

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter 2018

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to the second half of Term 1. We trust that everyone had an enjoyable, restful and safe Halloween.

Diary Dates:

WB Monday 5 th November:	Primary 3 Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday 7 th November:	P6 Orienteering at St Columban's PS
WB Monday 12 th November:	Primary 5 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 12 th November:	Anti Bullying week
Wednesday 14 th November:	P6 Orienteering at Ballinamallard PS
WB Monday 19 th November:	Primary 6 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 26 th November:	Primary 4 Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday 28 th November:	P6 Orienteering at Gortatole
Thursday 29 th November:	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Football
Friday 30 th November:	Walk to School
Friday 30 th November:	Victorian Christmas Crafts

Tim Flaherty: Thanks to all who attended the special assembly for our recently retired caretaker Tim. The large attendance was a testimony to the huge role he played in our school life. I'm aware a number of parents would have liked to attend but were unable due to work and other commitments. We will upload a few short video clips and photographs to our school website from this assembly.

Parent - Teacher Meeting: These will take place as follows:

Primary 3:	WB Monday 5 th November
Primary 5:	WB Monday 12 th November
Primary 6:	WB Monday 19 th November
Primary 4:	WB Monday 26 th November
Primary 1 & 2:	January

Additional Staff Day: The school will be closed on Monday the 25th February 2019.

Accelerated Reader:	<p>Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 are now all enthusiastically taking part in our new reading initiative. All the children are aiming to reach their own personal target. To help build up our own book stock we are looking for donations of any books that were once loved in your houses but are no longer needed.</p> <p>All you need to do is drop in any unwanted books into the large box in the foyer of the school. Mrs Gallagher will do all the necessary coding and labelling. We thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word.</p>
Anti-Bullying Week:	<p>Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 12th - Friday 17th November. There will be a poster competition for each class.</p>
Halloween:	<p>Thanks to all who contributed to the Halloween Fashion Show. The effort made by all pupils was tremendous and they all looked fantastic. As a reward for all pupils we have declared Monday the 19th November a homework free night!!! We hope all pupils enjoy this evening.</p>
Christmas:	<p>Foundations and Key Stage 1 pupils will perform in a special Christmas Assembly this year while KS 2 pupils will perform a play. Dates and times for these will be issued as soon as possible.</p>
Christmas Draw:	<p>Tickets for the annual Christmas Draw will be available in early December. If you wish to donate a prize for this Draw please leave it with any of the teachers.</p>
After School Activities:	<p>After school ceili dancing classes with Mrs Murray and Mrs Meehan for pupils in Primary 4 - 7 will commence on Thursday the 8th November.</p> <p>We managed to get additional funding which allowed us to purchase 20 ipads. As a follow up to this after school ICT classes for KS 2 pupils will take place over the coming months. A separate letter will be issued in relation to this.</p>

Ditch the Dark Day: We held a special walk to school day on Friday the 19th October. The theme of the day was *Be Bright, Be Seen*. Many thanks to all parents and pupils who took part and put in such a great effort to dress up. Our next walk to school morning is Friday the 30th November.
We will meet at the bandstand at 8.45am and we encourage as many parents and pupils as possible to join us.

Class Assembly: We thank all parents who attended the Primary 7 Halloween assembly last month.

Art Competitions: Congratulations to all the winners in the Mace and Credit Union Art competitions.

Mathletics: We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to continue to log on to Mathletics.

School Council: We have a newly elected School Council. The members are as follows;
Chairperson: Hannah Schofield
Secretary: Emilie McCallion
Treasurer: Kayla McGrath
Committee members: Lisa Lavery, Jack Putman, Ella McGovern, Dylan Rafferty, Alfie McCann, Sasha McGillen and Ultan Hanrahan

Trips: Primary 5, 6 & 7 pupils will visit Florencecourt House on Friday the 30th November to take part in a Victorian Christmas Crafts workshop.

Orienteering: Primary 6 pupils will take part in orienteering with Ballinamallard PS on the following dates; 7th November, 14th November and 28th November. Fermanagh Orienteering coaches Raymond and Teresa Finlay will deliver the course in the "Finding our Way" Project funded by the International Fund for Ireland.

- Website / Twitter:** Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis. You can also follow us on Twitter.
- Collecting Children:** Please inform the school if there is any change to the person who normally collects your child.
- Confirmation:** This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 3.00pm.
- 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. 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 the Educational Welfare Officer.**
If your child is absent, please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.
- 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, 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.

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.

All children must have appropriate footwear for PE. Children will not be permitted to take part in PE without footwear that is appropriate for this activity.

Please ensure that all items of school uniform and personal belongings are clearly marked with the child's name.

All children who walk to school or travel by car should use the small pedestrian gate.

If you open the gate, please ensure you close it

Please do not park in the bus lay-by at the front of the school- this presents a hazard for children boarding buses and prevents buses from pulling in.