

# **SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## ***October Newsletter 2020***

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

**Twitter - @StColumbans76**

- School Closure:** Following correspondence from the Department of Education I wish to inform you that St Columban's PS like all schools will have an extended Halloween Holidays from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.  
During the week beginning 19 October direct payments will be made to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.  
**The school will reopen for pupils on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**  
The staff day originally arranged for this day will take place at a later stage.
- Parent - Teacher Meetings:** As you are probably aware meetings for parents in Primary 3 - 7 traditionally take place in the first term with meetings for Primary 1 and 2 parents in late January.  
The current situation will have an impact on how and when meetings take place this year.  
We will review the situation after the mid term break and provide you all with an update.
- 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 all that is happening in school.
- Text Service:** Our mobile text service is now up and running. Please let us know if you change your mobile number at any stage so we can update our records.
- 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.
- First Communion:** Congratulations to all pupils who made their First Holy Communion recently.

**Children showing symptoms of COVID-19:**

Do not send your child to school if your child or anyone you live with has **any** of the following symptoms:

- *a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);*
- *a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);*
- *a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.*

If your child or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms above, you should get a test for Covid-19. If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature/fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell, which can also affect your sense of taste) in an educational setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

**Pupils should not attend school if they have any of the above symptoms.**

**Social Distancing Parents/Carers & pick up:**

It is important that appropriate social distancing is observed among parents/carers when children are entering and exiting the school grounds.

In order to help with this please adhere to the following guidelines in relation to drop off times in the morning.

Pupils who travel to school by car or walk:

**Morning:**

Surname A - L please arrive at school between 8.55am - 9.10am

Surname M - W please arrive at school between 9.10am - 9.20am

**Evening Collection:**

To help with the smooth exit of pupils who walk or travel home by car in the evening we are introducing a new 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. The Lattone bus will have departed at this stage.**

**Please keep entrance and bus area free until after both buses have departed. Buses depart school at 2.50pm.**

We ask that parents don't gather before 2.50pm if collecting their child by car or walking.

We will continue to monitor this situation and, if the planned arrangements need to be altered we will let you know.

**General:**

We must all accept our collective responsibility to prevent virus spread. Whilst we understand the importance of connecting socially with other members of the school community, we strongly advise parents/carers not to congregate around the school site. It is important to be aware that should a cluster of cases of the virus be identified in our school community, then St Columban's could be instructed to close for a period of time in accordance with the Public Health requirements for preventing transmission of the virus. It is essential that each of us does everything we can to prevent such an eventuality arising.

We ask parents/carers not to enter the school building during the school day without appointment unless it is absolutely necessary. If you need to get a message to your child, or their teacher please telephone the school office. Please note our secretary finishes at 2.00pm.

Teachers can also 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](mailto:mmeehan578@c2kni.net)
- Mrs Anne Murray [amurray394@c2kni.net](mailto:amurray394@c2kni.net)
- Mrs Siobhan Meehan [smeehan445@c2kni.net](mailto:smeehan445@c2kni.net)
- Mrs Paula Gallagher [pgallagher466@c2kni.net](mailto:pgallagher466@c2kni.net)
- Mr Liam Magee [lmagee459@c2kni.net](mailto:lmagee459@c2kni.net)

If some exceptional and unforeseen circumstance arises which prevents your child from arriving at school with everything that he/she requires for the day ahead, you should also contact the school office to discuss how the matter will be resolved.

**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.

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.