

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

March Newsletter 2022

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16th March: Green Day

Thursday 17th March: St Patrick's Day (School Closed)

Friday 18th March: School Closed

Wednesday 30th March: Confirmation

Holidays: The school will be closed on Thursday the 17th and Friday the 18th March.

Change to holidays in May due to Election:

The school will now be closed Monday 2nd May, Thursday 5th May and Friday 6th May.

The school is open Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th May.

Ceili: A Ceili to celebrate St Patrick's Day will take place on Wednesday the 16th March. We ask that pupils come dressed in green to school on this day. The School Council will be taking up a collection with all money raised being sent to Trocaire. We encourage pupils where possible to walk to school on this day as part of our health promoting week.

Healthy Week: Next week we will be focusing on various aspects of mental health and well being each day. We hope all pupils enjoy the range of activities that will take place during the week.

Ukraine: The thoughts and prayers of all in our school community are with the people of Ukraine at this time. We are collecting various items to help those in need, which will be delivered directly by McMorro Haulage to the refugee camps. Please see attached sheet for details of items you can donate before **12.00noon on Wednesday 16th March.**

Sport: Our 6 week yoga block is ending this week. We thank Shauna McMorro for ensuring that sessions were enjoyable for all pupils.
We will have a further block of yoga after Easter for all pupils.

We have also managed to secure a GAA coach through Ulster GAA. Eimear Keenan will take all pupils each Friday until early June. Pupils may wear blue/navy tracksuit bottoms on Fridays. Sessions will take place outdoors weather permitting.

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

Policies: At present we are reviewing our Anti Bullying and Positive Behaviour Policies.
The draft policies for Anti Bullying and Positive Behaviour are on the school website - Parent area - policies section.

If you have any comments on this draft policy, please email them to Mr Magee before Wednesday the 16th March.

Confirmation: This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Wednesday 30th March at 4.00pm

First Communion: This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday the 14th May at 11.00am.
'Do this in memory' Mass for P4 children on **Saturday 26th March at 7.30pm** in St Patrick's Church Holywell.

First Penance: This will take place on Tuesday the 5th April at 6.30pm.

Safety: We ask all to take care when dropping off and collecting children at the school. Please leave space for the Mullaghdun 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.

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.

Child Protection: The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.

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.
A class competition will run from Monday 21st March - Friday 8th April. The best class will receive a prize. Average scores will be used so classes with smaller numbers are not disadvantaged.
The winning class will receive a prize as will the individual pupil who achieves most points in this period.

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.

**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.

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 ask that parents don't gather before 2.55pm if collecting their child by car or walking.

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

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.

Party invitations: We ask that parents do not to send party invitations to school for circulation- this may cause distress to some children.

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.

Happy St Patrick's Day

