

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

April Newsletter 2022

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 1 st April:	Walk to school
Monday 4 th April:	KS 2 Internet safety talk
Thursday 14 th April:	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 25 th April:	School reopens after Easter break
Tuesday 26 th April:	Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens
Tuesday 26 th April:	First Penance

Holidays: The school will close on **Thursday the 14th April** at **11.30am** for the Easter holidays. School meals will not be served and there will be no buses on that day. The school will re-open for pupils on **Monday the 25th April.**

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.

Trocaire: Thanks to all who contributed to our Trocaire collection last month. A total of £300 was forwarded to Trocaire.

Ukraine: Many thanks to all who donated various items to help and support those in the various refugee camps.

Belcoo GAA; We sincerely thank Belcoo GAA Club for their kind donation of £500 to the school. It was much appreciated by staff and pupils.

Confirmation: Congratulations to all our Primary 7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope they all enjoyed their special day. We thank everyone who helped to make this such a special occasion.

- First Penance:** This will take place on Tuesday the 26th April at 6.00pm in St Sinnell's Oratory Belcoo.
- First Communion:** This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday the 14th May at 11.00am.
All Key Stage 2 pupils are asked to keep this date free to sing in the choir on that day.
- Cash for Clobber:** St Columban's Eco-Committee are collecting old clothes as part of their *Cash for Clobber* collection. If you have any old clothes, old pairs of shoes or handbags that you no longer want/need, then please put them into a bin liner and leave with any member of staff.
We would appreciate all items could be in before **Thursday the 14th April.**
- 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.
A new 20 mph limit will soon be in operation in the morning and afternoon.
- Cumann na mBunscol:** We are delighted that Cumann na mBunscol competitions will recommence after the Easter break. The first competition will be the mini sevens.
Our boys and girls will take part in the group stage in Derrygonnelly on Tuesday the 26th April.
- 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.

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.

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.

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 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 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.

