

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter 2023

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 5 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 1 - 3)
Wednesday 6 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 4 - 7)
Friday 15 th December:	Christmas Production (Primary 1 - 3)
Tuesday 19 th December:	Christmas Production (Primary 4 - 7)
Wednesday 20 th December:	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 21 st December:	School closes for Christmas holidays
Friday 5 th January:	School reopens for pupils

Letter: Please find enclosed a letter in relation to the health of a pupil in our school. Please read it carefully and we ask for your cooperation and support.

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 Draw: Please find enclosed tickets for our Christmas Draw. Many thanks to all who have donated prizes already. If you still wish to donate a prize for this Draw please leave it with any of the teachers.
The Draw will take place on Wednesday the 20th December in school.

Christmas Production: Pupils are currently working 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

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

Christmas Jumper Day: This takes place on Wednesday the 20th December. We encourage all staff and pupils to wear a Christmas jumper on this day.

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.

Youth Choir:

Youth choir will sing at Mass in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Sunday 24th December at 7.00pm. Pupils singing are asked to come along at 6.45pm to sing carols before Mass.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will again will take place over two days. We sincerely thank Teresa and all the kitchen staff for their assistance and cooperation with this.

Tuesday 5th December - Primary 1 -3 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.

Pupils in Primary 4 - 7 will have their lunch or school dinner (*a special fun day meal*) in their classroom.

Wednesday 6th December - Primary 5 -7 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.

Pupils in Primary 1 - 3 will have their lunch or school dinner (*a special fun day meal*) in their classroom.

The cost of school dinner is £2.60. Please bring all dinner money for this week in on Monday 4th December. This will help finalise numbers for organisation.

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!

Fundraiser:

Sincere thanks again 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 revised total is **£4,620**. As a result of the success of this fundraiser we will have two new interactive whiteboards installed hopefully before Christmas.

Starting School: If your child is starting school in September 2024, you can apply for their place online from Tuesday 9th January. The closing date for applications is Friday 26th January 2024 at 12.00 noon. Applications are made online via the Education Authority Connect Portal.

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.

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.

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 at 11.00am

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.

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. We get a monthly report of all children's attendance. If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.

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.



We wish all Children, Parents, Staff and Governors a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Nollaig Shona daoibh.