

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter 2021

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 7 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 1 - 4)
Wednesday 8 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 5 - 7)
Thursday 9 th December:	Ceili (Primary 4/5/6)
Tuesday 14 th December:	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 15 th December:	KS 2 Christmas Production
Thursday 16 th December:	KS 1 Christmas Production
Friday 17 th December:	Ditch the Dark Day- Children come to school dressed in bright clothes.
Wednesday 22 nd December:	School closes for Christmas holidays

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on **Wednesday the 22nd December** at **11.15am**. School meals will not be served and there will be no school milk or buses on that day. The school will re-open for pupils on **Thursday the 6th January 2022**.

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.

Christmas Jumper Day:

This takes place on Tuesday the 14th December. We encourage all staff and pupils to wear a Christmas jumper on this day. The School Council ask that pupils make a donation of £1 to them on this day to go towards extra play resources.

Food Bank Appeal: As the Christmas season approaches, our Eco-Committee have decided to collect non-perishable food items which they will donate to a local Food Bank. We kindly ask for your support with this very worthy appeal. Children will be given a 'shopping list' of items from which they can choose 1 or 2 items to bring into school for our collection. All items must be in school for **Thursday 9th December**. Once again, we truly appreciate your support with this!

Christmas Production: Pupils are currently working on their respective Foundation / KS1 and KS2 Christmas productions. These will take place on the 15th and 16th December. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents to attend due to the current situation. We will however upload videos and photographs of both productions to the school website.

Christmas Dinner Christmas Dinner will again be slightly different this year as it will take place over two days. We sincerely thank Teresa and all the kitchen staff for their assistance and cooperation with this.

Tuesday 7th December - Primary 1 -4 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.

Pupils in Primary 5 - 7 will have their lunch or school dinner (*a special fun day meal*) in their classroom.

Wednesday 8th December - Primary 5 -7 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.

Pupils in Primary 1 - 4 will have their lunch or school dinner (*a special fun day meal*) in their classroom.

The cost of school dinner is £2.60. Please bring all dinner money for this week in on Monday 6th December. This will help finalise numbers for organisation.

Health & Wellbeing Week:

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. The total amount raised by staff and pupils for the Aisling Centre was £400.

Anti-Bullying Week:

The winners of the Anti-bullying poster competition were as follows;

Primary 1: Erin Mullally
Primary 2: Orla McAloon
Primary 3: Tristan McGovern
Primary 4: Timothy Nolan
Primary 5: Oisin Treacy
Primary 6: Shay Cullen
Primary 7: Julijana McGourty
Overall Winner - Ellie Fraser (P.7)

School Council:

We have a newly elected School Council. The members are as follows;

Chairperson: Julijana McGourty
Secretary: Lucas Connolly
Treasurer: Grace Ellen O'Neill
Committee members: Eoghan Maguire, Eugene Parker, Mikey McGovern, Ava Lavery, Lea Leonard & Mateja McGourty,

Jersey Day:

The first event organised by the School Council was a 'Respect all colours' Jersey Day. This was a great success with the added bonus of a visit from the Sam Maguire and Anglo Celt Cups. We thank the Tyrone County Board for their assistance with this. Class photographs are on the school website.

Eco committee:

We have a newly elected Eco committee. The members are as follows;

Chairperson: Keeva Whitmore
Vice Chairperson: Amber McCann
Secretary: Mary-Kate O'Neill
Assistant Secretary: Kate Ryan
Treasurer: Danny Carron
Assistant Treasurer: Jody McGrath
Committee members: Pauric Cullen, Alanna Timoney, Jack Coburn, Orla Kilgallon, Ellie Fraser

Journey to Santa Challenge:

This is part of the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme. It runs from the Monday 6th to Friday 17th December. Separate letter will be sent home giving further details.

Starting School: If your child is starting school in September 2022, you can apply for their place online from Monday 10th January. The closing date for applications is Friday 28th January 2022.

Website Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis.

Twitter: You can also follow us on Twitter. This will help keep you up to date with all that is happening in school.

**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 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.

- Mrs Martina Meehan mmeehan578@c2kni.net
- Mrs Anne Murray amurray394@c2kni.net
- Mrs Siobhan Meehan smeehan445@c2kni.net
- Mrs Paula Gallagher pgallagher466@c2kni.net
- Mrs Aimee McSorley amcsorley926@c2kni.net
- Mr Liam Magee lmagee459@c2kni.net

Safe Guarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team is available for the protection and safety of children within the St Columban's school community. The team is available to parents, staff and children.

The Safeguarding Team members are:

- Mrs Martina Meehan
(Designated Teacher)
- Mrs Anne Murray
(Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Mr Gerry McAloon
(Chair, Board of Governors)
- Mrs Clara Martin
(Board of Governors)
- Mr Liam Magee
(Principal)

In school we have notice boards placed around the school to show our children who they can speak to if they are worried about something.

If you have concerns about the safety, protection and/or care of a child from our school community please contact a member of our safeguarding team by following the steps outlined in the 'Procedure for parents who wish to raise a

child protection concern' which is included in our Child Protection Policy.

Attendance:

The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. We get a monthly report of all children's attendance. If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.

Please see attached sheet from the Department of Education - 'Every School Day Counts.'

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.



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

Nollaig Shona daoibh.