

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter 2022

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 6 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 1 - 3)
Wednesday 7 th December:	Christmas Dinner (Primary 4 - 7)
Wednesday 14 th December:	Christmas Production (Primary 1 - 3)
Thursday 15 th December:	Christmas Production (Primary 4 - 7)
Friday 16 th December	Primary 1 & 2 Trip
Monday 19 th December:	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 21 st December:	School closes for Christmas holidays
Thursday 5 th January:	School reopens for pupils
Wednesday 25 th January:	Information session for Primary 3 - 6 parents.

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 return home buses on that day.
The school will re-open for pupils on **Thursday the 5th January 2023**.

Christmas Draw:

Please find enclosed tickets for our first Christmas Draw since 2019. As this is our main fundraiser of the year we would appreciate your support. Many thanks to all who have donated prizes already. If you still wish to donate a prize for this Draw please leave it with any of the teachers.
The Draw will take place on Tuesday the 20th December in school.

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 Production:

Pupils are currently working on their respective Christmas productions. These will take place as follows;
Primary 1 - 3: Wednesday 14th December @10.00am
Primary 4 - 7: Thursday 15th December @10.00am

Both productions will take place in school and parents / family members are welcome to attend.

**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.

**Christmas Jumper
Day:**

This takes place on Monday the 19th 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.

Christmas Dinner

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

Tuesday 6th December - Primary 1 -3 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.
Pupils in Primary 4 - 7 will have their lunch or school dinner (*a special fun day meal*) in their classroom.

Wednesday 7th December - Primary 5 -7 Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall.
Pupils in Primary 1 - 3 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 5th December. This will help finalise numbers for organisation.

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 **Friday 9th December**. Once again, we truly appreciate your support with this!

Starting School:

If your child is starting school in September 2023, you can apply for their place online from Tuesday 10th January. The closing date for applications is Friday 27th January 2023 at 12.00 noon.

**Journey to
Santa Challenge:**

This is part of the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme. It runs from the Monday 5th to Friday 16th December. See separate letter which explains all.

**Anti-Bullying
Week:**

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

Primary 1: Niamh McPartland
Primary 2: Jacob Lynskey
Primary 3: Louie Gallagher
Primary 4: Emily McAloon
Primary 5: Conor Carron
Primary 6: Lea Leonard
Primary 7: Finn McCallion

**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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.