

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

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St. Catherine's PS, Strabane



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Monthly Note: Monday 6th January 2025

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

Happy New Year 2025!

We take this opportunity to wish all our little pupils, parents, families and friends of St. Catherine's a very happy, healthy, positive, peaceful and prosperous New Year 2024. We hope that this year brings many blessings for everyone!



Prayer of the Month January: New Year 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

PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking
Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month January

A good friend knows how to
take turns, to encourage, to
give compliments, to share
and to allow their friends to
have other friends. Be a good
friend today and your
friendships will grow

A New Year's
Prayer



is always there to help you
plays with you
wants you to be happy
always lets others join in
is kind
is gentle
always listens
always honest
respects you
shares
care about you
does things for you
is always there
always looks after you
wouldn't make you sad
A good friend...



Believe in
children
Barnardo's



Attention Year 7 Parents:

Year 7 Post Primary Applications

If you are the parent of a pupil in Year 7, you will be required to make an application for their new Post Primary School using an ONLINE system this year (just like the one that the parents of Nursery and Year 1 Pupils use). The Online Portal will open for applications on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 12 Noon until Thursday 20th February 2025. Further information on the process will be available from the EA Website in due course.

As we get more information in school we will share this with you.

If your child has a statement of Special Educational Needs you will go to school in the usual way to complete a Transfer Review and you do not have to apply online.

If any parent would like to meet with Principal / Year 7 Staff ahead of the Online admissions process please email Principal Mrs B Wilders at bwilders592@c2kni.net and an appointment can be arranged.



Milk Money.....

Milk money for Term 2, from Monday 13th January until 17th April will be costed and sent to you by text .

Please note that parents should pay using the SCHOOL MONEY APP online. Details to follow in text from Clerical staff .

If you have any queries please contact either school office.



Grandparents Day Assembly Given by Year 5 Pupils

Our Annual Grandparents Assembly will be given by our Year 5 Pupils. It will take place on **TUESDAY 21st January** in the Senior School Assembly Hall . There will be two sessions.....

Year 5A Grandparents at 11am

Year 5B Grandparents at 2pm

All welcome! (See note below about Catholic Schools Week 2025)



Young Enterprise

Years 2,3,4,5, 6 and 7 Programme

This term will see staff from Young Enterprise in school to deliver programmes to our Year 4,5, 6 and 7 Pupils under the following themes:

Year 2: Ourselves

Year 3: Our Family

Year 4: Our Community

Year 5: Our City

Year 6 : Our World

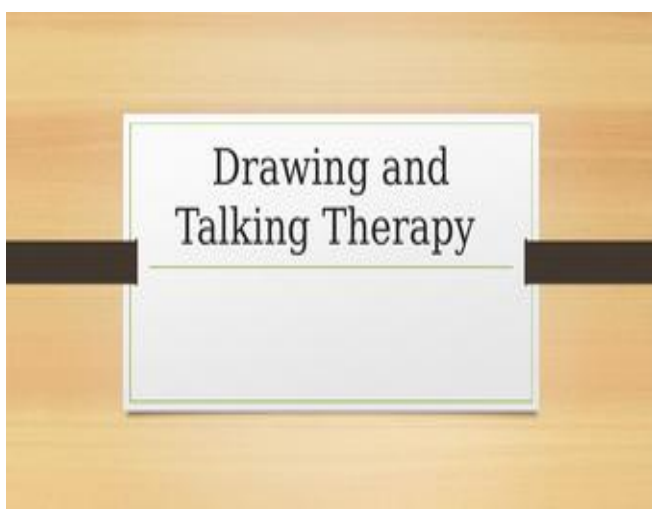
Year 7 : Business Beginnings.

These programmes prepare our little children for the Business World and promote creativity, life skills and entrepreneurialism. We are very excited to have this facility in our school to continue to promote a broad and varied curriculum for our children.



Draw and Talk Therapy Starts

As part of our commitment to promoting emotional well being our Draw and Talk Therapy programme will start this term. We thank Ms Pamela Capriglione for facilitating this valuable programme in our school for our little children.



Chinese Competition Winner!

Super news! Our little children entered a Chinese Poster Competition to celebrate the Chinese New Year ...The Year of the Snake....and St Catherine's have a winner!

The competition attracted thousands of entries from across Northern Ireland! The prize-winning posters will be used for Chinese New Year celebrations across Northern Ireland and prizes will be awarded (to the individual and school) together with a printed copy of their poster at CINIUU's Chinese New Year event in February 2025 in The Great Hall, Belfast City Hall

Our Winner is;

Key Stage 2 Competition:

Highly Commended : Clodagh Finan (Year 7A)

Well done to every child who took part and special congratulations to our winner! We look forward now to the presentation ceremony in Belfast!

Happy Chinese New Year 2025.....the Chinese Year of the Snake.



17th Year of Catholic Schools Week 2025

Derry Diocese Events take place between Monday

20th January - Friday 24th January

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is

Catholic Schools : Alive in Christ

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!" – Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, Section 1.

Reflecting on the theme, Catholic schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. Sensitive to the age appropriateness of the various classes and years, the theme will explore how we exist for one another in Christ, building from the wellbeing of the individual, extending the notion of true wellbeing to others, to our families and communities, and to The Other, in God. The theme will mediate on hope, the true purpose and meaning of human life, and, in the more senior years, on true freedom.



As is usual, the theme will be connected at primary level with Grandparents' Day on one of the days of Catholic Schools Week, (for our school Tuesday 21st January)

There will be resources which will reflect on the overarching theme and will make use of scriptural reflection on prayer, action, student voice, and concern for our common home.

Themes for each day of the week are:

Monday: Life to the full in our community of friends

Tuesday: Life to the full in our faith community

Wednesday: Life to the full in our families

Thursday: Life to the full for and with others

Friday: Life to the full for the common good of all

Children will complete activities in school based on these important themes during this week

Talk to your children at home about the importance of our of friends, school and the very special family atmosphere we have in our wee school, which makes it so special and is an indication of how we are allAlive in Christ!

(Grandparents Day Assembly will take place on Tuesday 21st JANUARY at 11am and 2pm in Senior School Assembly Hall)

School Money App

We have made the app available to parents to pay school dinners, school trip costs, milk money etc online through the use of the School Money App. This means that you should not have to send money in to school with your child, as payments can be made securely online. If you have any issues/ problems with using the school money app please contact the Clerical Staff on any of the school sites between 9.30am-3pm on any day at all.



Confirmation Preparation Sessions online with Derry Diocesan Education Centre and Bishop Mc Keown

Year 7 Pupils and staff will take part in Online Confirmation Preparation sessions with the Derry Diocesan Education Team from Tuesday 7th January until Friday 10th January (inclusive) from 10am-12 Noon every morning. We have taken part in these every year and children find them fun and beneficial in their preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

These sessions will be completed in school as part of the children's working day.

Disciples of Jesus Filled with Joy Confirmation Preparation Sessions



10am -12 Noon

**January 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 2025
St Eugene's Cathedral Hall Webcam**

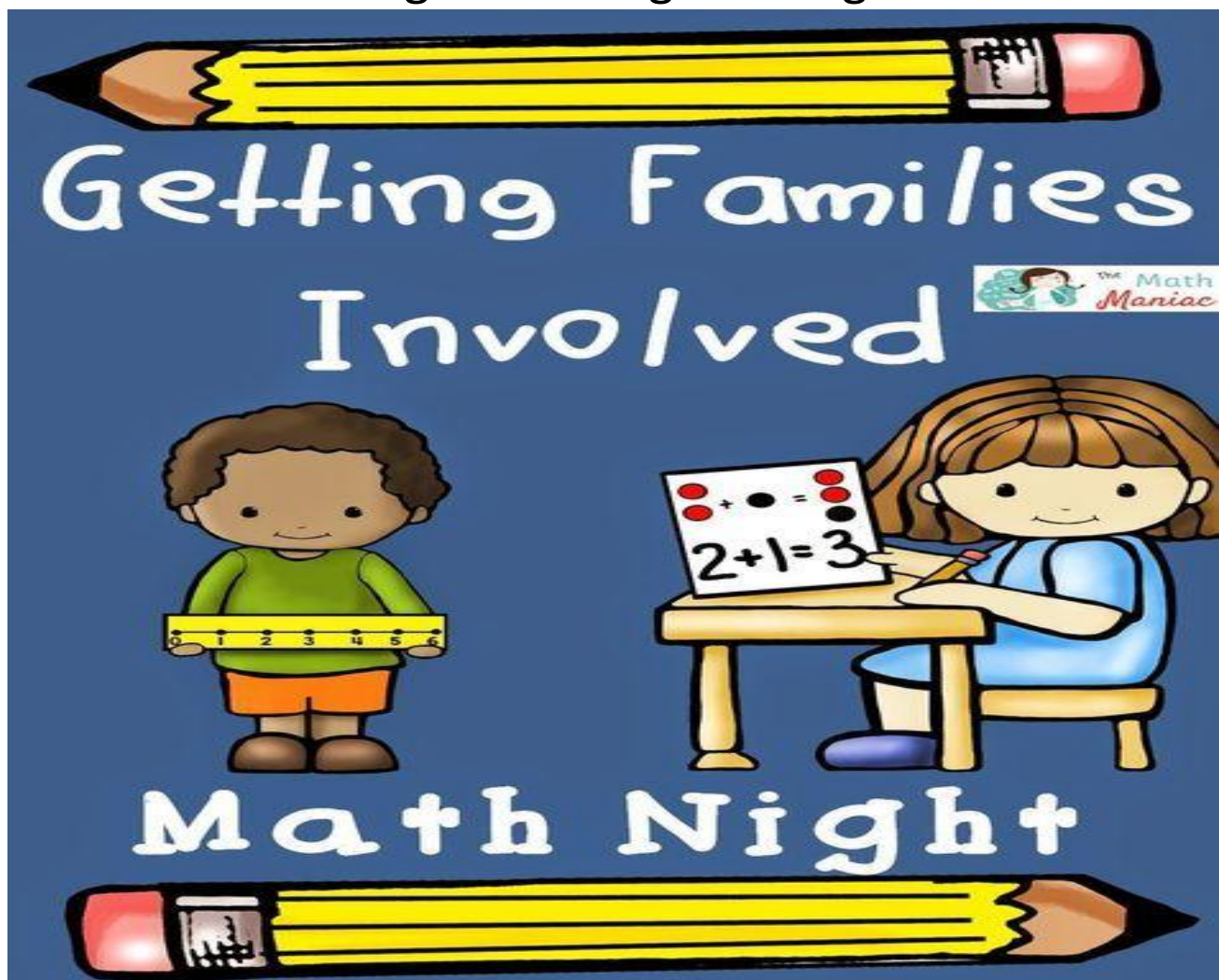


**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

Paired Maths Programme for Year 5 Pupils

We will return this year to hosting our Annual Paired Maths Programme for our Year 5 Pupils and their parents. The purpose of the programme is promote a greater love of Maths and enthusiasm for the subject through playing practical Maths Games at home. This is always a very enjoyable programme which pupils love.

We would like to explain more to you by warmly inviting parents and pupils to a short meeting on TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY in the Senior School at 7pm. A note will go home with each Year 5 child to get a little idea of numbers on the night. Exciting learning times!

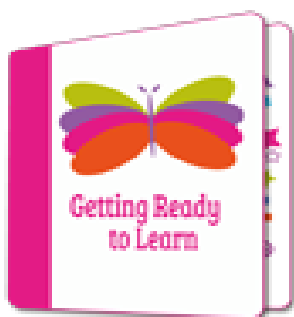


NURSERY: Get Ready to Learn Programme

Please see below details of our upcoming “Getting Ready to Learn” Programme for our parents / pupils in Nursery which will be hosted in the Senior School Site. This is one of the very important education programmes we offer in Nursery. This programme has 4 main components

- **Education Works:** Parents are provided with information about the Nursery Curriculum with a focus on the importance of Play Based Learning and Speech and Language.
- **Happy, Healthy Kids:** Parents are encouraged with staff to focus on Healthy Eating and the promotion of the importance of Physical Development...thereby enabling safe/healthy physical play at home and in school
- **Ages and Stages:** Parents are provided with more information about the stages of development of their child and how best to enhance their learning including the promotion of social skills such as turn taking, cooperating and negotiating.
- **Big Bedtime Read:** This component has a focus on storytelling, nursery rhymes and including these in the very important bedtime routine for their child.

Wednesday	08/01/25 11am	Session 1: Stay and Play Information with Parents Nursery Room 2 Ms Carlin's Classroom
Tuesday	14/01/25 11am	Session 2: Speech and Language Information with Parents (Aileen Duffy SLT) Nursery Room 1 Mrs Porter's Classroom
Wednesday	22/01/25 11am	Session 3 and Session 4: Story Telling Session with Parents and Big Bedtime Read Information with Parents Nursery Room 2 Ms Carlin's Classroom
Wednesday	29/01/25 11am	Session 5: Happy Healthy Kids Information with Parents Senior Site Assembly Hall
Wednesday	5/02/25 11am	Session 6: Ages and Stages Information with Parents (Health Visitor) Nursery Room 1 Mrs Porter's Classroom
Wednesday	19/02/25 11am	Session 7: Celebration Day with Parents Senior Site Assembly Hall



Confirmation Dates

Confirmation with our Year 7 Pupils will be celebrated on the date below:

Year 7 A (Mrs Gillespie's Class) :
Friday 28th February at 11am

Year 7 B (Mrs Deery's Class) : Friday
28th February at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



First Holy Communion Dates

Holy Communion will be celebrated with our Year Pupils and their families this year on the dates as follows:

Year 4 A (Mr Wade's Class) : Friday
9th May at 11am

Year 4 B (Miss Mc Dermott's Class) :
Friday 9th May at 2pm

More details will follow closer to the time.



Encouraging School Attendance!

We are delighted that we have no further challenges to our little children attending face to face teaching and learning in school like we suffered during Covid. To this end, we ask for parents support by encouraging school attendance every day. We understand that from time to time a child may be ill and if this happens please email the teacher or ring the school so that the correct absence code can be recorded for your child to explain the absence. Our school policy aims for at least 90% school attendance for every child. Help us to achieve this. To this end we will be giving out termly BREAKFAST CLUB VOUCHERS for any child who achieves 90% and more attendance. (Previously we gave for 100% but in order to support and encourage our children trying so hard we will give these vouchers now for any child who achieves between 90-100%). Thank you for your continued support!



Do this in Memory First Holy Communion Programme 2024 2025 for Year 4 Pupils and their Families.

Fr Mc Caughey warmly invites you all.....



To the following Family Masses.....

DATES AND TIMES OF THE MASSES OF DO THIS IN MEMORY 2024 2025

Please note change of date for Do this in Memory [5] Mass on 11th January

Mass No

1	Enrolment Sunday	13th October, 2024
2	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	27th October, 2024
3	Feast of Christ the King	24th November, 2024
4	3rd Sunday of Advent	15th December, 2024
5	The Baptism of the Lord	11th January, 2025 at 6pm
6	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9th February, 2025
7	2nd Sunday in Lent	16th March, 2025
8	Palm Sunday	13th April, 2025
9	First Holy Communion	9th May, 2025
10	Feast of Corpus Christi	22nd June, 2025

(Feast of Corpus Christi on 22nd June 2025 is the Procession from Grotto to Church of the Immaculate Conception for 12.15pm Mass in Holy Communion Outfits)

Please note that all **Do This In Memory** masses will take place at 12.15pm on respective Sundays except 11th January mass which will take place on a Saturday night mass at 6pm.



Confirmation Preparation Masses 2024 2025 for our Year 7 Pupils and their families.

Preparing children for the sacrament of Confirmation is a shared responsibility and we feel that it is vitally important that you are invited to become involved from the very beginning. Confirmation marks a time for children when they are preparing to move from one stage of their lives to the next. You as parents will have many fears and concerns about how your children will cope in the coming years with the choices they will have to make. Through your involvement in your child's Confirmation, you are being offered the chance to discuss with them their values, attitudes and beliefs. We want to reassure you of the important role you play in developing your child's faith.

Here are some practical ways to get involved:

- Bring your child to Mass on a Saturday evening/Sunday morning with the rest of your family.
- Help your child to learn the prayers which are being taught in school and discuss the Confirmation work they are doing in class.
- As a family light a candle and say a prayer each day with your child in preparation for Confirmation.
- Read together the story of Pentecost and talk about how the Apostles felt before and after receiving the Holy Spirit.
- Talk about your child's Baptism and Holy Communion – when and where they took place, who was there etc.
- Attend Masses and any special liturgies which are organised in connection with Confirmation.
- Help your child choose a suitable Confirmation name. If he or she chooses the name of a saint or family member, talk about the person whose name they have taken.

Called by Name

Sunday 17th November 2024
12 Noon Mass

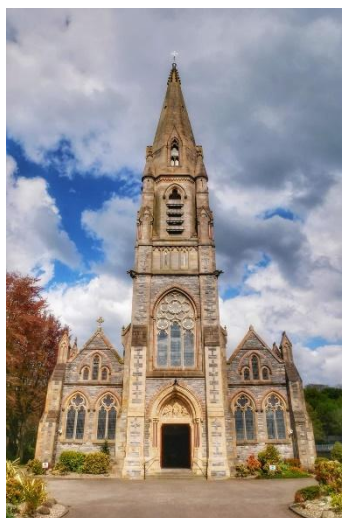
Service of Light

Sunday 26th January 2024
12.00 noon Mass

Confirmation

Friday 28th February 2024
Year 7 A @11am
Year 7 B @2pm)

Fr Michael Mc Caughey



Starting Nursery or Primary School in September 2025?

Do you have or do you know anyone who has a little child who is ready to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2025 and would very much like to join our family here at St. Catherine's?

ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF OUR OPEN AFTERNOONS!

Due to Covid these past two years we were unable to facilitate our Open Afternoons however this year marks their return. This provides an opportunity for the parents and prospective new pupils to see our Nursery and Year 1 classes, hear from the Principal about what our school offers and meet the staff and some pupils! A lovely introduction to the family that is St. Catherine's!

If you are interested in a place for your child to attend NURSERY or YEAR ONE in September 2025:

Nursery Open Afternoon and Year 1 Open Afternoons have taken place in December

However if the dates did not suit and if anyone would like to have a PRIVATE tour of the school (either Nursery or Primary) and a talk with the Principal about the arrangements for starting school in September 2025, we can arrange an APPOINTMENT and TOUR for you!! To arrange this you should just drop a little email to Mrs B. Wilders (Principal) at her email address bwilders592@c2kni.net and this can be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

A School Prospectus has been emailed to all parents of our school currently to let you know more about our little school (so spread the word!!) or alternatively can be posted upon request if you email the Principal at the email address above or ring the school office on 02871 382614.

We have a little Nursery Video and Year 1 Video (from previous years) which is on our website which you can watch to learn a little more about our Nursery and Primary School in the meantime. See links below.

Nursery: <https://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk/admissions/open-day-films/nursery-421/>

Primary One: <https://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk/admissions/open-day-films/primary-1/>



Just some of the fabulous resource facilities in our School: Our school is a split site campus with many benefits indeed, some of which are listed below;

1. A highly qualified and dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff team who work so hard to give the absolute best provision for all children in their care
2. Two FIVE STAR Canteens (one on each site) where fresh food is made in each one on a daily basis. They host a breakfast club also which is open from 8.15am until 8.50am each day. We serve HOT FOOD FULL BREAKFASTS on FRIDAYS also!
3. Two ICT Suites (one on each site) with a full range of state-of-the-art Hard drive Computers
4. Well-resourced classrooms with Ipads and Clever Touch Interactive Whiteboards in every class
5. Two SENSORY ROOMS (one on each site) to give an additional facility for children with sensory needs. We also have a NURSERY SENSORY Facility for our littlest learners.
6. NURTURE Facility for children who benefit from additional specialist nurture support
7. Two LEARNING SUPPORT Rooms (one on each site) so that specialist support can be given to children who need help with Literacy and Numeracy
8. TWO EDUCATION AUTHORITY SPECIALIST LEARNING CENTRE Provisions, one on each school site (Junior School and Senior School) for children who experience Learning Needs and can avail of specialist support in a very small class setting as opposed to full larger mainstream classes. ONE NEW AUTISM AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION CLASS for children who experience learning difficulties and have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Children are referred into this class by Educational Psychologist and this is agreed and arranged by the Education Authority.
9. Two LIBRARIES (one on each site) for class use to promote a love of reading
10. FIVE OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS (across both sites including Nursery) to promote a love of outdoor play
11. Two OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS (one on each site) to promote a love of learning outdoors
12. Two OUTDOOR Polytunnels (one on each site) to promote a love of nature and the importance of plant growth and its food importance
13. Two SPORTS HALLS (one on each site) marked out for sports games with well stocked PE Stores full of sports equipment.
14. After school Family Club for pupils of Year 1 and 2 with older siblings in the school to facilitate one home time at 3pm per family
15. A variety of AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS across each site
16. After School Literacy / Numeracy Booster Clubs for Year 6 and 7 Pupils
17. Modern Language Provision Chinese Language and Culture (Years 1-7)
18. Extensive Opportunities for Music Development (Brass, Strings, Vocals, Musical Pathways)
19. Extensive Opportunities for Drama Development Christmas Nativities (Nursery – Year 4), KS2 Musical Productions
20. A CATHOLIC MAINTAINED CHRISTIAN ALL INCLUSIVE SCHOOL that embraces all children/ families and focuses on developing each child as an individual
21. A school that values learning in school and out of school....a modern approach to learning!



ONLINE DIGITAL Admission Process

Every year the application process for both NURSERY and YEAR ONE Places must be completed online by parents.

The ONLINE system will open at 12 NOON on Friday 10th JANUARY 2025 and will close at 12 Noon on Friday 24th JANUARY 2025.

The ONLINE link is below www.eani.org.uk (Click on admissions)

Although in operation for four years now, we appreciate that this applications process can be still new to some parents and some parents might find this process a little unnerving. Some parents may apply online with ease, however for any that would like a little extra support and guidance, we have arranged for little “Drop in Sessions” in school so that parents can come in and apply for a place for their child with staff there ready to help and guide in the process.

The times that staff will be available to help are in the table below.

Day /Date	Location	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Monday 13th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Tuesday 14th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 15th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Thursday 16th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Friday 17th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Monday 20th January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Tuesday 21st January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm
Wednesday 22nd January	Senior School (Barrack Street Site)	9am-10am	1pm-2pm

It should be noted that even though Parents make their applications for places ONLINE, they must also **UPLOAD** a copy of their **PROOF OF ADDRESS** and their **CHILD's BIRTH CERTIFICATE** to EA WEBSITE also.



What should I do now?

- ▶ Parents need to set up an email account if you do not already have one
- ▶ Check out the Education Authority (EA) website regarding Guidance on applications.....
www.eani.org.uk/digitaladmissions
- ▶ Plan for how to complete the application ...perhaps plan to attend a drop in session in school. You can book today by emailing Mrs C Devine-Roberts (Admissions Officer on cdevineroberts308@c2kni.net or ring the school to get booked in on 02871 382614 and asking for Mrs Caroline Devine-Roberts!)

It should be noted that even though Parents make their applications for places ONLINE, they must also upload to EA Website

- ▶ 1. A copy of their PROOF OF ADDRESS,
- ▶ 2. CHILD's BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- ▶ 3. DSS (Confirmation of Income Support)



Community Support Notice

If your family or any family that you know needs any emergency help for Christmas

Help can be sought by contacting the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

The helpline number is 07784037066.

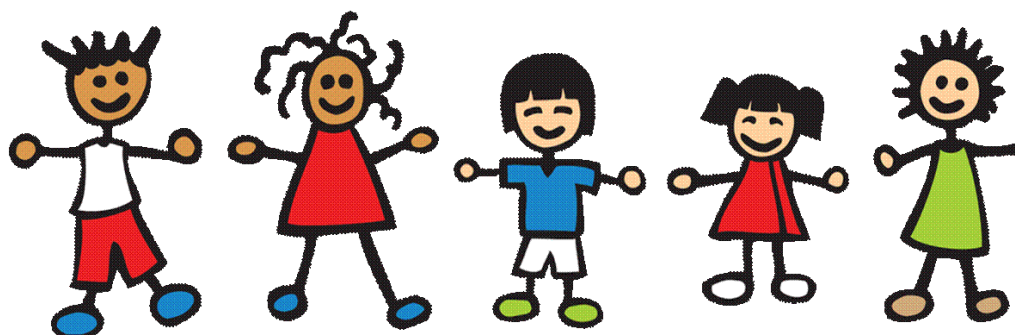
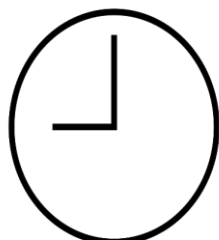
When the helpline number is rung; please leave the name, address and telephone number in a message seeking help and the type of assistance needed. (For example food vouchers, oil vouchers etc).



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/ Miss Scullion)	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)
Social and Communication Class (Junior School) (Ms B Kelly)	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 (Miss K Mc Anaw/ 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 (Mr J Wade)	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 (Miss Z Mc Dermott)	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 (Miss K Hegarty)	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 E Keyes)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door 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 (Mrs B Daly)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School 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 S O’Kane)	Enter Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School 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 C Deery / Miss Mc Kane)	Enter Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door 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) (Miss E Mc Auley)	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)



Changes in Leadership

You may be aware but just as an update, due to Miss Doherty’s absence Mrs Coleen Connolly will be in the role of ACTING VICE PRINCIPAL. We wish her well in this post and thank her for her hard work to date!

Mrs Anita Mc Guinness King has joined our staff and has taken on the role of LEARNING SUPPORT LEADER in charge of all areas of Pupils’ Special and Additional Learning Needs. Mrs King is very experienced in this field and we feel blessed to have her on our team.

We thank both members of staff and wish them well in their new roles. See email addresses below.



Acting Vice Principal
Mrs. Coleen Connolly
Email: cconnolly309@c2kni.net



Leader Support Leader
Mrs. Anita King
Email: amcgnessking348@c2kni.net

Staff roles and Email addresses.

Staff Member	Class / Role	Email Address
Mrs Bridget Wilders	Principal	bwilders592@c2kni.net
Mrs Coleen Connolly	ACTING Vice Principal	cconnolly309@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
Miss O. Scullion	Year 2 A	osculion793@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
Mr J Wade	Year 4 A	Jwade518@c2kni.net
Miss Z Mc Dermott	Year 4 B	zmcdermott458@c2kni.net
Miss K Hegarty	Year 5 A	khegarty590@c2kni.net
Miss E Keyes	Year 5 B	ekeyes746@c2kni.net
Mrs B Daly	Year 6 A	bdaly611@c2kni.net
Mrs S O'Kane	Year 6 B	sokane510@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Gillespie	Year 7 A	cgillespie221@c2kni.net
Mrs C Deery / Miss E Mc Kane	Year 7 B	emckane477@c2kni.net
Miss E Mc Auley	Learning Centre (Senior School)	emccauley868@c2kni.net
Mrs. C. Hamilton	Learning Centre (Junior School)	chamilton290@c2kni.net
Ms B Kelly	Social and Communication Class (Junior School)	bkelly663@c2kni.net



Site Leadership Rota

Junior School : Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Mrs Wilders

Tuesday, Thursday - Mrs C. Connolly

Senior School: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Mrs C. Connolly

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.



St. Catherine's Primary School

Holiday List for 2024 2025

The school will be **closed** on:

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

Friday 13th September 2024 (**Staff Training Day 1**)

Hallowe'en – Mid Term Break

Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024

(Reopens on Monday 4th November 2024)

Christmas Break

School closes on Friday 20th December 2024 at 12 Noon – Monday 6th January 2025

(School Reopens for everyone on Tuesday 7th January 2025)

Spring Term Break

Monday 10th February 2025 until Friday 14th February 2025

(School Reopens for our pupils on Monday 17th February 2025)

St. Patrick's Day Break

Monday 17th March 2025 (St. Patrick's Day Public Holiday)

(School Reopens for our pupils on Tuesday 18th March 2025)

Easter Break

School closes on Holy Thursday 17th April 2025 at 12 Noon

School Reopens on Monday 28th April 2025

May Breaks

Monday 5th May 2025 (Bank Holiday)

Monday 26th May 2025: **Staff Training Day 5 (SDD 5)** School Closed to pupils

School Closes on Monday 30th June 2025 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.



MESSAGE FROM PTFA RE Grand Christmas Draw 2024

January Updates :

Annual Christmas Draw :

Our PTFA are delighted to announce that our Grand Christmas Draw raised an amazing.....total of £4680 for School Funds.

Nativity Raffles and Donations: £1098.78 plus 8.10 Euro raised

This will go to subsidize transport and other costs for trips as well as purchasing additional resources for our little children.

Heartfelt thanks to each and every family for supporting the draw and heartfelt thanks to local businesses and parents for very kindly donating gifts both for our Christmas Draw and also for prizes for Christmas Nativity Raffles.

If anyone would like to join our P.T.F.A. to give a little time to helping raise much needed funds for our little children in school, you are more than welcome....always happy to have more in the team!

Sincerely Yours in Community Spirit,

St. Catherine's Primary and Nursery School P.T.F.A.



Meet the Officers as voted in at our Annual AGM :

Heartfelt thanks to all the PTFA for giving of your time and energy to raise funds for our little children.



Mrs Noeleen Mc Crossan
(Treasurer)



Ms Maria Mc Grath
(Secretary)



Mrs Berni Allen
(Vice Chairperson)



Mrs Bridget Wilders
(Chairperson)

Surestart Message of the Month

January 2025

Kind words and gentle touch
.....help me explore and learn so much



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

Promoting Internet Safety Awareness with Your Child

Although we appreciate that the Internet is a wonderful technological invention and a source of great knowledge for us all, we also appreciate that for our young people, internet and the world of social media can be a more dangerous place unless children are very aware of what is appropriate behaviour and what is safe for them. To support our parents we have included a Safety Help Poster below for parents so that you, with us, can educate our little children better regarding safety on the internet and social media. Thank you for your continued support. We also send an ONLINE SAFTY NEWSLETTER to parents every month via email which we hope that you find helpful in supporting your child's safety online.

National Online Safety

7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WakeUpWednesday

- 1 Which apps/games are you using at the moment?**
THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THEIR DEVICES, ALONG WITH THEIR INTERESTS. REMEMBER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY ARE USING, SO IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO ASK THEM TO SHOW YOU THEIR DEVICE. BECAUSE NEW APPS AND GAMES ARE RELEASED REGULARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING.
- 2 Which websites do you enjoy using and why?**
AS IN THE TIP ABOVE, ASKING THIS QUESTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE, AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY. ASK THEM HOW THEY USE THE WEBSITES, AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY CAN USE THEM IN A POSITIVE WAY. ALSO ASKING THEM TO SHOW YOU IF POSSIBLE.
- 3 How does this game/app work? Can I play?**
SHOW A GENUINE INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING, WHILST YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME OR USING AN APP WITH THEM, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IS A DANGER TO THEM. IF THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH YOU, QUESTION WHY.
- 4 Do you have any online friends?**
CHILDREN CAN FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE ONLINE, AND THIS HAS BECOME MORE COMMON THANKS TO ONLINE MULTI-PLAYER OPTIONS, BUT THEY MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND A STRANGER. YOU COULD MAKE THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHILD. FOR EXAMPLE: "HAVE YOU MET ANYONE ONLINE THAT YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WITH?" THEY MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU, SO ENSURE YOU TEACH THEM ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
- 5 Do you know where to go for help?**
ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE THE ADULT THEY TRUST THE MOST, SOME CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE DUE TO CONFUSION OR EMBARRASSMENT. BECAUSE OF THIS THEY MAY STRUGGLE TO APPROACH THE NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD HELP, SUCH AS YOURSELF OR A TEACHER. HAVE A CHAT TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP, AND HOW THEY CAN REPORT ANY ACTIVITY THAT THEY BELIEVE IS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE.
- 6 Do you know what your personal information is?**
YOUR CHILD MAY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS BUT THEY MIGHT NOT THINK ABOUT HOW IT CAN BE SHARED. HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THEM IF IT IS SHARED BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE DANGERS OF SHARING CONTACT DETAILS OR PHOTOS, AS INFORMATION SUCH AS THIS CAN SPREAD QUICKLY ONLINE.
- 7 Do you know your limits?**
CHILDREN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVICE OR GAME ADDICTION. TALK TO THEM OPENLY ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND ASK WHETHER OR NOT THEM SPENDING TIME ONLINE OR PLAYING A GAME IS AFFECTING THEIR SLEEP, PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL OR IF THEY ARE GENERALLY LOSING INTEREST IN OTHER ACTIVITIES. YOU MAY LEAD ON TO ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSING THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMITS WHEN AT HOME.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /nationalonlinesafety Phone - 0800 368 8061

CONCUSSION AWARENESS – WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

The Department of Education has issued revised guidance on concussion;
[Concussion guidance | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/concussion-guidance).

Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting the head or a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere; for example during sports, in the school playground, or at home.

Concussion must always be taken seriously. It is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should immediately be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed by an appropriate healthcare professional within 24 hours.

A second injury when a child has concussion can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. It is vitally important therefore that medical clearance is sought before your child returns to school/play. Children should not resume physical activities such as physical education, sports or games until permitted to do so by a medical professional.

Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school for a period of time. As symptoms vary from child to child, a graduated return to school programme may be needed. If your child suffers a concussion in school or outside school, it is vitally important that you keep all people/organisations with responsibility for caring for your child informed so that they are aware of the potential dangers and any restrictions that may apply to the activities your child is permitted to do.

The 'If In Doubt, Sit Them Out' guidelines produced by The UK Government and the Sport and Recreation Alliance (supported by The Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland) is available on the Department of Education's website www.education-ni.gov.uk and provides guidance on the signs to look out for.

Keeping everyone informed about concussion is in your child's best interests. Parents/carers have a key role in making sure that information is passed on to their child's teacher, sports coach, youth leader or other care provider.

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



St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christmas	1. Christmas Holidays	2. Christmas Holidays	3. Christmas Holidays	4. Christmas Holidays	5. Christmas Holidays	6.
5.	6. SDD 2 Teacher Training Day	7. Back to school Breakfast Club and Family Club Begin Term 2 Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation.	8. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation. Nursery Programme: GRTL Stay and Play 11am	9.. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation.	10. Year 7 Online Confirmation Preparation. EA Online Admissions Portal for Nursery & Year 1	11.
12.	13. Year 6 Boys After School Soccer begins again Term 2 3pm-4pm SS	14. Nursery Programme: GRTL Speech & Language. 11am 7pm Year 5 Paired Maths Programme in Senior School Ryan Mc Bride After School Soccer Year 4A 3pm -4pm for 7 weeks (Week 1) JS	15.	16. Catholic Schools Week Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry Year 6 Girls After School Netball begins again Term 2 3pm-4pm SS Year 1B Rugbytots 2.15pm-3pm JS Year 3B Rugbytots 3pm-4pm SS	17.	18.
19.	20. Catholic Schools Week Nursery – Year 4 Curriculum Newsletters to be sent out to Parents. Year 6 Boys After School Soccer 3pm-4pm SS	21. Catholic Schools Week Grandparents Assembly: 11am P5A 2pm P5B Ryan Mc Bride After School Soccer Year 4A 3pm -4pm for 7 weeks (Week 2) JS	22. Catholic Schools Week Nursery Programme: GRTL Story Telling & Big Bedtime Read 11am Draw and Talk Therapy Parent Initial Meetings	23. Catholic Schools Week Draw and Talk Therapy Parent Initial Meetings Year 6 Girls After School Netball Term 2 3pm-4pm SS Year 1B Rugbytots 2.15pm-3pm JS Year 3B Rugbytots 3pm-4pm SS	24. Catholic Schools Week EA Online Admissions Portal for Nursery & Year 1 closes at 12 noon	25. SEAG results.
26.	27. Year 6 Boys After School Soccer 3pm-4pm SS	28 Year 7 Parents note: EA Online Admissions Portal for Post Primary opens at 12 noon Ryan Mc Bride After School Soccer Year 4A 3pm -4pm for 7 weeks (Week 3) JS	29. Nursery Programme: GRTL Happy Health Kids: 11am Draw and Talk Therapy Pupils Session 1	30. Draw and Talk Therapy Pupils Session 1	31.	



School Dinner Menu – October 2024 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



WEEKS SERVED	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7 October 4 November 2 December 30 December 27 January	Oven-Baked Fish Fingers Baked Beans / Marrowfat Peas Pasta Spirals / Oven-baked Wedges Vanilla Ice-Cream, with Pears & Butterscotch Sauce	Homemade BBQ Chicken Pizza Coleslaw / Baton Carrots Chipped Potato / Baked Potato Homemade Banana Cake	"Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Sweetcorn / Roast Courgette Boiled Rice / Mashed Potato Chocolate & Raspberry Spongecake with Custard	Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Mashed Potato / Oven Roast Potato Home-baked Popcorn Cookie & Orange Wedges	Beef Burger & Bap Mini Corn-on-the-Cob / Garden Peas Chipped Potato / Baked Potato Frozen Strawberry Mousse
14 October 11 November 9 December 6 January 3 February	Fish Finger "Seadog" served in a finger roll Marrowfat Peas / Baked Beans Chipped Potato / Baby Potato Apple & Pear Crumble with Custard	Savoury Beef Mince & Crusty Bread Sweetcorn / Baton Carrots Oven-baked Cubed Potato / Mashed Potato Arctic Roll & Winter Berry Sauce	Peppered Chicken Mini Corn-on-the-Cob / Garden Peas Mashed Potato / Boiled Rice Home-baked Jam & Coconut Sponge & Custard	Roast Gammon, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Mashed Potato / Oven Roast Potato Chocolate Rice Krispie Square	Crispy Baked Chicken Burger & Bap Spaghetti Hoops / Asian Slaw Chipped Potato / Baked Potato Raspberry Jelly & Peach Slices
21 October 18 November 16 December 13 January 10 February	Homemade Ham & Cheese Pizza Spaghetti Hoops / Mini Corn-on-the-Cob Roast Potato Wedges / Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Ice-Cream with Pear Slices & Hot Chocolate Sauce	Beef Bolognaise Cauliflower Cheese / Steamed Broccoli Mashed Potato / Pasta Apple Sponge with Custard	"Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Garden Peas / Roast Butternut Squash Chipped Potato / Boiled Rice Frozen Smoothie	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy -Or- Salmon Fish Fingers & Lemon Mayonnaise Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Mashed Potato / Oven Roast Potato Chocolate Cracknel & Custard	Hotdog & Tomato Ketchup Coleslaw / Baked Beans Chipped Potato / Pasta Salad Homemade Oatmeal Biscuit & Fresh Fruit Pot
28 October 25 November 23 December 20 January	Oven-Baked Fish Goujons Steamed Garden Peas / Spaghetti Hoops Chipped Potato / Baked Potato Chocolate & Raspberry Brownie	Cottage Pie Baton Carrots / Steamed Broccoli Garlic & Herb Potato Wedges / Pasta Spirals Ice-cream, Jelly & Two Fruit	"Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Sweetcorn / Roasted Butternut Squash Boiled Rice / Mashed Potato Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Custard	Turkey & Ham, Stuffing, Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Mashed Potato / Oven Roast Potato Homemade Flapjack & Orange Wedges	Oven-Baked Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans / Garden Peas Chipped Potato / Baked Potato Choice of Fruit Yoghurt Pot