

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *November Newsletter 2021*

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

Twitter - @StColumbans76

### **Diary Dates:**

WB Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November:	Anti Bullying week
WB Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November:	Primary 5 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November:	Primary 7 Parent Teacher meetings
	Primary 6 Parent Teacher meetings

**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.

**Anti-Bullying Week:** Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. A range of activities in relation to Anti-Bullying will take place during the week.  
The theme this year is; '**One Kind Word**'.

**Parent - Teacher Meetings:** 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 5:** Week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Primary 7:** Week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Primary 6:** Week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 again 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.

<b>Bóthar Gifts of Change:</b>	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.
<b>Healthy &amp; Wellbeing Week:</b>	This was a great success. All pupils enjoyed the range of activities that took place during the week. Many thanks for all the positive feedback regarding it.
<b>Website / Twitter:</b>	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.
<b>Social Distancing Parents/Carers &amp; pick up:</b>	<p>It is important that appropriate social distancing is observed among parents/carers when children are entering and exiting the school grounds.</p> <p>Primary 1 pupils enter the school each morning via the external door at Mrs Meehan's room. All other pupils enter via the main school entrance.</p> <p>The buses however will leave the school at 2.55pm. We ask that parents don't gather before 2.55pm if collecting their child by car or walking.</p> <p>Primary 2 pupils should be collected from Mrs Meehan's external door at 1.55pm.</p> <p>The Primary 1 day will end at 12.30pm up until Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> October. From Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> October Primary 1 pupils will finish at 1.55pm and exit via the external door in Mrs Meehan's room.</p> <p>To help with the smooth exit of pupils who walk or travel home by car in the evening we will continue the following arrangement;</p> <p><b>Surname A - L will exit via the pedestrian gate at 3.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Surname M - W will exit via the main gate at 3.00pm.</b></p> <p>Please keep entrance and the clearly marked bus area free until after both buses have departed.</p> <p>Buses depart school at 2.55pm.</p>

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.

We ask parents/carers not 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.

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.

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)
- Mrs Aimee McSorley [amcsorley926@c2kni.net](mailto:amcsorley926@c2kni.net)
- Mr Liam Magee [lmagee459@c2kni.net](mailto:lmagee459@c2kni.net)

**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.

**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. The menu is available on the school website.

Free School Meals: Some children may be entitled to free meals. An application form may be obtained from the Education Authority, School Meals Department 1 Hospital

Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 OAW. Telephone (028 82 411411). The EA submits a list of children receiving free school meals to us.

If your child's name is not on this list and you feel they should be I ask that you contact the EA immediately.

We as a school are working together with the Health Promotion Department to promote healthy eating habits and improve oral health in children. Children taking lunch may bring one treat in their lunch box.

**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.**