

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *October Newsletter 2021*

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

Twitter - @StColumbans76

- 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.
- School Closure:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October (mid term)
- The full holiday list is on the school website.  
There is one additional staff development day to be added.
- Healthy Week:** Next week we will be focusing on various aspects of mental health and well being each day. We are calling our week - **'FAB 5 DAYS'**
- Each day's title is as follows;  
Monday - Fitness Day  
Tuesday - Food Day  
Wednesday - Fun Day  
Thursday - Friend Day  
Friday - Fantastic Friday
- We hope all pupils enjoy the range of activities that will take place during the week.
- Mathletics:** Please see the attached information with regards to our Mathletics. We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to log in to this resource which supports Maths learning.
- Phone Numbers:** We operate a text service as a means of notifying parents with some important messages. Please let us know if your mobile number changes at any time.
- Child Protection:** The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.

**School Uniform:** It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform which reflects the individuality of our school and offers to all children a common form of dress.  
Full school uniform must be worn each day unless special clothing is required e.g. for field trip.  
**PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.**

**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.

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.

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.

Primary 1 & 2 pupils should be collected from Mrs Meehan's external door at 1.55pm.

To help with the smooth exit of pupils who walk or travel home by car in the evening we will continue the following 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.**

Please keep entrance and the clearly marked bus area free until after both buses have departed.

Buses depart school at 2.55pm.

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.

**There is a letter on the school website from Dr Michael McBride the Chief Medical Officer**

**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.

**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.**