

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Newsletter 2020

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on Friday the 18th December at 11.45am.

School meals will not be served and there will be no buses on that day at home time.

The school will re-open for pupils on Wednesday the 6th January 2021. (note change of date)

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.

In 2020 we were also unable to hold our annual golf classic.

The Draw and the Golf Classic brought in £3,500 in total in 2019.

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.

This will greatly help us in the coming year.

Christmas Celebrations:

We have tried to mark the Christmas season as normal a way as possible within the current guidelines.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to have a carol service or play this year. We will however have a short video of singing and photographs from classes going up on the school website at the end of the week.

We also sincerely thank Santa who made a surprise visit last Friday. He left treats for all children and staff!!!!

We also thank Teresa and all the kitchen staff for ensuring that Christmas dinner went ahead. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

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.

Starting School: If your child is starting school in September 2021, you can apply for their place online from Thursday 7th January. The closing date for applications is Friday 29th January 2021.

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.**

We thank all who have helped and supported us during a difficult and challenging year. The support and cooperation of all in our school community has helped to make our task easier and was much appreciated by all of us.

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

Nollaig Shona daoibh.

