

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter 2022

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| WB Monday 14 th November: | Anti Bullying week |
| WB Monday 14 th November: | Road Safety Week |
| Wednesday 16 th November: | Primary 4/5 Football Blitz - Derrygonnelly |
| Friday 18 th November: | Walk to school |

Anti-Bullying Week:

Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 14th - Friday 18th November. A range of activities in relation to Anti-Bullying will take place during the week.
The theme this year is; **'Reach Out.'**

Parent - Teacher Meeting:

These will take place as follows;

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Primary 4: | WB Monday 14 th November |
| Primary 6: | WB Monday 21 st November |
| Primary 5: | WB Monday 28 th November |
| Primary 3: | WB Monday 5 th December |
| Primary 1 & 2: | January |

A separate letter will follow. Parents will have option of face to face or a telephone call. Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

The times for meetings will be;

9.00am - 9.30am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Children's Cancer Unit Charity:

Many thanks to all who contributed to this charity on the day of our Halloween Fashion Show. The total raised for this charity was almost £500.00.

Exercise Books:

Last month you were informed that; ***'to further strengthen the communication links between the home and school in relation to your child's learning,'*** we would send home a sample of classwork books at mid term.

Pupils in Primary 1 - 6 have a sample of books home this weekend.

Please ensure that your child brings all these books back to school on Monday 14th November.

Christmas Draw: Next month will see the return of our Christmas Draw for the first time since 2019. This is our only fundraiser during the year. Tickets for will be available in early December. If you wish to donate a prize for this Draw please leave it with any of the teachers.

Christmas Holidays: The school will close for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday the 21st December and reopen for pupils on Thursday the 5th January 2023.

Christmas Gifts: We sincerely thank parents and children for their Christmas time gifts. With current cost of living crisis staff feel Christmas gifts are not required - if parents feel they would like to donate in lieu all money collected will be forwarded to the local charity St Vincent de Paul.

Ditch the Dark Day: We are holding a special walk to school day on Friday the 18th November. The theme of the day is *Be Bright, Be Seen*. To raise awareness of safe travel to school as the days become darker, we are encouraging children to **walk to school** (or at least part of the journey!) looking as bright and shiny as possible! (separate letter will follow)

Teacher Emails: Teachers can 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
- Miss Niamh Coulter ncoulter299@c2kni.net
- Mr Liam Magee limagee459@c2kni.net

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.

Mathletics: We encourage all pupils to log on to Mathletics every night. A class competition will run from Monday 21st November - Friday 9th December. 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.

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.

Policies: The following policies are on the school website;

- Complaints Procedure
- Anti-Bullying
- Positive Behaviour
- Drugs
- E Safety which includes the school's policy on the acceptable use of the internet.
- Child Protection
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Pastoral Care
- Supporting children with medication needs

Please contact Mr Magee or Mrs Meehan if you require any of these policies in paper form.

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

Attendance: The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. **If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.** Pupils with full attendance each term will receive a school certificate. Pupils with full attendance for the whole school year will receive a certificate from the Education Authority. If your child is absent, please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.

**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 school life.

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.**