school, we will begin PE lessons also.

Staff in each class will let you know when PE will begin and on which days it will take place. Children may wear their PE Gear to school on PE Days instead of their full uniform. The purpose of this is to minimise changing in school and help control the spread of infection.

If in doubt regarding PE time, you can email your child's teacher and they will be happy to give clarity.



Hallowe'en Break School Closure

School will be closed for the Hallowe'en Break from MONDAY 30th October until Friday 3rd November (inclusive). School will reopen again on Monday 6th November as usual. Have a lovely break.



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.**

Musical Pathways in Nursery

Musical Pathways to Learning (MPL) is a scheme which enables children to develop through music. It is offered in our school to pupils in Nursery, Years 1 and 2. The programme involves an EA Specialist Teacher who uses stimulating activities including rhymes, songs and games. There is considerable research evidence which demonstrates that the skills learned are transferrable across all subjects in the curriculum. We are delighted to offer this in St Catherine's Nursery and Primary School every year.

Timetable:

Nursery: Thursdays (am)

Year 1: Tuesdays (pm)

Year 2: Thursdays (am)

Junior Learning Centre: Thursdays (am)



School Photographer

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

Monday 2nd October: Years 1-4 (Junior School)

Tuesday 3rd October : Nursery, Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 (Senior School)

Wednesday 4th October: Family PRE BOOKED photo shoots . A family member must come to the school to collect family members, take them to the photo session in the SENIOR SCHOOL HALL and then return the children to class again. A text linked letter has been sent out to parents with booking links.

Individual photos and class group photos will be organised by staff. 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 you must also let the teacher know.

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



Meet our Safeguarding Team



Chairperson of the Board of Governors of
St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School
Mrs B. Allen



Governor for
Child Protection & Safeguarding
Mrs A. Kelly



Designated Teacher for Child
Protection & Safeguarding
Mrs B. Wilders



Designated Teacher for Child
Protection & Safeguarding
Miss J. Doherty



Designated Teacher for Child
Protection & Safeguarding in
our Nursery School
Mrs. Porter



Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection &
Safeguarding in our Nursery
School
Ms. Carlin



Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection &
Safeguarding in our Junior Site
Ms. Y. McGowan



Deputy Designated Teacher for
Child Protection &
Safeguarding in our Senior Site
Mrs. B. Daly

Meet our Head Boy/Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Girl Team!



Head Boy
Eoin Strawbridge



Head Girl
Beth Conway



Deputy Head Boy
Jason O'Neill



Deputy Head Boy
Lucas Philips



Deputy Head Boy
Jack Dooher



Deputy Head Boy
Niall McGillian



Deputy Head Boy
Corin Kelly



Deputy Head Girl
Emeli Montgomery



Deputy Head Girl
Layla-Rose O'Donnell



Deputy Head Girl
Lauren Diver



Deputy Head Girl
Grace Conway



Deputy Head Girl
Casey-Lee Miller

Meet our Year 7 Senior Prefects!



Confirmation Dates

Fr Boland will celebrate Confirmation with our Year 7 Pupils this year. Dates are as follows:

Year 7 A (Mrs Gillespie's Class) : Saturday 9th March at 11am

Year 7 B (Mrs Daly's Class) : Saturday 9th March at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



First Holy Communion Dates

Fr Boland will celebrate First Holy Communion with our Year 4 Pupils this year. Dates are as follows:

Year 4 A (Miss Mathers' Class) : Saturday 20th April at 11am

Year 4 B (Ms Kelly's Class) : Saturday 20th April at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



Internet Safety Education Workshops for Key Stage 2 Pupils (Years 5-7)

Every year we host specialised Internet Safety Education Workshops for our Year 5-7 Pupils to upskill them in how to make most use of the Internet but in a safe and appropriate way.

Workshops will be facilitated by ALLSTATE and REIM SOLUTIONS.

The following dates below are for each year group;

Year 5: Thursday 16th November

Year 6 & 7: Tuesday 14th November

Be smart on the internet

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

www.kidsmart.org.uk

Visit Childnet's KidSmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.

Childnet International
www.childnet.com

KidSMART

Nursery AGE NI “Slip into your Slippers” Event

For the first time ever, our little Nursery Pupils will take part in the AGE NI **“Slip into your Slippers”** event. This event is being organized in conjunction with AGE NI , a charity that helps older people in our society. Respecting and appreciating our elderly and what they have contributed to us in their lifetimes, is so important. To this end we invite our Grandparents/ Carers available to join our little Nursery Children on this day (if they can), just for fun. Grandparents are so important in the lives of our little children and should be recognized as such. Our Grandparents and Nursery children will have a storytelling session together (Wearing their slippers if they can!!) followed by tea/ treats, spending quality time and having fun. Facilitators from Strabane Library will provide the storytelling session!! We invite all our pupils to voluntarily donate £1 for AGE NI charity who help elderly people throughout NI. More information will be sent home from Teachers to gauge an idea of numbers attending!

This will take place in the Nursery Classrooms on WEDNESDAY 25th OCTOBER.

Nursery Room 1: 10.45am

Nursery Room 2: 11.15am



Welcoming NEW SLIMMING WORLD Group to St. Catherine's!!

For the first time we are delighted to facilitate a NEW SLIMMING WORLD Group in St. Catherine's Junior School every Wednesday from 5.30pm-7.30pm every WEDNESDAY right throughout the year! Everyone Welcome.

If you wish to find out more about this exciting new opportunity please feel free to contact Allison on 07856710051 or just come along to the session!

A promotional image for Slimming World. It shows three people (two women and one man) sitting around a table with various food items. A red circular badge on the table says "less than £5* a week when you buy a Countdown course". To the right, the text "yes you can with Slimming World" is written in a large, red, handwritten-style font. Below this, it says "COME AND JOIN US" with a blue icon of two people. At the bottom, it says "Every Wednesday from 5.30pm St Catherine's (junior site)" in a red, handwritten-style font.

eat the food you love and still lose weight!

less than £5* a week when you buy a Countdown course

yes you can with Slimming World

COME AND JOIN US

Every Wednesday from 5.30pm
St Catherine's (junior site)

no booking required!

Weigh opens 5.30-6pm
Group talk 6.05-6.45pm
Late weigh 6.50-7.15pm

Contact Allison on 07856710051
FB: slimworld Allison Strabane & dromore

read Joe, Sapphire and Abby's stories here
slimmingworld.co.uk

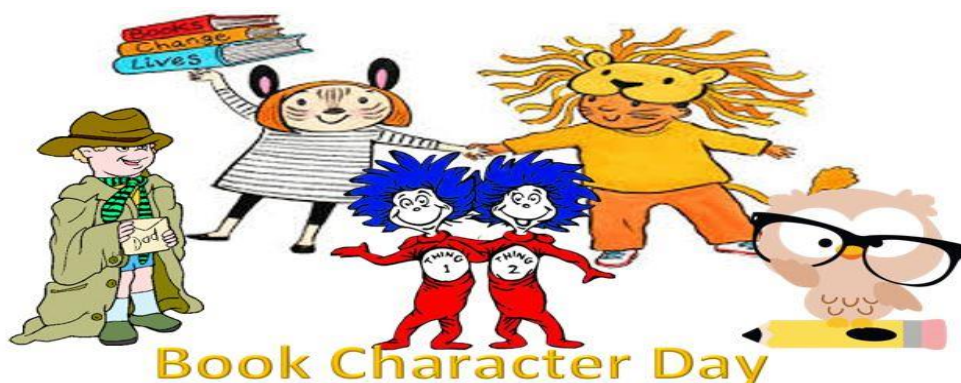
*Price shown is RRP. Terms and conditions apply. Visit slimmingworld.co.uk/offers for more information.



A message from our Literacy Leader Mrs Connolly.....

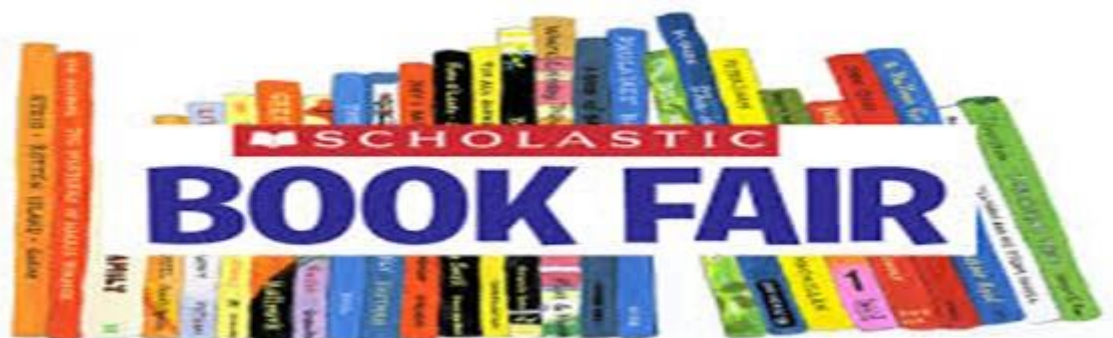
Book Character Day Friday 13th October 2023

We are delighted to be celebrating Book Week from Monday 9th October until Friday 13th October! Children throughout the years have loved dressing up for Book Character Day and gain so much from it in terms of a love of reading and literature. We understand that these are very challenging times for everyone and we would remind parents that simple, homemade costumes are very often the best! Children can come to school dressed as a character from a fairy tale, book or a Nursery Rhyme. Every child will go home with a little token of appreciation for their efforts. They will have a fun filled day in school! Keep an eye on social media for some photos of their day.



Book Fair Monday 9th October-Friday 13th October

Our annual book fair will be here this year again! Your child will have the opportunity to purchase a book at the Book Fair. If you would like your child to purchase a book, simply send their money to school with them in an envelope with their name marked on it. They will have an opportunity to browse the book fair and bring the book home with them the day. We would like to thank you for your continued support as every purchase made provides funding towards books for the children in school! More details will follow!



Celebrating Pupil Achievement

We have always felt that it is so important that we celebrate the achievements of our little pupils. We do this informally on a daily basis through conversations with them and class celebrations but we also celebrate success on a weekly/ monthly basis to share with each other on our school site. We feel that praise and recognition for work effort is crucial to our little children feeling happy, confident and proud of themselves and proud of their learning in school. Below is just a little reminder of some of the main achievements that we celebrate.

Weekly : **Pupil of the Week**

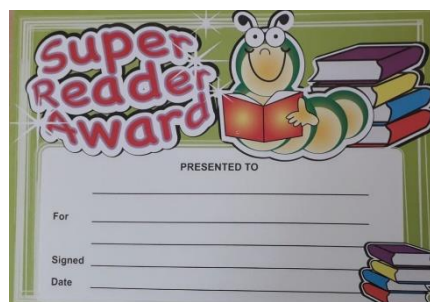
Every Friday we recognize that although all the pupils in the class work very hard, one little pupil may have shone a little brighter on that particular week and the teacher saw this and was duly impressed. It can be because they tried/ persevered so hard with their school work or it may be because they have been such a good friend, shown lovely manners or just displayed a lovely act of kindness...either way they have just shone!

Throughout the year every pupil in the class will have shone brightly and will have had this award given to them! Well done! Please celebrate this award with your children at home!



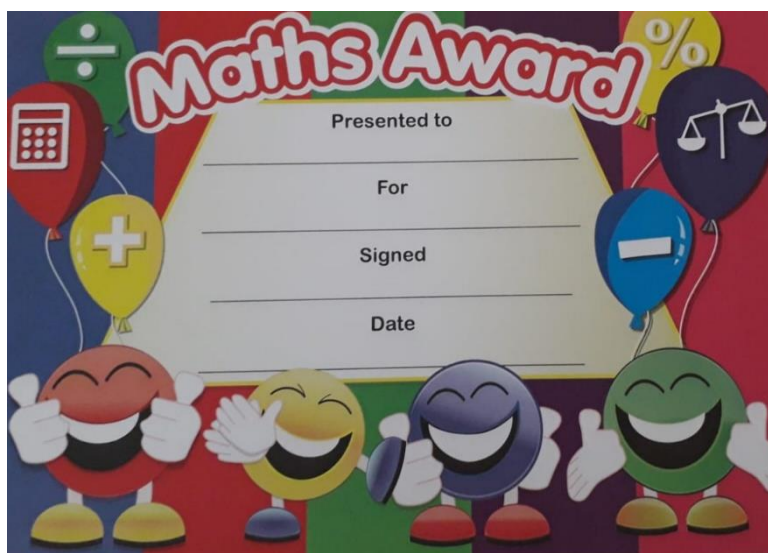
Monthly: **Reader of the Month**

We value the importance of reading in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with reading as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to reading and has shown dedication and exceptional reading work. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging reading at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



Monthly: **Mathematician of the Month**

We value the importance of Maths in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with maths and mental maths as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to maths, mental maths and problem solving maths plus has shown dedication and exceptional mathematical work. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging mathematics, mental maths and problem solving at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



Monthly: **I.C.T Pupil of the Month**

We value the importance of I.C.T. and digital technology in our school. We celebrate our children's efforts with digital technology as often as we can. On a monthly basis each class celebrates a special effort made by a child who has committed to I.C.T. and digital technology and has shown dedication and exceptional work and enthusiasm in this area. The work completed by the child is displayed in school for the next month and then they receive their certificate to take home after it has been displayed and celebrated in school. Please support us by encouraging I.C.T. and Digital Technology at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement with your child!



One of our main targets this year for our little children is to promote a love of reading. Reading is crucial to each child's development and helps them gain confidence and ability in all curricular areas not just literacy and can be a great source of fun and enjoyment! Please encourage your child to read a little every single night both school reading book, comics, novels etc. It also helps them to sleep better! This year we will have a focus on READING and will be changing one of the monthly awards to READER OF THE MONTH to promote this. Thank you for supporting us in this initiative.



We are inviting Year 5 children to prepare a shoebox for this years appeal. The shoeboxes should be ready for November time in order to arrive on time with the children they are being sent to. This is an extremely worthy appeal and lights up so many lives around the world at Christmas and never more needed than this year. Year 5 teachers will be sending home leaflets to explain what is needed, so hold on to your empty shoeboxes for a worthy cause!



Daily / Weekly/ Monthly/ Termly/ Annually; **Harry Potter House Award System**

Each child in our school is a member of a HOUSE TEAM. We operate under the Harry Potter House Awards System so each child is either in the house of...

1. Hufflepuff
2. Slytherin
3. Gryffindor
4. Ravenclaw

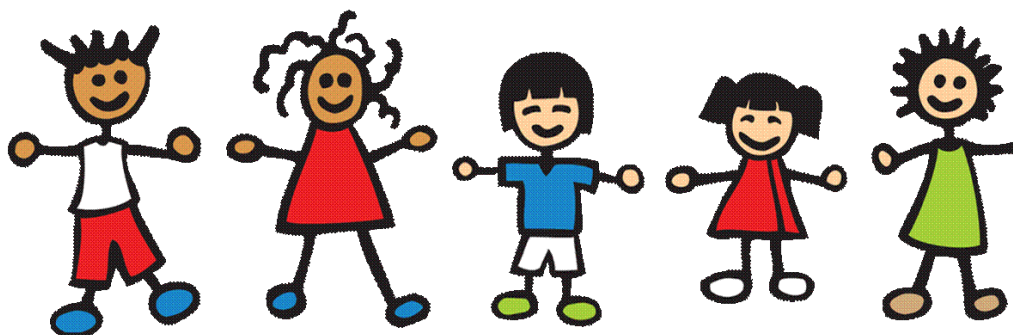
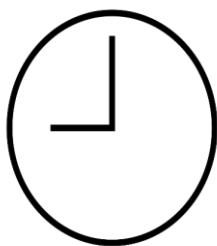
Each day of each week our little pupils have opportunities to gain points for their HOUSE TEAM by for example; showing kindness, completing homework, showing pride in their uniform, completing classwork to a high standard, healthy eating, sports endeavours, musical endeavours, good manners in/ out of school, recognition in / out of school etc. These points are accumulated in every class at the end of the week and tallied at the end of the month. The House Team in the lead at the end of every month has their points announced and receive a HOMEWORK PASS. At the end of the year the WINNING HOUSE TEAM receive a plaque for their team on each site, a medal and a school trip away together. The other HOUSE TEAMS receive a lovely certificate for having participated and given their best! Every child has an opportunity here to shine and gain points for each other in their HOUSE TEAM. This is to promote and enhance a sense of school family spirit for all pupils! Please support us by encouraging participation in the school house points system at home and celebrating the importance of this achievement and teamship with your child!

Harry Potter House Rewards				
	Gryffindor values...	Slytherin values...	Hufflepuff values...	Ravenclaw values...
	courage bravery nerve chivalry	ambition leadership resourceful friendship	hard work patience justice loyalty	intelligence creativity learning wit
	Gryffindor	Slytherin	Hufflepuff	Ravenclaw
September	3711	4096	3967	4067
October				
November				
December				

School Start Times and Collection Times

Year Group	Drop off / Collection Point	Start Time	Finish Time
Nursery Room 1	Nursery Room 1 External Door	9am-9.30am	1.30pm- 1.40pm
Nursery Room 2	Nursery Room 2 External Door	9am-9.30am	1.30pm- 1.40pm
Year 1A (Mrs Doherty)	Pupil Front door facing school gate	8.50am-9am	2.10pm
Year 1B (Miss Hutton)	Back Door opposite the Play Trail	8.50am-9am	2.10pm
Year 2 A (Mrs Mc Glynn)	Back Door opposite the Play Trail	8.50am-9am	2.15pm
Year 2 B (Ms Y Mc Gowan)	Pupil Front door facing school gate nearest to Mrs Doherty's classroom in Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	2.15pm
Learning Centre (Junior School) (Mrs Hamilton)	Middle Floor Door near mobile classroom at the back of the Junior School	8.50am-9am	2.10pm (Year 1) 2.15pm (Year 2) 3pm (Year 3 & 4 Pupils except Feel Good Friday)
Year 3 A (Miss M Maguire)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 3 B (Mrs S Vaughan/ Mrs L DOWney)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 4 A (Miss E Mathers)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 4 B (Ms B Kelly)	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 5 A (Ms C Gallagher/ Mrs C Gormley)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 5A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)

Year 5 B (Miss A Kerr/ Mrs S O'Kane)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 5B Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 6 A (Miss E Keyes)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door and line up at Year 6A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 6 B (Mrs C Deery)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door and line up at Year 6B Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 7 A (Mrs C Gillespie)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 7A Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Year 7 B (Mrs B Daly)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Year 7B Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)
Learning Centre (Senior School)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and line up at Learning Centre Meeting Point where teacher will collect the class	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)



Staff roles and Email addresses.

Staff Member	Class / Role	Email Address
Mrs Bridget Wilders	Principal	bwilders592@c2kni.net
Miss Jennifer Doherty	Vice Principal	jdoheraty742@c2kni.net
Mrs B. Porter	Nursery Room 1	bporter544@c2kni.net
Ms K Carlin	Nursery Room 2	kcarlin208@c2kni.net
Mrs D. Doherty	Year 1 A	ddoherty115@c2kni.net
Miss C. Hutton	Year 1 B	chutton763@c2kni.net
Mrs A.M. Mc Glynn	Year 2 A	amcglynn388@c2kni.net
Ms Y Mc Gowan	Year 2 B	ymcgowan609@c2kni.net
Miss M Maguire	Year 3 A	mmaguire497@c2kni.net
Mrs S Vaughan/ Mrs L Downey	Year 3 B	svaughan325@c2kni.net ldowney759@c2kni.net
Miss E Mathers	Year 4 A	emathers571@c2kni.net
Ms B Kelly	Year 4 B	bkelly663@c2kni.net
Ms C Gallagher	Year 5 A	cgallagher328@c2kni.net
Miss A Kerr	Year 5 B	akerr341@c2kni.net
Miss E Keyes	Year 6 A	ekeyes746@c2kni.net
Mrs C Deery	Year 6 B	cdeery318@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Gillespie	Year 7 A	cgillespie221@c2kni.net
Mrs B Daly	Year 7 B	bdaly611@c2kni.net
Mrs C Connolly	Learning Centre (Senior School)	cconnolly309@c2kni.net
Mrs. C. Hamilton	Learning Centre (Junior School)	chamilton290@c2kni.net



School Meals and Snacks

School Dinner costs £2.60 in Primary School and £2.50 in Nursery)

Children should bring healthy snacks for break and if taking packed lunch; should bring a healthy lunch as per our Food in Schools Policy. We actively promote foods lower in sugar, fat and salt content during the week as part of Healthy Eating. Feel Good Friday is a treat day though!!



Child Protection and Safeguarding

We will be sending out our UPDATED Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy next week .Please read this policy and return the parent form that comes with it [to the class teacher by Wednesday 11th October] 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! You can 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 or teaching staff with email addresses outlined on this newsletter. We respectfully request that you do not use Social Media as an avenue for complaints as they can only best be addressed with school personnel directly in the hope of a suitable resolution and a positive way forward. Thank you!

Prayer of the Month for October

The Prayer of the Month for October is the “Children Helping Children” Mission Prayer

**May all the children in the world
share love, share friendship
and live in the peace of God's love
now and forever**

Amen



PATHS Quote of the Month October

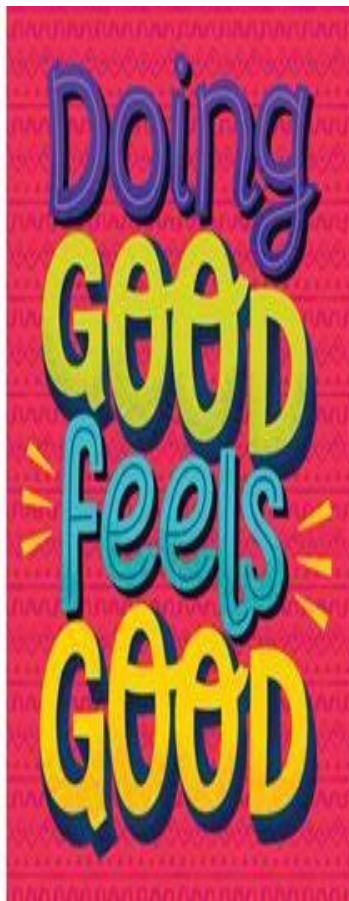


We are delighted that our school is a PATHS Model School and that PATHS is taught in all classes from Nursery right through to Primary 7. The PATHS programme involves lots of fun activities dealing with important issues such as Feelings, Behaviours, Solving Problems, Making Friends and Self-Esteem. It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

Be giving, do things for others.

Doing good feels good





St. Catherine's Primary School



Holiday List for 2023/ 2024

The school will be **closed** on:

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

Friday 15th September 2023 (**Staff Training Day 1**)

Hallowe'en – Mid Term Break

Monday 30th October 2023 – Friday 3rd November 2023

(Reopens on Monday 6th November 2023)

Christmas Break

School closes on Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12 Noon – Monday 8th January 2024

(School Reopens for our everyone on Tuesday 9th January 2024)

Spring Term Break

Monday 12th February 2024 until Friday 16th February 2024

(School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 19th February 2024)

St. Patrick's Day Break

Monday 18th March 2024 (St. Patrick's Day Public Holiday)

(School Reopens for our pupils on Tuesday 19th March 2024)

Easter Break

School closes on Holy Thursday 28th March 2024 at 12 Noon

School Reopens on Monday 8th April 2024

May Breaks

Monday 6th May 2024 (Bank Holiday)

Monday 27th May 2024: **Staff Training Day 5 (SDD 5)** School Closed to pupils

School Closes on Friday 28th June 2024 at 12 Noon.

Please note other Staff Training Days that teachers will complete during the year are incorporated into the pupil holidays. 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 Senior Leaders 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!!

Parents/carers/ child minders/ taxi drivers etc may NOT enter the school car park for Health and Safety Reasons unless this has been prearranged with school management for a specific reason.



Avian Flu Guidance from the Education Authority

(Please see below)



22 August 2023

Dear Principal

Ref: Avian Influenza Advice

We would be grateful for your support in communicating the current public health guidance around Avian Influenza with your colleagues.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has advised that human infections with Avian Influenza are rare as it is primarily a disease of birds with the risk to the health of the general public, being very low.

However, the PHA encourages all members of the public to observe the following guidance when maintaining outdoor areas, including school grounds:

- Do not pick up or touch sick, dying, or dead poultry or wild birds and keep pets away from them.
- Avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with bird faeces.
- Avoid untreated bird feathers (such as those found in the environment) and other bird waste.
- Maintain good personal hygiene with regular hand washing with soap and use of alcohol-based hand rubs.

In addition to sharing this guidance with your school staff, the attached poster from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), may also be useful.

The public can report any findings of dead wild birds through a new online reporting form. The reporting tool can be accessed by scanning the QR code on the poster, or on the DAERA website - [click here](#).

You can find further information and frequently asked questions on matters such as Disposal Methods of dead birds via the DAERA website - [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Crooks'.

Paul Crooks | Assistant Director
Facilities Management
Operations and Estates

"To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be."

Education Authority

3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh BT61 9AX

T: 028 37512535 E: dale.hanna@eani.org.uk W: www.eani.org.uk

Link to DAERA website: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/frequently-asked-questions-0>



MORE Nursery News!

Christmas Cinema Trip:

A Christmas Cinema Trip will be planned for our littlest school members in our Nursery. When details have been finalised we will let you know.

Health Visitor Visit to our Nursery Pupils

Our Health Visitor (Ms Lisa O'Brien) will be in school on the following dates to see our little Nursery Pupils for their Pre School Health Checks. These will take place with parental consent and in the presence of parents in the Senior School Assembly Hall on prescheduled appointments on....

Monday 6th November

Tuesday 7th November

Thursday 16th November

Monday 20th November

Tuesday 21st November

We welcome our Health Visitor and parents for these very important pre school health checks!

Nursery Sunflower Programme :

Our Sunflower Programme is a special education programme that we host every year for our little Nursery Pupils to teach the value and importance of hope and to promote better mental health and resilience at an early age. Our pupils and parents love it! A letter will follow to explain all about our Nursery Sunflower Programme. Please read carefully and join in with the parents sessions, if you can, as they are so fun and worthwhile.

Surestart Message of the Month

October

Take your place face to face...

I learn the most when you are close



Sing a rhyme anytime
Start your child learning
for a lifetime!



Hallowe'en Film Fun Day(Nursery -Year 7)

On Friday 27th October, we warmly invite our little pupils to come to school dressed in their Hallowe'en Costumes.

We will be having a Film Day in every class where each class will transform into a Cinema Room and a film will be shown.

Instead of paying extra for treats this year, children may bring their own treats on this day. The cost of the film and voluntary donation to school funds is £1. Money donated to school funds helps school purchase valuable resources for children, little gifts at Christmas and Easter, subsidises buses for trips etc. We really appreciate any support you can give as all money goes towards our little children.

We hope that our little children will enjoy this Hallowe'en experience!



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 or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

<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

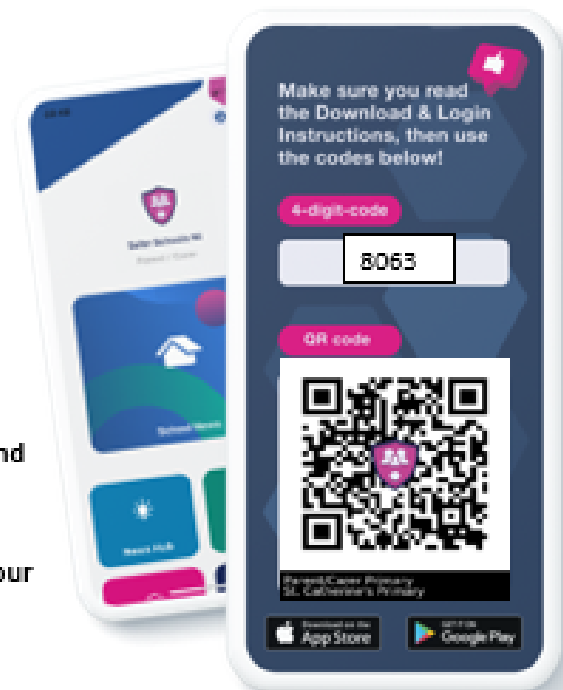


Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to download our new Safer Schools NI App, provided to your school by the Department of Education and INEQE Safeguarding Group. (Downloaded Safer Schools last year? This new and updated App replaces it!)

Did you know?

92% of children in Northern Ireland use video sharing platforms, with 53% using social media and 65% accessing messaging apps (Ofcom, 2020). If your child hasn't already been using these platforms, they soon will be! Therefore, it's more important than ever to be aware of how to keep your child safe.



How will the Safer Schools NI App help you?



Provides you with easy-to-follow steps on how to make your home and devices safer in the 'Need-to-Know' section. It's a great place to start!



Keeps you up to date with the current online trends, threats, and risks to your child. This information is sent directly to your device!



Delivers the information you need to know on social media and gaming platforms, helping you understand the latest buzzwords and how to set privacy and parental settings on platforms like Among Us, Minecraft and TikTok.



Offers expert guidance to help you navigate important issues such as bullying, mental health and healthy relationships. Giving you practical tips on how to approach these conversations with your children.



Gives you access to your school's latest news, updated policies, and calendar all within your App.



The Online Safety section will signpost you to help and support where you need it when you need it – it's in your pocket!



SAFER SCHOOLS NI

now

To download and login to your Safer Schools NI App, follow the steps below! Make sure to enable your push notifications when prompted to keep up to date with the latest safeguarding alerts and your school news.

Downloading your App

Step 1

If you are using an iOS device, go to the Apple App Store and search 'Safer Schools NI'. If you are using an Android device, go to the Google Play Store and search 'Safer Schools NI'.

Step 2

Select 'Download'.



Logging In

Please follow the below instructions.

Creating An Account:

Step 1

If you haven't already, please create an account by clicking 'Parent/Carer' on the login screen of your App.

Step 2

To create an account, click 'Register here' and input your full name, email and password you wish to use. You'll also be asked to confirm your password. Once you're ready, click 'Register' and this will create your account.

Step 3

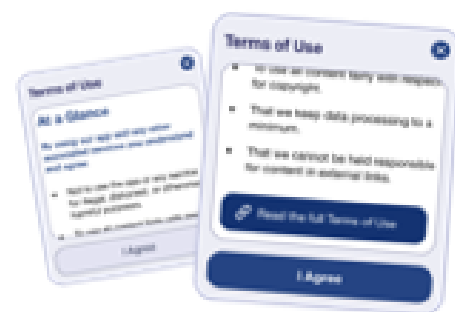
After you register, you will be asked to read and agree to the Terms and Conditions. After reading and scrolling to the bottom, the 'I agree' button will be available to select.

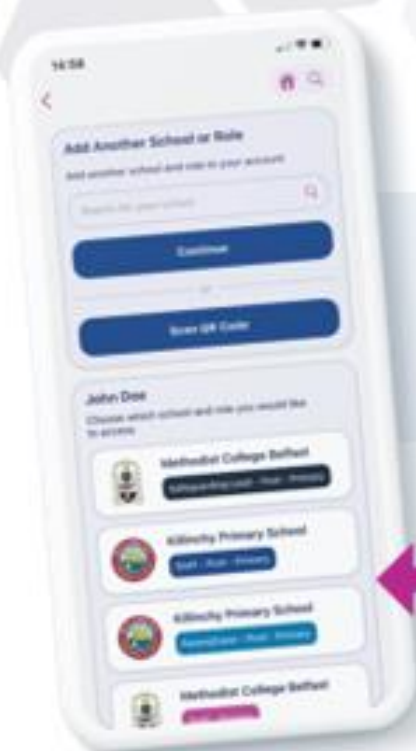
Step 4

Time to pick your school! To add your school, simply type it in within the search bar and click 'Continue'.

You will then be asked to input the Entry Code that you have received from your school that is relevant to your role. Type in your code and click 'Submit'.

You'll be asked to confirm this by clicking 'Continue'. To scan a QR Code instead of your Entry Code, click 'Scan QR Code'.





Top Tip: Did you know that your App features Multi-School Login? This means that you are a Staff member in one school with a child in another, or if you are a Parent/Carer of children in different schools, you have access to multiple schools without having to log in and out of the App.

Step 5
To add another School, simply repeat Step 3! You can also view all of your added schools under your name.

Logging into your App:

Step 1

When you have opened the App, you should input your email address and password that you used to create your account. Once you're ready, click 'Log In'.

Step 2

When you log in, you will see your chosen school(s) that you have added to your account. Simply click the school that you would like to view!

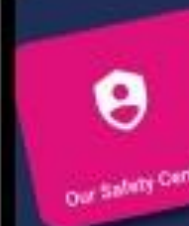


Parent/Carer Primary
St. Catherine's Primary

PARENT 4 DIGIT CODE
8063



**Make EVERY Day
A Safer Internet Day!
Download the
Safer Schools NI App today.**





St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	2. School Photographer (JS) & JS Staff Swimming Year 5A Session 5 of 8	3. School Photographer (SS) & SS Staff 6.30pm Year 1 Induction Programme (Session 1) Slimming World 5.30pm – 7.30pm (temporary change for 1 week only)	4. School Photographer for Family Photographs (SS) & mop-ups for pupils and staff	5.	6. .	7.
8.	9. Book Week Swimming Year 5A Session 6 of 8	10.	11.	12.	13. Book Character Day	14.
15.	16. Swimming Year 5A Session 7 of 8	17. 6.30pm Year 1 Induction Programme (Session 3)	18. Slimming World 5.30pm – 7.30pm	19. Derry Choral Festival (am) P6 & P7 Choir Members	20. Derry Choral Festival (All day) P6 & P7 Choir Members	21.
22.	23. Swimming Year 5A Session 8 of 8	24. 6.30pm Year 1 Induction Session 3	25. Nursery: Slip into Slippers "Read a Story" time with grandparents. Donations to AgeNI. NR1: 10.45am, NR2: 11.15am Facilitated by Librarian Staff.	26.	27. PTFA Hallowe'en Day: Dress Up and Film. £1.00 for school funds. Bring your own treats!!	28.
29.	30. Hallowe'en MidTerm Break.	31.				

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.



Nursery School Dinner Menu – September 2023 onwards (Please note that soup/ sandwiches are also available daily upon request if pupils do not wish to avail of the hot food choices)



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

**ea catering
WEEK 1**

Week commencing
Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23,
Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 22

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Savoury
Mince

SIDES

Baton Carrot

Mashed Potatoes or
Pasta

DESSERT

Banana Yoghurt Pot

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Classic Margherita Pizza

Or

Fish Goujon in Soft Shell
Taco & Zingy Tomato
Salsa

SIDES

Salad/Coleslaw

Chipped Potatoes/
Baked Potato

DESSERT

Strawberry Mousse &
Fruit

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Garden Peas/Sweetcorn

Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Chocolate Sponge &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Carrots & Parsnip/Savoy
Cabbage

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Strawberry Jelly, Ice
Cream & Fruit

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Hot Dog with Tomato
Ketchup

SIDES

Baked Beans/Salad

Chipped Potatoes/Baked
Potato

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Pot &
Biscuit

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

ea catering
WEEK 2

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 04, OCT 02, OCT 30,
NOV 27, JAN 01, JAN 29

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Sausage Roll

SIDES

Spaghetti Hoops &
Garden Peas

Chipped
Potatoes/ Jacket
Potato

DESSERT

Ice Cream, Chocolate
Sauce and Sliced
Pears

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Pasta Bolognaise with
Garlic Bread

SIDES

Sweetcorn

DESSERT

Zesty Orange Sponge
& Custard

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Garden Peas

Rice

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Salad and
Yoghurt

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day with
Stuffing & Gravy

Or

Poached Salmon

SIDES

Cauliflower/Broccoli/
Carrots

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roasted Potato

DESSERT

Blueberry Muffin

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Beef Burger in a Bap
with Tomato Ketchup

SIDES

Tossed Salad

Chipped
Potatoes/Homemade
Chilli Wedges

DESSERT

Flakemeal Biscuit &
Fruit

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

ea catering
WEEK 3

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 11, OCT 9, NOV 6,
DEC 4, JAN 8, FEB 5

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Golden Crumbed Fish
Fingers

SIDES

Baked
Beans/Coleslaw

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Artic Roll with
Peaches & Pears

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Italian Beef with Crusty
Roll

SIDES

Garden Peas

DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Pot

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread

SIDES

Mini Corn on the Cob

Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Lemon Drizzle Cake &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Carrot &
Parsnip/Cauliflower
Cheese

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Melon Wedge

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Tasty Pork Sausages
with Tomato
Ketchup/Gravy

SIDES

Peas/Spaghetti Hoops

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Decorated Fairy Cake

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH

ea catering
WEEK 4

WEEK COMMENCING:
SEP 18, OCT 16, NOV 13,
DEC 11, JAN 15, FEB 12

MONDAY

MAIN COURSES

Beef Bolognese with
Spaghetti or Pasta
Twists & Garlic Bread

SIDES

Peas

DESSERT

Melon, Mandarin &
Pineapple Pots with
Yoghurt Dip

TUESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Ham & Cheese Pizza or
Pepperoni with Garlic
Dip

SIDES

Sweetcorn and Red
Pepper/Coleslaw

Chipped
Potatoes/Baked Potato

DESSERT

Jelly & Mandarin
Oranges

WEDNESDAY

MAIN COURSES

Lunch Bunch Chicken
Curry & Naan Bread
Dip

SIDES

Green Beans

Steamed Rice

DESSERT

Cornflake Tart &
Custard

THURSDAY

MAIN COURSES

Roast of the Day

SIDES

Broccoli/Turnip

Mashed Potatoes/Oven
Roast Potato

DESSERT

Ice Cream, Pears &
Chocolate Sauce

FRIDAY

MAIN COURSES

Golden Crumb Fish
Fingers

SIDES

Salad/Baked Beans

Chipped
Potatoes/Mashed
Potatoes

DESSERT

Homemade Ginger
Biscuit and Fruit

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU MAY CHANGE DUE
TO DELIVERY CHANGES

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL