

# St. Theresa's Primary School

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

Email: [info@sttheresasps.strabane.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sttheresasps.strabane.ni.sch.uk)

Tel/Fax: 02881658438 Website: [www.sttheresaspsglebe.com](http://www.sttheresaspsglebe.com)

Facebook: St Theresa's Primary School Glebe

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



## Newsletter

## October 2024

### Welcome

A huge welcome to Karen McAneneny who is undertaking her training as a classroom assistant with Primary 6 on a Thursday and Primary 1 on a Friday. We hope Karen has an enjoyable year at St Theresa's PS.

We also welcome back Darci Connolly who also is continuing her training as a classroom assistant in St Theresa's again this year. Darci will be helping out in Primary 3 & 4 on a Tuesday.

### Parent Teacher Meetings

With this newsletter, we are issuing the date/time for your child's Parent Teacher Meeting. Meetings are taking place on Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct and Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Times for meetings are allocated every 10 mins and in order to accommodate everyone, meeting times should run closely to schedule. Time and effort has gone into planning meeting times according to families, so we encourage you to try and keep to the allocated time. However, please contact the school office if you are unable to attend the requested time and teachers will rearrange for an alternative time.

### Lunch Boxes

As a Health Promoting School, please remember we strongly encourage all our pupils to pack a healthy lunch box each day, or avail of a warm, nutritious meal from the school canteen menu. Please ensure that only one small treat is packed with your child's sandwich/muffin/pancake/crackers etc. in their lunch box with a choice of drink / yoghurt / fruit. No sweets or foods containing nuts are permitted. We will continue to monitor this closely to ensure that all our pupils are eating healthily and making good food choices which can last a lifetime and promote their overall health and well being.

Useful websites to help parents gets ideas to prepare a healthy packed lunch:

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

[www.safefood.net](http://www.safefood.net)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### RSE Policy

As a school, we are at the final stage of consultation regarding our RSE Policy. A link, via our text alert system, will be forwarded to you to ask you to you read the current policy and complete the online form. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this. Your support and co-operation in this current matter is greatly appreciated.

### Flu Vaccine Forms

Last week, flu vaccine forms were issued to each child. Please return them promptly to the class teacher. The date of the Flu Vaccine is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## Attendance

Remember to check Homework diaries at the start of each month, which gives an overall attendance percentage for your child from the start of the year. It is important children attend school daily. If your child is unwell, please contact the office to notify the school why your child is absent. We will continue to include attendance percentages for each child in their Homework Diaries at the beginning of each month. Good attendance is important. **MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT!**

### 2-3 Wrap Around Club

We have got off to a flying start with our 2-3 Wrap Around Club and are delighted with the uptake, as well as the range of fun activities that Marian and Roisin are doing with the children. Available to Primary 1-3 pupils and £2 per day from Monday to Thursday.



## **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.

## Student Council

We look forward to finding out who will be elected for our new Student Council for this academic year. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, we will be announcing our new members at our school assembly. All interested children from Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 will make a short presentation or speech in front of their class peers. Teachers will initiate by planning ideas for their speech and then the speech should be completed at home with their parent. Each pupil will then vote for their chosen boy and girl and who they feel will make a difference to St Theresa's with their range of ideas. In total there will be three picks from each year group, one boy, one girl and a teacher's pick. Good luck to all our children.

## Search for a Star

Strabane Academy are performing a 'Search for a Star' show for the local Primary Schools on the morning of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. We have been kindly invited to bring along our P7s to the performance! An online permission slip will be sent out closer to the time and children will be transported down by car to the event.

### Gaelic Posts

Thank you to all involved at Urney GAA for donating 2 Gaelic posts to our school. Our children are enjoying using them in their PE lessons and at break/lunch time.

### Tyrone GAA Primary Go Games

Thank you to Fiachra for inviting us down to the Primary Go Games last Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Our children had a great time competing in matches against other schools, showcasing their skills and development in Gaelic Football. Thank you also to Urney GAA for hosting the blitz, a venue which a lot of our children are very familiar with in underage football.

### Tin Whistle

Tin whistle lessons have begun again for the new academic year with Noel. All P4-7 children should take their tin whistle and music book into school every day and keep it in their Homework folder. This way children will have their tin whistle and book for Wednesday lessons with Noel and also available any day if children need to perform/practise with their tin whistle.

### Halloween Fancy Dress

Children are welcome to dress up scarily on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. School also ends on this date for all pupils at 2pm for mid term break. We wish all our staff, pupils and parents a safe and enjoyable Halloween Break.

### Breakfast Club

Please remember all children access Breakfast Club via the pedestrian gate at the front of the school from 8:30-8:45am daily. Children walk up Friendship Avenue, through the gate that leads into the school playground and enter the school via the Main Entrance. All other pupils should only be in school from 8:45am. No supervision is provided in the classroom until this time.

### Playground Pals

It is lovely to hear the wonderful compliments about our Primary 7 pupils who are enjoying their role as Playground Pals in the morning time before school. Parents of pupils in Foundation Stage should leave their child with the Primary 7 pupils in the morning, who will then bring them down to the classroom. The younger children are in good hands.

### Library Visit - Primary 3/4

With our Drop Everything And Read Initiative, we want to promote our children to read independently and gain a love for reading. Miss Duffy's class recently had a lovely visit to the Library and we encourage our children to attend the Library regularly and continue reading independently at home also.

### Return of Marty Gormley

We look forward to welcoming Marty Gormley back on a Wednesday from 3-4pm to host Netball Coaching again with the Primary 5-7 girls. Marty begins this Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### Maths Week

Maths Week begins this Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. To celebrate Maths Week, the teachers will be exploring engaging and fun Maths activities with the children in their lessons.

## Coming Up...

### Events in October

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feast of St Theresa. 11am Mass in St Theresa's Church Sion Mills
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Library Visit: P3/4
- 7<sup>th</sup> Primary Go Games with Fiachra: Urney GAA (P5-7 pupils)
- 10<sup>th</sup> World Mental Health Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> IZAK9 online learning: Primary 5
- 11<sup>th</sup> Presentation to P6/7 - Niall Eco Basket
- 14<sup>th</sup> Start of Maths Week
- 16<sup>th</sup> Start of Football & Fitness Club (P5-7) with Mr Coyle (2-3pm)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Start of Netball with Marty Gormley 3-4pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Parent Teacher Meetings
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent Teacher Meetings
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Search for a Star: Strabane Academy 10am. P7 pupils
- 25<sup>th</sup> Halloween Fancy Dress - School finishes at 2pm for Mid Term

### October Birthdays

- Year 3 Harpur
- Year 4 Noah
- Year 5 Taylor
- Year 6 Tommy

Have a great day everyone!

### Upcoming Dates in 2024/2025

#### Mid Term Break (Halloween)

Staff Development Day: 28<sup>th</sup> Oct  
School Closed: 29<sup>th</sup> Oct to 1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Children return on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov

Flu Vaccine: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### Entrance Assessment (SEAG)

16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (Results: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan)

#### Christmas Holidays

School Closes on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12 noon  
Staff Training: 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan  
Children return on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

### Repeating Weekly Events:

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

**HOT FOOD FRIDAYS EVERY WEEK**

2-3 Wrap Around Club: P1-3 **Mon - Thurs**

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

Tuesday Violin (P5-7) with Lauren

Tuesday Tyrone GAA with Fiachra (P5-7)

Wednesday Tin Whistle (P4-7) with Noel

Wednesday Netball with Marty Gormley P5-7 Girls (3-4pm)

Thursday Musical Pathways: (P1-3) with Una

Friday Whole School Assembly: (P1-7)