

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *September Newsletter 2023*

[www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com](http://www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com)

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Dear Parent,

We are delighted to welcome you and your child back to a new school year.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer

If you are a new parent, you are very welcome to our school.

**New Pupils:** We extend a warm welcome to the new children to our school and we hope they have many happy and fruitful years at St Columban's.

The children starting Primary 1 this year are; Caoimhe Donnelly, Croíadh Gallagher, Caitlín Gilroy, Emma Keaney, Kayleigh Kerrigan, Erin MacLean, Niamh McAloon, Aliah McCann, Ciara McGrath, Céada McLernon and Pippa Mullally.

We also welcome Bláthnaid Sheridan who has joined our Primary 3 class.

**School Closure:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (Staff Development Day)  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The full holiday list is on the school website.

**Fundraising:** A number of our Interactive Whiteboards are in need of updating. This classroom resource is invaluable for the teaching and learning of our children. We are hoping to raise funds through a fun and enjoyable event for all pupils, parents, staff and the whole school community. The event will take place WB Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. More details will follow.

**Nut Free School:** We are now a nut free school. Please note children should not carry or consume in school or on the bus any food / snacks containing nuts, nut derivatives or seeds. We thank all parents and pupils for their cooperation and support on this important matter.

**Photographs / Internet:** Please fill in and return attached sheets in relation to the using of children's photographs and videos.

**Phone Numbers:** We operate a text service as a means of notifying parents with some important messages.  
Please let us know if your mobile number changes at any time.

**Health & Wellbeing:** Our health and wellbeing programme Verbal is now being delivered across all our classrooms. This terms focus is '*managing difficult emotions*.' A new story will be delivered every two weeks, continue to talk to your child about this valuable programme promoting positive health and well being.

**School Hours:** The teaching day begins at 9.05am and children should be in their classrooms by this time.  
Children should not arrive in school before 8.55am.

**From Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Primary 1 pupils stay until 1.55pm.**

The Primary 2 day also ends at 1.55pm  
Primary 3 - 7 pupils finish at 2.55pm

**Teacher Emails:** Teachers can be contacted via email. The teacher will get back to you as soon as practical. Urgent messages should be delivered by telephone.

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mrs Martina Meehan  | mmeehan578@c2kni.net    |
| • Mrs Anne Murray     | amurray394@c2kni.net    |
| • Mrs Siobhan Meehan  | smeehan445@c2kni.net    |
| • Mrs Paula Gallagher | pgallagher466@c2kni.net |
| • Miss Claire Crudden | ccrudden144@c2kni.net   |
| • Mr Liam Magee       | lmagee459@c2kni.net     |

**Walking home from school:** Please find attached a consent form with regards to pupils walking home from school. This needs to be completed and returned to your child's teacher if your child is walking home from school on a regular basis.

If you wish your child/children to walk home occasionally then please write a note in homework diary, email child's teacher or telephone the school.

**Child Protection:** The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray. Our updated policy will be available soon via the school website.

**Policies:** The following policies are on the school website;

- Complaints Procedure
- Anti-Bullying
- Positive Behaviour
- Drugs
- E Safety which includes the school's policy on the acceptable use of the internet.
- Child Protection
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Pastoral Care
- Supporting children with medication needs

Please contact Mr Magee or Mrs Meehan if you require any of these policies in paper form.

**GAA Coaching:** Fermanagh GAA are provide a block of coaching for pupils in Primary 4 - 7. This takes place on Tuesdays. Pupils are reminded to bring PE gear on each Tuesday.

**Parents/Carers & pick up:** Primary 1 pupils enter the school each morning via the external door at Mrs Meehan's room. All other pupils enter via the main school entrance.

The buses will leave the school at 2.55pm. We ask that parents don't gather before 2.55pm if collecting their child by car or walking.

Primary 2 pupils should be collected from P.1/2 external classroom door at 1.55pm.

The Primary 1 day will end at 12.30pm up until Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

From Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October Primary 1 pupils will finish at 1.55pm and exit via the external door in the Primary 1 classroom.

To help with the smooth exit of pupils who walk or travel home by car in the evening we will continue the following arrangement;

**Surname A – L will exit via the pedestrian gate at 3.00pm**

**Surname M – W will exit via the main gate at 3.00pm.**

Please keep entrance and the clearly marked bus area free until after both buses have departed.

Buses depart school at 2.55pm.

**School Uniform:** It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform which reflects the individuality of our school and offers to all children a common form of dress.  
Full school uniform must be worn each day unless special clothing is required e.g. for field trip.  
**PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.**

**Dinner:** The daily cost of school dinner is £2.60 per day (£13.00 per week). We would ask that money for the week be brought in on Mondays.

The updated menu is available on the school website.

Free School Meals:

Some children may be entitled to free meals. An application form may be obtained from the Education Authority, School Meals Department 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 OAW. Telephone (028 82 411411).

The EA submits a list of children receiving free school meals to us.

If your child's name is not on this list and you feel they should be I ask that you contact the EA immediately.

We as a school are working together with the Health Promotion Department to promote healthy eating habits and improve oral health in children.

Children taking lunch may bring one treat in their lunch box.

**Only staff cars should enter the school car park.**

**Please do not park in the bus lay-by at the front of the school.**

**Parking here presents a hazard for children boarding buses and prevents buses from pulling in.**