

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *March Newsletter 2024*

[www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com](http://www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com)

Twitter - @StColumbans76

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March:	Pledge Mass – St Patrick's Holywell (Primary 7 pupils)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March:	Dress in Green for St Patrick!
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March:	Youth Choir St Patrick's Holywell @ 7.00pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March:	St Patrick's Day (School Closed)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March:	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April:	School reopens after Easter break

**Holidays:** The school will be closed on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The school will close on **Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> March** at **11.45am** 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 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

We hope you all enjoy the Easter break.

**Primary 6:** An information session for Primary 6 parents on the new SEAG transfer test procedure will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15pm in the school.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation will take place on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> April in St Patrick's Church Holywell at 11.00am.

**First Communion:** This will take place on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> May in St Patrick's Church Holywell at 11.00am

**Pledge Mass:** Primary 7 pupils who wish to may take the Confirmation Pledge on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March in St Patrick's Church Holywell.

**Jersey Day:** Many thanks to all who contributed to our 'Go Blue' Jersey Day. A cheque for £500 was presented to Belcoo GAA Club.

**Youth Choir:** Our next time to sing is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We are so proud of all the children singing at Mass and really appreciate the positive feedback we have received from many parishioners. All pupils are welcome!

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

**MacNean  
Credit Union:**

Opening a children's saving account is the most effective way to teach your kids money management and budgeting skills, as well as the value of work and reward. MacNean Credit Union offer junior savers account up until the age of 16 and they would be delighted to see more children in our community join.

If you are interested, please contact the Credit Union office on 0286638660 and check out their website - <https://macneancu.com/>

**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 trip.

**Health &  
Wellbeing:**

The Education Authority are currently providing a wellbeing Programme for all classes. which is delivered over a 6 Week Period, to the Whole School. The programme will support pupils with their emotional health and wellbeing, help with building resilience and help with developing positive coping strategies to effectively manage emotions. The programme lasts 6 weeks. The final session is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Healthy Break:**

We have secured funding from Fermanagh and Omagh Council to provide pupils with a snack for break. This continues each Friday up to Easter.

**Contacting class  
teacher:**

Teachers can be contacted via email. The teacher will get back to you as soon as practical. Please be aware that teachers only access their emails during their working day. Urgent messages should be delivered by telephone.

We encourage you also to use homework diaries as a means of communication.

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mrs Anne Murray     | amurray394@c2kni.net    |
| • Mrs Paula Gallagher | pgallagher466@c2kni.net |
| • Miss Claire Crudden | ccrudden144@c2kni.net   |
| • Mr Liam Magee       | lmagee459@c2kni.net     |

<b>Accelerated Reading:</b>	Accelerated Reading returned this term for all pupils in Primary 4-7 – there's great excitement in these classes!! Children have received their colours and are all reading and quizzing.
<b>Mathletics:</b>	We encourage all pupils in Primary 1 – 7 to continue to log on regularly to Mathletics. Pupils should aim to achieve a certificate each week.
<b>Website</b>	Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis.
<b>Twitter:</b>	You can also follow us on Twitter. This will help keep you up to date with all that is happening in school.
<b>Child Protection:</b>	The Designated teacher for Child Protection in the absence of Mrs Martina Meehan is Mrs Anne Murray. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Liam Magee
<b>Policies:</b>	<p>The following policies are on the school website;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints Procedure</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying</li> <li>• Positive Behaviour</li> <li>• Drugs</li> <li>• E Safety which includes the school's policy on the acceptable use of the internet.</li> <li>• Child Protection</li> <li>• Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Supporting children with medication needs</li> </ul> <p>Please contact Mr Magee or Mrs Murray if you require any of these policies in paper form.</p>
<b>Dinner:</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Free School Meals:</u> 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)</p> <p>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</p>

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.

**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.

**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.

**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***

