****

St. Teresa’s Primary School

“Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well”

 **Winter Newsline 2022**

Parents / Guardians,

At this stage our children are halfway through the first term and settled into new classes / routines. Thank you for supporting and co-operating with us.

**COVID-19 Regulations**

We are still currently maintaining guidelines from the Dept. of Education, PHA and the Government regarding our school, but can I reiterate, **if your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, please** **notify the school and take the necessary precautions.** Please make sure your contact details are up to date in the school office at all times, and if your child does test positive they have to remain at home to isolate for 3 days.

**Seesaw**

All teachers will keep in touch with parents / guardians via the Seesaw App. Please make sure you are signed up to your child’s teacher / class.

**Food Allergies / Healthy Break**

**Can I ask you to adhere to precautions we have in school for children with severe allergies? To date we have 3 children (who require epipens) and can I ask that NO nuts or fish are brought into school at ANYTIME. As we are a healthy eating school we require our children to bring in water, fruit or vegetables to eat / drink at breaktime. We hope to see an improvement in concentration and behaviours as we move forward together on this.**

**Homework**

All our children have commenced homeworks again and it is vital that you sign their reading log / records each night and look over their tasks – in literacy / numeracy or eLearning nights.

**Afterschools**

Please keep a check on the school App for full list of activities from 2-3pm and 3-4pm Monday – Friday. When the next set of afterschool activity bookings open, you will be notified by the school App, please ensure you have the notifications switched on for the App.

**Music Service**

Thank you for supporting the Music / EA tutors in our school as P4, P5 & P6 children are all receiving music tuition. We hope to continue into Term 2 & 3. Payment will have to be made to continue this valuable resource in St Teresa’s.

**Drama Teacher**

On **Tuesday 22nd November**, children from P1-P7 will be able to perform in front of the Banbridge Festival Adjudicators in our school, for the first time. Please ensure they have their items for ‘Show and Tell’ and / or are ready to recite their poems. I wish them the very best of luck and a big thank you to Mrs Garvey, school staff and you at home for getting our children ready for this special occasion.

**School Counsellor**

Mrs Jane McGeary works with our children each Wednesday in school, as this is an additional service provided by school we need to continue to fundraise to be able to offer this to our pupils, we are trying to fund the cost of retaining her services. Thank you for the very kind donation from a parent in the school and help from our ‘Friend’s of St Teresa’s’ in securing her services until at least Christmas. Any further financial assistance would be greatly appreciated, as we need her to stay with us after Christmas.

**Parent / Teacher Meetings**

Thank you for cooperating with your child/ren’s teacher during the week of 14th – 18th November. I hope you have found these consultations useful and informative. Feel free to contact the school if you have missed your time slot or need any follow up from your child’s teacher.

**Dinner / Bus Money**

Please pay Dinner money (£2.60 per day) and Bus money (£1 single / £1.50 return) **EACH MONDAY** on the school app using the booking form. If your child misses a day, this money will be carried over until the next day / week. Your co-operation with this will be greatly appreciated.

**Safer Schools App for Parents**

Our school has now signed up to the Safer Schools App

Safer Schools helps entire school communities to better protect themselves in the

Digital World, through delivering relevant safeguarding information to teachers,

pupils, parents and carers. Its aim is to alert members to any issues arising through

gaming, social media and websites.

To be part of safer school, follow the following steps……

Using your app store or Google Play store search for Safer Schools NI App and download

Register for an account with a valid email address and password

Click I have a code and enter code – 0899 or use the attached QR score

**Autism Workshops – Jan/Feb 2023**

We are hosting ‘Autism Awareness Workshops’ in our school on

17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February 2023 - all sessions are for Parents / Guardians.

The Middletown Autistic Centre are hosting these information sessions and you

are all welcome to attend. Please apply on [www.middletownautism.com](http://www.middletownautism.com) for a free place.

17th Jan – Autism, learning styles and impact of visual teaching methods

24th Jan – Autism and Social Communication

31st Jan – Autism and Sensory Processing

7th Feb – Autism and Anxiety Management

**Sacraments Dates / Times**

P4 – First Penance – 16th March 2023 at 4pm in St Peter’s Church, Lurgan.

P4 – First Holy Communion – 10th June 2023 at 11am in St Peter’s Church, Lurgan.

P7 – Confirmation – 30th March 2023 at 11.30am in St Peter’s Church, Lurgan.

**Christmas Event / Information**

Our children will be showcasing our P1-P7 Christmas show on:

* Tuesday 13th December at 10am P1-P4 Parents / Guardians to attend
* Friday 16th December at 10am P5-P7 Parents / Guardians to attend

Each family will be issued with 4 tickets prior to the shows in order to reserve seats.

Next week our annual ‘Christmas Raffle tickets’ will be sent home with your child/ren to raise funds for our school counsellor as mentioned above. Please feel free to request more tickets if needed. The draw will take place after the last Christmas show on Friday 16th December.

**St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal**

This year we will try to support our families in the local community by donating food to the St Vincent de Paul. Please try to donate the following, depending which class your child/ren are in, St Vincent de Paul will then distribute this to families in our community:

P1 – Cereals / Biscuits

P2 – Teabags / Coffee / Sugar

P3 – Sauces / Jams / Marmalades

P4 – Tinned soup / Beans / Custard / Tinned Peas / Tinned Fruit

P5 – Pasta / Rice / Bisto

P6 – Cakes / Mince Pies / Plum Puddings

P7 – Diluted juice / Shloer / Coke / Fanta

Could all donations of food be in by Wednesday 14th December so collection / distribution can be made before Christmas.

Thank you.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

29th Nov – Planetarium Trip P3

1st Dec – Santa Visit into school 12:30 – 3pm

1st Dec – Tree lighting event and choir at school 6.30pm (with refreshments)

6th Dec – Panto in Armagh (Cinderella) - whole school P1-P7 - £15 per child

**(Please sign consent form / pay on school app in Forms Area)**

7th Dec – Taster session P7 Lismore

8th Dec – Christmas Dinner for children / Christmas Jumper Day

8th Dec – Open Afternoon 2-3:30pm for new children September 2023, all welcome, spread the word!

8th Dec – St Ronan’s Open Night for P7 children

13th Dec – St Teresa’s Christmas Show 10am (Parents / Guardians P1-P4)

15th Dec – St Teresa’s choir singing in Rushmere 11-11.45am - TBC

16th Dec – St Teresa’s Christmas Show 10am (Parents / Guardians P5-P7)

16th Dec – All children to go home at 1pm, (For Staff training in afternoon) bus will be running at 1pm

23rd Dec – School closes at 11.30am for all children, bus will be available at 11.30am

6th Jan – Re-open for Term 2

10th Jan – Online Portal Open (EA) – new admissions for September 2023

13th Jan – School Photographer for all children

27th Jan – Online Portal closes (EA) for new admissions for September 2023

All newslines and dinner menus are available on the school website [www.stteresaslurgan.com](http://www.stteresaslurgan.com) and School App