

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter 2018

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Diary Dates:

Wednesday 12 th December:	Christmas Dinner
Friday 14 th December:	KS 1 Christmas Assembly
Wednesday 19 th December:	KS 2 Christmas Play
Thursday 20 th December:	Walk to school morning
Thursday 20 th December:	Christmas Jumper Day & Draw
Friday 21 st December:	School closes for Christmas holidays

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on **Friday the 21st December** at **12.00 noon**. School meals will not be served and there will be no school milk or buses on that day. The school will re-open for pupils on **Monday the 7th January 2019**.

Christmas Draw:

Tickets for the annual Christmas Draw are now available.
Tickets are being issued to all families, staff and Governors. Two books of tickets are enclosed. 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 Thursday the 20th December in school.

Bóthar

Gifts of Change:

We sincerely thank parents and children for their Christmas time gifts. However, the teachers of the school, have agreed that any parent/family wishing to purchase a gift for teachers at Christmas time this year - should instead send a donation to the school in lieu. This money will then be used to buy a Gift of Change through Bóthar.

Job vacancy:

The post of Building supervisor is currently advertised on the Education Authority website.

- Key Stage 1 Assembly:** The Key Stage 1 Christmas Assembly will take place on Friday the 14th December at 1.30pm.
- Key Stage 2 Christmas Play:** The Key Stage 2 Christmas play 'Straw and Order' will take place on Wednesday the 19th December in the Community Centre at 7.00pm.
- Christmas Dinner** Christmas Dinner for all those who wish to have it on **Wednesday 12th December**. The cost will be **£2.60**. Numbers for Christmas Dinner need to be in by Tuesday 4th December.
- St Vincent de Paul Hamper collection:** Our Eco-Committee are collecting food items (non-perishable) for donation in hampers to St Vincent de Paul. We ask that if you wish to make a donation please ensure to have it in school no later than Monday 10th December. We thank those who have already kindly donated.
- Indoor Gaelic:** Our boys and girls teams both took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Indoor football competition this week. Both teams put in great performances. Congratulations to our girls team who made it through to the finals stage which will take place in March.
- Walk to School:** Our next walk to school will be on Thursday 20th December.
We encourage all pupils and parents to wear Santa hats for this special festive walk. We will depart from the bandstand at 8.45am.
- Starting School:** If your child is starting school in September 2019, you can apply for their place online from Wednesday 2nd January. The closing date for applications is 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019.
- Confirmation:** This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 3.00pm.
- First Communion:** This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday the 11th May 2019 at 11.00am.

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.

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.

Anti-Bullying Week:

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

- Primary 1: Fionn Donnelly and Leon Gilroy
- Primary 2: Alanna Timoney and Oisín Treacy
- Primary 3: Holly Kearns and Finn McCallion
- Primary 4: Caoimhe Gilroy and Keeva Whitmore
- Primary 5: Caolan Sweeney and Sasha McGillen
- Primary 6: Jack O'Connor and Ella McGovern
- Primary 7: Kayce Sweeney and Lisa Lavery

School Visitors:

We would ask all visitors to the school to make appointments to see teachers either before the school day or after 3.10pm. Teachers are not permitted to leave their classes to speak to parents during the school day.

- Home Time:** At times it is necessary for parents to change the normal arrangements for their child travelling home from school. If you need to change how or who your child is travelling home with, please ensure both your child and the teacher are clear of this.
If arrangements need to be changed at late notice please ring and leave a message with Sandra in the office or one of the teachers.
Children can get upset if they are unsure of arrangements and it can leave teachers feeling uncertain as to what the correct arrangement is for the child.
- After School Choir:** After school choir for pupils in P.5 - 7 will take place on Tuesday 5th December, Thursday 7th December and Tuesday 12th December for 3.00pm - 4.15pm.
- Party invitations:** We ask that parents do not send party invitations to school for circulation- this may cause distress to some children.
- Phone Numbers:** Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed.
- 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.
If your child is absent please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.
- Hair:** Please remember to check your child's hair regularly. Two cases of headlice were reported to the school this week.
- 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.

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.

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.

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 clearly marked. 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.

