

St. Theresa's Primary School

33 Garvan Road, Glebe, Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone. BT82 9NZ

Email: info@sttheresasps.strabane.ni.sch.uk

Tel/Fax: 02881658438 Website: www.sttheresaspsglebe.com

Facebook: St Theresa's Primary School Glebe

Twitter: [@sttheresasglebe](https://twitter.com/sttheresasglebe)



Newsletter

April

2024

Hello Term 3!

Welcome

A huge welcome to Amy Casey who is completing work experience from 15th April to 19th April, as part of her course at North West College Derry. Amy will be working alongside Mr Coyle and Casey in Primary 6 and 7 and we wish her every success at St Theresa's.

We also welcome Ciaran Quigley, who is helping out in St Theresa's over the next while in his role as classroom assistant, cleaner and Building Supervisor. We hope Ciaran also has an enjoyable time working with staff and pupils in St Theresa's.

Confirmation

Congratulations to our 14 wonderful Primary 7 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 16th March. Mr Coyle and Casey are very proud of you all and it was lovely to mark this Sacrament on our own as a school this year.

Sacraments: Key Dates

First Confessions for Primary 4 (**St Theresa's Church Sion Mills – Thursday 18th April at 6:30pm**)

Good luck this Thursday evening to our Primary 4 pupils celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Malachy.

First Holy Communion for Primary 4 (**St Theresa's Church Sion Mills – Saturday 4th May at 11am**)

Much Ado Stage School



Date: Thurs 2nd May

Time: 10am to 12:15pm

Venue: St Patrick's Hall Strabane

Primary 1 to 7 attending

As a school we are looking forward to attending Matilda which is being hosted by Much Ado Stage School. Our school have very strong links with Rois Kelly and Jamie Donnelly who have been working with our pupils over this last year. We look forward to supporting Rois and Jamie as a school and all tickets cost £5 per child. £4 per ticket for families with 3 children. (£12 in total) School is covering the cost of transport and each child receives a complimentary drink and popcorn at the production. Please bring ticket money in to your class teacher by: Fri 26th April.

Notification of Primary 1 Admissions: Correspondence from EA

I wish to advise you that an email notification will be issued on Thursday, 25 April 2024 informing you of the outcome of your child's application to pre-school/primary school in September 2024. Emails will be issued to almost 24,000 parents and consequently some parents will receive their email before others. It is intended that all parents should have received their notification by 10:00am. If you do not receive an email please remember to check your junk mail and other folders. It is not necessary for you to log into the online portal to view the outcome of your child's application. However, if desired, you may log in on Thursday, 25 April 2024 at the link below. Remember to use a supported browser, e.g. Google Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge.

Your login details are the email address and password you registered with when you applied online. You can check these details by visiting the link above and can use the 'forgot password' link to receive an email to reset your password, if required. A large volume of parents may log in on notification day. The first few hours are likely to be the busiest period and you may be placed in a queue. You may wish to consider logging in at a less busy time. Information on what action you need to take, if any (depending on the outcome of your application), will be available on the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. For help and advice you can contact our Admissions Helpline on 028 9598 5595 or via email to preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk or primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Key Point

Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.

Pupil Attendance

Key points to remember

- Please inform the school of the reason for your child's absence on the first day of absence by phoning into the school office.
- Each month your child's attendance percentage will be recorded in school diary by the class teacher.
- Attendances below 85% will be notified to EWO, where improvement is required in attending school.
- Please view Attendance Percentages to show the impact that being absent from school has on your child and the number of days missed.
- Registration closes at 9:15am. Any child arriving in school after 9:00am will be recorded as Late (L).
- Children who arrive after 9:15am will be recorded as U, which is an unauthorised attendance.
- Please ensure your child is in school for 9am sharp.

Next St Theresa's PTA Meeting: Tuesday 23rd April 2024 @2:10pm New Members Welcome

RSE Programme

Our RSE Programme will commence week beginning 24-04-24. The Parents Advice Booklet relating to the appropriate Pupil Workbook that your child will be completing through the course of the Programme this year will be sent home next week also. It details the content included on each page of the Workbook and promotes the opportunity for parents at home to talk about any issues further with their child if deemed appropriate for their age and stage of maturity and development. Please read and keep in a safe place to refer to when needed.

Grandparents Intergenerational Project

On Monday 22nd April, 6 children from Primary 7 will attend Sion Mills PS with their Grandparent, parent or family member who created a paverpol sculpture as part of our Extended Schools Cluster Programme. We hope they enjoy this celebration event with Gloria Perry, Sion Mills Integrated PS, St Columba's PS Clady and St Eugene's PS Victoria Bridge. The bus will pick up our children and adults from the school at 9:00am and we will leave Sion Mills Integrated Primary School at 11am to return to school.

Big Spring Clean

The April Big Spring Clean is here! We look forward to our pupils lifting litter in the Glebe area and school grounds on Mon. 29th April. Let's keep our area clean from litter!

St Theresa's: Summer Sports' Coaching

As a school we are delighted to offer additional opportunities for the children in our Summer Sports' Coaching Programme. Thanks to Urney St Columba's GFC, they are able to offer and fund a 6-week block of GAA coaching and we thank Cian Lafferty and Ellie-Mae Elliott for giving up their time to inspire our P4 - 7 pupils. In addition, we welcome back Fiachra from Tyrone GAA who is also coaching Gaelic Football to our P5-7 pupils. Fiachra plays a big part in encouraging our pupils in his drills and our children love attending the blitzes organized by Fiachra.

Marty Gormley will also continue as normal with Netball with the girls but we are also thrilled to have Marty calling for an extra hour in Term 3 to coach our children Soccer. We look forward to attending Marty's Netball and Soccer tournaments in the coming weeks.

<i>6 Week Programme (Every Wednesday)</i>	<i>Urney GAA Schools Coaching</i>	<i>Marty Gormley</i>
2:00 - 3:00	Primary 4 (Hall or Playground)	Soccer Boys and Girls P5-7 (MUGA)
3:00 - 4:00	Primary 5-7 Boys / Girls (MUGA) (Girls who play Netball will go to Marty Gormley at this time)	Netball Girls P5-7 (Hall or Playground)

<i>Tyrone GAA Coaching (Fiachra)</i>	<i>Primary 5 - 7</i>	<i>1:00 to 3:00pm (MUGA)</i>
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Coming Up...

Events in April

- 8th Beginning of Term 3
10th Start of Urney GAA Coaching
10th Additional hour of Soccer Coaching: Marty Gormley
12th Start of Term 3 GAA Coaching with Fiachra
18th First Confession For Primary 4: St Theresa's Church Sion Mills
22nd Grandparents Intergenerational Celebration Event @Sion Mills Integrated Primary School
22nd Week beginning of RSE lessons
23rd Close of Primary 1 Admissions Procedure
23rd St Theresa's PTA Meeting @2:10pm
24th Presentation of RenewYou Certificates to Primary 6
24th Art with Gloria Perry
25th Notification of Pre-School and Primary 1 Admissions and Outcomes
29th Big Spring Clean

Key Dates at start of May

- 2nd Attending Matilda (Much Ado Stage School)
4th First Holy Communion: Primary 4 (11am)

April Birthdays

- Year 4 Gracie Mae
Year 7 Ayla, Zach & Farah

Have a great day everyone!

School Closures in 2023

May Bank Holidays: 6th and 27th May
Staff Training: 28th May

End of School Year-Fri 28th June(12noon)

Repeating Weekly Events:

Breakfast Club Daily - 8:30am to 8:50am

2-3 Wrap Around Club: Daily (P1-3)

Monday Sean O'Kane: Gaelic Coach (P1-7)

Tuesday Violin (P5-7) with Lauren

Wednesday Tin Whistle (P4-7) with Noel
Irish (P1-7) with Antaine

Urney GAA Coaching 2-3pm (P4)

Urney GAA Coaching 3-4pm (P5-7 Boys and Girls - Except who are playing Netball)

Soccer with Marty Gormley 2-3pm (P5-7 Boys and Girls)

Netball with Marty Gormley (P5-7 girls)

Adult Irish Classes with Antaine 7:30-8:30

Thursday Musical Pathways (Una) (P1-3)

Roots of Empathy with Primary 5

Friday Whole School Assembly: (P1-7)

Tyrone GAA Coaching with Fiachra: (P5-7)

Hot Food Fridays: Breakfast Club