

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

January Newsletter 2023

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our children for 2023 and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 11 th January:	Visit to school by St Joseph's College
Thursday 12 th January:	Start of P.6/7 Swimming Programme
Saturday 14 th January:	St Joseph's College Open Day
Tuesday 17 th January:	PSNI Internet Safety talk (P.6 & 7)
WB Monday 23 rd January:	Catholic Schools Week
WB Monday 23 rd January:	P. 1 & 2 Parent Teacher Meetings
Wednesday 25 th January:	Mount Lourdes Open Night
Thursday 26 th January:	St Michael's College Open Night
Thursday 26 th January:	St Fanchea's College Open Night
Wednesday 1 st February:	Information session for Primary 3 - 6 parents. (note change of date)
Wednesday 1 st February:	Erne Integrated College Open Night
Tuesday 7 th February:	Sentinus STEM workshop Primary 1 - 7
Friday 10 th February:	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Football

School Closures: Monday 13th - Friday 17th February (mid term)
Monday 20th February (Staff Development)

St Vincent de Paul: Thanks to all who donated money to St Vincent de Paul in lieu of Christmas time gifts. The total raised through this and from other St Vincent de Paul donations was £350.
Thanks also to all who donated food items for the Christmas hampers which were also donated to St Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Draw: Our annual Draw was a great success. We sincerely thank all those who bought and sold tickets. Thanks also to all those who donated the wonderful prizes that were on offer. The total raised from the Draw and the Christmas productions was £1850.
We sincerely thank each of you for your generosity.

Feis Fhearmanach:	The Feis will take place this year for the first time since 2019. There is no charge for entries this year. If your child wishes to enter any of the sections please complete the attached sheet and return to the school.
Information: Evening	On Wednesday 1 st Feb at 7pm we invite parents/guardians of Primary3-6 pupils for an information evening. The aim of the evening is to inform parents/ guardians how they can support their children with their learning in numeracy and literacy.
Grandparents Assembly:	This year will mark the return of our 'Grandparents Assembly.' This will take place in March this year and further details will be issued next month.
Starting School:	<p>If your child is starting school in September 2023, you can apply for their place online through the Education Authority website.</p> <p>User guides are available on the EA website at https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place</p> <p>You can apply online between: Tuesday 10th January 2023 and Friday 27th January 2023</p> <p>If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Mr Magee or Sandra in the office.</p> <p>Details regarding post primary transfer will be available in the coming weeks.</p>
Parent Teacher Meetings:	<p>Parent- Teacher meetings for pupils in Primary 1 & 2 will place this month as follows; Primary 1 & 2: WB Monday 23rd January</p> <p>A separate letter will follow. Parents will have option of face to face or a telephone call.</p> <p>Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week.</p> <p>The times for meetings will be; 8.45am - 9.15am and 2.10pm - 3.30pm</p>

Swimming:	The Primary 6/7 Swimming Programme will commence in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen on Thursday 12 th January 2023. A separate letter will be issued in relation to this.
Accelerated Reading:	<p>Our second term of Accelerated Reading begins in January for all pupils in Primary 4-7. A great number of pupils achieved their target last term and were awarded with a homework pass.</p> <p>A new dedicated communal reading area has also been created and built in the first term- an area to store and display books as well as a space to read together.</p>
Mathletics:	<p>We encourage all pupils in Primary 1 - 7 to continue to log on regularly to Mathletics.</p> <p>Pupils should aim to achieve a certificate each week.</p>
Every Story Counts:	The Primary 6 and 7 class completed their transition programme which was delivered by Michelle Alonso on behalf of Verbal. The children were presented with certificates on completion of this very worthwhile programme.
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.
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.
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.
Safe Guarding Team:	<p>The Safeguarding Team is available for the protection and safety of children within the St Columban's school community.</p> <p>The team is available to parents, staff and children.</p>

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.

If you have concerns about the safety, protection and/or care of a child from our school community please contact a member of our safeguarding team by following the steps outlined in the 'Procedure for parents who wish to raise a child protection concern' which is included in our Child Protection Policy.

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.

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.