

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

February Newsletter 2022

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 8th February: Internet Safety Day

Monday 14th - Friday 18th February: School Closed

Thursday 17th - Friday 18th March: School Closed

School Closures: Monday 14th - Friday 18th February (mid term)

Safety: We ask all to take care when dropping off and collecting children at the school. Please leave space for the Mullaghduin bus to pull in and for the Lattone bus to reverse into the school grounds. Please also be mindful of the speed limit outside the school.

Phone Numbers: This is the time of year some people may have changed their phone. Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed so we can update our records.

Current Situation: Over the last number of weeks you will have been aware of the increased presence of COVID in the wider community and the impact that this may have on our school. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to keep the school as safe as possible for pupils and staff.

While the new variant Omicron has had an impact on attendance, we are committed to doing all we can to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We ask that you all continue to follow the most up to date advice in relation to COVID from the PHA.

**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

Policies: At present we are reviewing our Anti Bullying and Positive Behaviour Policies.
The main findings of the parental Anti Bullying questionnaire are attached and the draft Policy is on the school website.
If you have any comments on this draft policy, please email them to Mr Magee.

As part of the review of the Positive Behaviour policy process we are consulting parents through the attached questionnaires.

I ask that you fill this out and return to the school before Monday the 21st February 2022.

Mathletics: We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to continue to log on regularly to Mathletics. Pupils should aim to achieve a certificate each week.

Swimming: The Primary 6/7 Swimming Programme continues on Thursdays in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen.

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 uniform includes school jumper, light blue polo shirt and a navy skirt or navy trousers.

School uniform must be worn each day unless special clothing is required e.g. for field trip.

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.

Free School Meals: Some children may be entitled to free meals. An application form may be obtained from the Education Authority Western Region, School Meals Department 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 OAW. Telephone (028 82 411411)

We are continuing to promote the Munch Box Challenge (a lunch Box initiative) during lunch time. 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.

Attendance: The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. Good attendance is vital for every child. *'Every day matters.'* We get a monthly report of all children's attendance. If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are obliged to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer. If your child is absent please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary. This is important as all absences must be coded on our system.

All children who walk to school or travel by car should use the small pedestrian gate. We ask that you do not use the main gate in the interest of the health and safety of all.

I ask that in the interest of pupil safety P.1 and 2 parents collecting children at 2.00pm also use only the pedestrian gate.

Only staff cars should enter the school car park. Please do not park in the bus lay-by at the front of the school- this area is now clearly marked. Parking here presents a hazard for children boarding buses and prevents buses from pulling in.