

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *January Newsletter 2024*

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

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our children for 2024 and wish you all a Happy New Year.

### **Diary Dates:**

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January:	Visit to school by St Joseph's College
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January:	Start of P.6/7 Swimming Programme
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January:	Visit to school by St Aidan's Derrylin
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January:	St Joseph's College Open Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January:	Visit to school by St Fanchea's College
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January:	Visit to school by Erne Integrated College
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January:	St Aidan's Derrylin Open Night
WB Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January:	Primary 2 Parent Teacher Meetings
WB Monday 22 <sup>th</sup> January:	Catholic Schools Week
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January:	Mount Lourdes Open Night
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January:	St Michael's College Open Night
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January:	St Fanchea's College Open Night
WB Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January:	Primary 1 Parent Teacher Meetings
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February:	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Football

**School Closures:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February (mid term)  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February (Staff Development)

**St Vincent de Paul:** Thanks to all who donated money to St Vincent de Paul in lieu of Christmas time gifts. The total raised through this and from other St Vincent de Paul donations was £300. Thanks also to all who donated food items for the Food Bank.

**Christmas Draw:** Our annual Draw was a great success. We sincerely thank all those who bought and sold tickets. Thanks also to all those who donated the wonderful prizes that were on offer. The total raised from the Draw and the Christmas productions was £1605. We sincerely thank each of you for your generosity.

Many thanks also for all the kind comments in relation to both our Christmas productions. We are very proud of all our pupils who were absolutely fantastic.

**Healthy Break:** We have secured funding from Fermanagh and Omagh Council to provide pupils with a snack for break each Friday up to Easter. This will commence this Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Phone Numbers:** This is the time of year some people may have changed their phone. Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed so we can update our records.

**Starting School:** If your child is starting school in September 2024, you can apply for their place online through the Education Authority website.

User guides are available on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

You can apply online between:  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**and**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Mr Magee or Sandra in the office.

Details regarding post primary transfer will be available in the coming weeks

**Swimming:** The Primary 6/7 Swimming Programme will commence in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023. A separate letter will be issued in relation to this.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** Parent- Teacher meetings for pupils in Primary 1 & 2 will place this month as follows;

Primary 1: WB Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
Primary 2: WB Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

A separate email will follow. Parents will have option of face to face or a telephone call.

Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week. 1

The times for meetings will be;  
8.45am - 9.30am and 2.10pm - 3.45pm

- Feis Fhearmanach:** The Feis committee have asked us to remind winners from last year to return Feis cups to the section secretaries please.  
In order process all entries in time for the closing date- monies and entry must be submitted to the school by **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**  
See attached sheet.
- 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
- Mathletics:** We encourage all pupils in Primary 1 - 7 to continue to log on regularly to Mathletics.  
Pupils should aim to achieve a certificate each week.
- 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.
- 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

**Safe Guarding Team:**

The Safeguarding Team is available for the protection and safety of children within the St Columban's school community.

The team is available to parents, staff and children.

The Safeguarding Team members are:

- Mrs Martina Meehan  
(Designated Teacher)
- Mrs Anne Murray  
(Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Mr Gerry McAloon  
(Chair, Board of Governors)
- Mrs Clara Martin  
(Board of Governors)
- Mr Liam Magee  
(Principal)

In school we have notice boards placed around the school to show our children who they can speak to if they are worried about something.

If you have concerns about the safety, protection and/or care of a child from our school community please contact a member of our safeguarding team by following the steps outlined in the 'Procedure for parents who wish to raise a child protection concern' which is included in our Child Protection Policy.

**Website**

Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis.

**Twitter:**

You can also follow us on Twitter. This will help keep you up to date with all that is happening in school.

**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.**