

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter 2023

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

WB Monday 13th November: Anti Bullying week
Thursday 23rd November: St Columban's Day (Mass 10.00am)
Tuesday 28th November: Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

Fundraiser: Sincere thanks to all who supported our unique fundraiser - "Track your Ks for 7 days." Our target was to walk 3172 kilometres over 7 days. We walked a remarkable total of 4103 kilometres.
We had hoped that this initiative would raise £3,172 towards the purchase of a new interactive whiteboard. However thanks to the generosity of you all our final total is £4,500. As a result of the success of this fundraiser we will have two new interactive whiteboards installed hopefully before Christmas.

Anti-Bullying Week: Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 13th - Friday 17th November. A range of activities in relation to Anti-Bullying will take place during the week.
The theme this year is: *'Make a noise about Bullying.'*

Parent - Teacher Meeting: These will take place as follows:
Primary 4: WB Monday 13th November
Primary 6: WB Monday 20th November
Primary 5: WB Monday 27th November
Primary 3: WB Monday 4th December
Primary 1 & 2: January

An email will follow from class teacher in relation to meetings. Parents will have option of face to face or a telephone call.

St Columban: Mass will take place in school at 10.00am on Thursday the 23rd November to celebrate the feast of St Columban. Parents and family members welcome to attend.

Christmas Holidays: The school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday the 21st December at 11.30am. School meals will not be served and there will be no return home buses on

that day. The school will reopen for pupils on Friday the 5th January 2024.

**Christmas
Production:**

Pupils will soon commence work on their respective Christmas productions. These will take place as follows:

Primary 1 - 3: Friday 15th December @10.15am

Primary 4 - 7: Tuesday 19th December @10.15am

Correspondence regarding outfits, lines etc will follow.

Both productions will take place in school and parents / family members are welcome to attend.

Christmas Draw:

Tickets for the annual Christmas Draw will be available in early December. If you wish to donate a prize for this Draw please leave it with any of the teachers.

**Christmas
Gifts:**

We sincerely thank parents and children for their Christmas time gifts. With current cost of living crisis staff feel Christmas gifts are not required - if parents feel they would like to donate in lieu all money collected will be forwarded to the local charity St Vincent de Paul.

Food Bank Appeal:

As the Christmas season approaches, our Eco-Committee have decided to collect non-perishable food items which they will donate to a local Food Bank.

We kindly, ask for your support with this very worthy appeal. Children will be given a 'shopping list' of items from- which they can choose 1 or 2 items to bring into school for our collection. All items must be in school for **Friday 8th December**. Once again, we truly appreciate your support with this!

**Health &
Wellbeing:**

Our health and wellbeing programme Verbal is continuing to be 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.

Youth Choir:

Youth choir will sing at Mass in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday 18th November at 7.00pm.

Contacting class teacher: Teachers can be contacted via email. The teacher will get back to you as soon as practical. Please be aware that teachers only access their emails during their working day. Urgent messages should be delivered by telephone. We encourage you also to use homework diaries as a means of communication.

- Miss Maya Finlay mfinlaymcgovern377@c2kni.net
(teaching P.1/2 at present)
- 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 limagee459@c2kni.net

Confirmation: Confirmation will take place on Saturday the 20th April in St Patrick's Church Holywell at 11.00am.

First Communion: This will take place on Saturday the 18th May in St Patrick's Church Holywell

Child Protection: The Designated teacher for Child Protection in the absence of Mrs Martina Meehan is Mrs Anne Murray. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Liam Magee

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 Murray if you require any of these policies in paper form.

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.

- Website / Twitter:** Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis. You can also follow us on Twitter. This will help keep you up to date with school life.
- 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.
- Attendance:** The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. **If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.**
Pupils with full attendance each term will receive a school certificate. Pupils with full attendance for the whole school year will receive a certificate from the Education Authority.
If your child is absent, please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.
- 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 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