

# St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

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

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[www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)

Download our FREE APP : St Catherines PS,Strabane

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## START OF YEAR GUIDANCE NOTE

Dear Parent/ Carer,

This is just a little letter to give some clarity ahead of our little pupils returning to school. Our September Newsletter will be issued also on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September with even more details about upcoming events.

We are so excited to be seeing our little children again, as we have missed them so much over the Summer! We hope that you all had a lovely Summer Break and a good rest.

## When will my child return to school?

- Children from Years 2-7 should all start back at school on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**
- New Nursery and New Year 1 Pupils will have received their own start dates at Induction Meetings held in June.
- All children Years (1-7) should attend school at 8.50am in the morning. Nursery School doors open at 9am.
- Breakfast Club opens at 8.15am every morning until 8.50am. Breakfast Club starts also on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.



## What are the drop off / collection arrangements?

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 (When fully settled in)
Nursery Room 2	Nursery Room 2 External Door	9am-9.30am	1.30pm-1.40pm (When fully settled in)
Year 1A (Mrs Doherty)	Pupil Front door facing school gate	8.50am-9am	2.10pm (When fully settled in)
Year 1B (Miss Hutton)	Back Door opposite the Play Trail	8.50am-9am	2.10pm (When fully settled in)
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 (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 and 4 Pupils except Feel Good Friday)
Social and Communication Class (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 and 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 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 (Mrs A King)	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 (Mrs C Gormley)	Enter Double 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 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 Double 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 Double 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 Double 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 )	Enter 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 (Mrs Connolly)	Enter Double Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School and walk around to the entrance of the Learning Centre at the back of the assembly hall	8.50am-9am	Mon – Thursday 3.00pm (2.30pm On Feel Good Friday)



## What should my child bring to school?

- Children **may bring school bags**, with a snack, packed lunch in a wipeable lunch box (or a disposable bag) and water in a water bottle (if children wish to.)
- Year 1 and 2 Pupils may bring a book bag. Book Bags are for sale at reception.
- Nursery pupils do not need school bags or book bags



## Where should I drop my child off to school and collect my child from school?

- Nursery , Year 1 and Year 2 Parents should drop off and collect these very young little children to/from their classroom door as indicated on the table above
- Year 3,4,5,6,7 children should be dropped off and collected at the gate and make their way to their collection point. This will be clearly marked and staff will be there to meet and greet their classes. At home time staff will bring the classes out again to be collected at home time.

## Parking?

- **To facilitate easier family drop off/ collections all pupils (Years 3-7) can be collected at the same time. We do respectfully request that parents park a little away from the school in the church car park/ other parking areas and walk to school with your child. Please do not park anywhere that may block traffic. We really appreciate your patience, support and understanding.**



## Keep in touch with us!

- **Keep us updated!** If you change your home address, your mobile number or your email address please email details to Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer) [ckelly452@c2kni.net](mailto:ckelly452@c2kni.net)
- **Staff email addresses are listed below if you need to make contact about your child.**

## Communication

We communicate in the following ways;

1. Phonecalls
2. Permission notes (as required)
3. Text message
4. Text link message (Text message with links to written letter documents)
5. Email





6. Our website (www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)
7. School App (St Catherine's PS, Strabane)
8. Social Media Platforms; Facebook, Instagram, X

## **Staff roles and Email addresses.**

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Class / Role</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>Mrs Bridget Wilders</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>bwilders592@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Miss Jennifer Doherty</b>	<b>Vice Principal</b>	<b>jdohererty742@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs B. Porter</b>	<b>Nursery Room 1</b>	<b>bporter544@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Ms K. Carlin</b>	<b>Nursery Room 2</b>	<b>kcarlin208@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs D. Doherty</b>	<b>Year 1 A</b>	<b>ddoherty115@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Miss C. Hutton</b>	<b>Year 1 B</b>	<b>chutton763@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs A.M. Mc Glynn</b>	<b>Year 2 A</b>	<b>amcglynn388@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Ms Y Mc Gowan</b>	<b>Year 2 B</b>	<b>ymcgowan609@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Miss M. Maguire</b>	<b>Year 3 A</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Mrs S Vaughan / Mrs L.Downey</b>	<b>Year 3 B</b>	<b>svaughan325@c2kni.net ldowney759@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mr J Wade</b>	<b>Year 4 A</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Mrs A King</b>	<b>Year 4 B</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Mrs C Gormley</b>	<b>Year 5 A</b>	<b>cgormley833@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Miss E Keyes</b>	<b>Year 5 B</b>	<b>ekeyes746@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs B Daly</b>	<b>Year 6 A</b>	<b>bdaly611@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs S O'Kane</b>	<b>Year 6 B</b>	<b>sokane510@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs C. Gillespie</b>	<b>Year 7 A</b>	<b>cgillespie221@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs B. Daly</b>	<b>Year 7 B</b>	<b>cdeery318@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs. C. Hamilton</b>	<b>Learning Centre KS1 Junior School</b>	<b>chamilton290@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Ms B Kelly</b>	<b>Social and Communication Class KS1 Junior School</b>	<b>bkelly663@c2kni.net</b>
<b>Mrs. C. Connolly</b>	<b>Learning Centre KS2 Senior School</b>	<b>cconnolly309@c2kni.net</b>



**Family Club Four Days per Week**  
(Monday to Thursday for Year 1/ 2 Pupils who have older siblings in school)

- Family Club for pupils in Years 1 and 2 who have older siblings in school will begin on **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> September**. Letters will be sent home on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for parents to apply for Family Club for their child. Letters must be returned no later than Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER. We ask for a fee of £2 per week to cover some of the costs of Family Club (regardless of how many days the child attends) and provide children with a little snack. Any child in Year 1 and 2 who have older siblings in school may apply for Family Club and therefore can stay on to 3pm from Monday to Thursday. It should be noted though that children in Year 1 will have a staggered intake in order to settle them in to school so Family Club will NOT begin for them until they are in school for a full day. Full school days for Year 1 will begin on MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> September



**After School Clubs:**

A Newsletter for Extended Schools Afterschool Clubs will be sent out by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Clubs will begin later in the month, more information to follow.



## Settling In period for Nursery and Year 1 Pupils

### Nursery Settling In Plan Times of School

Week 1-3 : Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> -Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am-11.30am

Week 4 : Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> -Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am-12.30pm.

Lunch/Dinner will commence this week

Week 5 : Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September -Full Nursery Day commences.

Pick-up time 1.30pm

### Year 1 Settling In Plan Times of School

Week 1 (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September) - 8:50 am-12 Noon

Week 2 (Monday 9<sup>th</sup>- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September) – 8:50am- 12 Noon

Week 3 (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> -Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September) – 8:50am- 12.45pm  
(Including Lunch)

Week 4 (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September onwards)- 8.50am-2.15pm (Full day)





# Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances 2024 2025

## Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances 2024-25

We are getting ready to launch applications for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances for the school year beginning September 2024 - and hope the following will be helpful as you plan your New Intake meetings with parents.

**Applications will be opening soon on EA Connect.** We expect the system to be operational from the week commencing 17 June 2024.

More details will be available in due course, but we would ask you to share the information in this newsletter with parents ahead of the launch.

### Proof of Benefit Letters

Parents/guardians in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, will need to upload a Proof of Benefit Letter with their application.

#### Qualifying social security benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit

A Proof of Benefit Letter can be requested by [visiting this website](#). As it can take at least five days to obtain the letter, applicants are advised to request it now in advance of the launch.

We ask you to remind your parent community of this requirement - **as an application cannot be processed until we receive all supporting documentation for the applicant.**

### Tax Credits or Universal Credit

**Important update for Universal Credit recipients** - the Department of Education has announced an **interim uplift** in the annual net household income threshold for eligibility for people who receive Universal Credit, **from £14,000 to £15,000.**

We would be grateful if you could advise your parents of this change to the 2024-25 application process.

If parents/guardians receive Tax Credits or Universal Credit, they do not need the Proof of Benefit Letter. **However, they will still need to upload evidence of their Tax Credits or Universal Credit benefits.**

If parents/guardians have difficulty in obtaining a Proof of Benefit Letter, or do not understand how to provide evidence of their Universal Credit or Tax Credits, **their local Social Security Agency office Digital Hub** will have staff on hand to help them obtain the correct evidence to support their application.



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# School Meals and Snacks

- School Dinner costs £2.60 in Primary School and £2.50 in Nursery) and can be paid via School Money App. If you experience any difficulties with this please ring the school office and speak to a member of our Clerical Team.
- Children should bring healthy snacks for break and if taking packed lunch; should bring a healthy lunch as per our Food in Schools Policy.



## Healthy breaks for schools

At this school,  
we are committed  
to healthy eating

At break time we enjoy healthy snacks because they help us grow properly, do our best in school and make us healthy and happy in the future.



**Milk**  
All whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed unflavoured milk



**Water**  
Tap water or unflavoured, still, bottled water



**Fruit and vegetables**  
All fresh fruit and vegetables



**Bread based snacks**  
White or wholemeal breads spread thinly with a little low-fat spread, plain breadsticks or toast

HSC Public Health Agency  
Public Health Agency  
12-15 Cromwell Street, Belfast BT3 9BS  
Tel: 0905 288 0114 (local calls)  
www.hsc.ie/hscPublicHealth  
Find us on:  
Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

school food

Department of Education  
www.education.gov.uk



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will begin on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September . Breakfast Club operates from 8.15am – 8.45am



## School Uniform

- School Uniforms can be purchased from GMG Logos, Unit 4, Knockroe Business Park Orchard Road, Strabane.
- Please label all piece's of unfirm with your child's name on them as loss of uniform can be very distressing to a child
- All children require a warm, rainproof coat (especially for classes who engage in the Daily Mile Activity each day in school). Hoodies should not be worn as a coat, as they will absorb the rain.

### Nursery Uniform:

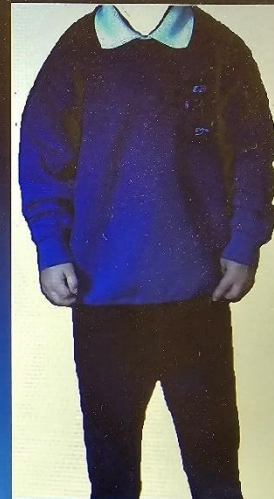
#### **Nursery Pupils (Boys and girls)**

- Royal Blue Nursery Crested Sweatshirt
- White Nursery Crested Polo shirt
- Navy leggings
- Trainers / shoes (Velcro fastenings , no buckles or laces at this stage to promote independence)
- Please note that Nursery Pupils wear this uniform all year round and do not have a Summer Uniform



# Nursery Uniform

- ▶ Blue Sweatshirt with Logo
- ▶ White Poloshirt with Logo
- ▶ Navy Jogging Bottoms
  
- ▶ Uniform available from GMG Logos  
Unit 33,  
Orchard Road Industrial Estate,  
Strabane



## Primary School Years 1-7

### Boys

- White shirt (long or short sleeves)
- Royal Blue crested jumper or cardigan
- School tie (sold at GMG Logos or sold through school)
- Navy trousers
- Black shoes or black shoe type trainer
- Navy/ black socks

### Boys Summer Uniform (May and June, weather permitting and NOT COMPULSORY)

- Navy trousers or plain navy tailored shorts (Old trousers made into shorts are great and cost effective!)
- White poloshirt
- Royal blue crested cardigan / jumper
- Black shoes or black shoe type trainer
- Navy/ black socks



## Girls

- White shirt (long or short sleeves)
- Royal Blue Macrae Tartan Kilt
- Royal Blue crested jumper or cardigan
- School tie (sold at GMG Logos or sold through school)
- Black shoes or black shoe type trainer
- White socks/ navy tights

## Girls Summer Uniform (May and June, weather permitting and NOT COMPULSORY)

- Blue/ white checked Summer Dress (Available in most stores)
- Royal blue crested cardigan / jumper
- Black shoes or black shoe type trainer
- White knee length socks/ white ankle socks





# PE

## PE Uniform:

PE Uniform must be worn on days when pupils have PE at school unless otherwise requested.

- PLAIN NAVY/ BLACK Leggings
- White t shirt/ polo shirt
- Trainers

No multicoloured or football tops/ bottoms are to be worn in school.

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back for PE.

Please note children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days. You will be notified in September of which day your child's class will take part in PE.)

- Children should continue to wear PE gear on PE Days to school and NOT change in school. Teachers will inform you of your child's PE days in due course when the timetable is finalised.
- Children should wear their **FULL UNIFORM** with **BLACK SHOES** on all other days.



## Uniform Recycling

We have a Uniform Recycling Bank in school that operates all year round. There are Uniform Recycling containers in the front foyer of each school site if anyone would like to donate any preloved uniforms.

If anyone would like to check out our supplies of preloved Uniforms please check in at the office on the Senior Site and our Clerical staff will be only too happy to show you our stock!



## Attendance Matters:

As you are already aware, it is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintains a pattern of good attendance, throughout their school career.

If your child is ill and cannot attend school, please let the teacher know via their email address which is previously listed or contact the school office by phone. Below is some guidance from PHA regarding illnesses however if in any doubt, always consult with your child's GP.

**HSC Public Health Agency**

# Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhea &amp;/or Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Respiratory Illness</b> (e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>German Measles (Rubella)</b> 5 days from onset of rash
<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children to fulfil their potential. Every single day that a child misses school equates to a day of lost learning.

In school we have an obligation to monitor attendance very closely and we work in conjunction with our EWO (Education Welfare Officer), who visits our school regularly. Punctuality is essential as each time a child is late to school they are marked late and this can impact their attendance as well. School starts at 8.50am. Any child who arrives after the registration period (8.50am-9.10am) is marked as late.

If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will follow the agreed procedures in school;

1. You will receive an alert letter to let you know that your child's attendance is a concern
2. If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will be invited to a pre referral meeting in school. Our EWO will be in attendance.
3. If your child's attendance remains a concern and is 85% or below, school is obliged to make a referral to EWS (Educational Welfare Service).

It should be noted that holidays should not be arranged during the school terms. A holiday list has already been emailed, text linked out to parents with school closure times indicated. We would appreciate your support on this.

We, as a school, want to help support you in improving your child's attendance in order for them to reach their full potential. If you need to discuss any issues surrounding absences or support strategies that can be put in place to improve attendance, during the school year, please contact Mrs B Wilders.



It only remains now for us to get started again for what will hopefully be another amazing year !

We thank you for being so patient, understanding, kind and supportive to date. Our little children benefit most when we are all working in partnership and support of each other! We eagerly look forward to getting back again!!

God bless you all!

Mrs Bridget Wilders  
Principal





# Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

*As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.*

## Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



## Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – "it's completely fine to feel like that at the moment" or "I can really understand why you would feel like that"



## Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



## Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



## Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



## Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your 'goodbye' routine and create a 'hello' greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.



[www.traumainformedschools.co.uk](http://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk)

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## A Prayer for the New School Year

Heavenly Father

At the start of a new school year, we give you thanks for the work of all schools (and particularly .... in our own parish).

We pray for all children starting at new schools, and for those returning. Help them to explore what they can achieve, and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

