

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter 2020

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

WB Monday 16 th November:	Anti Bullying week
Tuesday 17 th November:	NSPCC programme online
WB Monday 23 rd November:	Primary 6 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 30 th November:	Primary 5 & 7 Parent Teacher meetings

Anti-Bullying Week: Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 16th - Friday 20th November. There will be a poster competition for each class. The theme this year is: '**United Against Bullying**'.

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 has impacted on how we organise our meetings this year.

Key Stage 2 meetings will take place by phone as follows:

Primary 6: Week beginning Monday 23rd November

Primary 7: Week beginning Monday 30th November

Primary 5: Week beginning Monday 30th November

Details will be emailed by class teacher to parents.

Meetings for pupils in Primary 1 - 4 will take place next term.

Christmas Draw: We have decided not to hold our annual Christmas Draw this year due to the current situation. The Draw income each year allowed us to invest in additional resources for the school. We would therefore appreciate if families considered making a voluntary donation to the school at this time in lieu of the traditional ticket sales that would have been taking place.

Bóthar Gifts of Change: We sincerely thank parents and children for their Christmas time gifts. Once again the teachers of the school, have agreed that any parent/family wishing to purchase a gift for teachers at Christmas time this year - should instead send a donation to the school in lieu. This money will then be used to buy a Gift of Change through Bóthar.

Homework:	Homework for the next four weeks will be sent home next Monday 9 th November. Your child should return all work on Monday the 7 th December.
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.
Mathletics:	We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to continue to log on to Mathletics.
Accelerated Reader:	Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 are now all enthusiastically taking part in our new reading initiative. All the children are aiming to reach their own personal target.
Child Protection:	The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.
Children showing symptoms of COVID-19:	<p>Do not send your child to school if your child or anyone you live with has any of the following symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);</i> - <i>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);</i> - <i>a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.</i> <p>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.</p> <p>Pupils should not attend school if they have any of the above symptoms.</p>

**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
- Mrs Anne Murray amurray394@c2kni.net
- Mrs Siobhan Meehan smeehan445@c2kni.net
- Mrs Paula Gallagher pgallagher466@c2kni.net
- Mr Liam Magee 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.