

# SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *September Newsletter 2019*

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

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### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September:	Fermanagh Day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September:	Primary 1 curriculum overview (7.00pm)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October:	Trusty's Trail - Florencecourt (P.1)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October:	Staff Development Day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October:	Primary 2/3 curriculum overview (7.00pm)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October:	Phonics workshop (7.30pm)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October:	Healthy Me workshop in school (P.6/7)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October:	Parent workshop - Healthy Me (all parents)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October:	Halloween Ball - Florencecourt (P.2-4)

**Welcome Back:** We welcome everyone back for a new school year and hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. We would like to especially welcome the new children to the school and we hope they have many happy and fruitful years at St Columban's. The children starting Primary 1 this year are; Aoife Cullen, Robbie Carson, Isla Connolly, Sadie Corrigan, Alyssa Fitzpatrick, Jamie Keaney, Tomás Maguire, Emily McAloon, Aimee McCann, Jake McGillen, Patrick McGovern, Tristan McGovern, Senán McPartland, Casey Mullally and Eloise Timoney.

We also welcome Nathan Keaney who has started in Primary 3 and Killian Maguire who has started in Primary 6.

**School Closure:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October (Staff Development Day)  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November (Mid term break)  
The full holiday list is on the school website. There is one additional staff development day to be added.

**Fermanagh Day:** This Sunday the Fermanagh ladies team compete in the all-Ireland junior final in Croke Park. To mark the occasion, we will be holding a 'Fermanagh Day' this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils are asked to come to school dressed in green and white on this day.

**Parent Questionnaire:** Please find attached to newsletter the results of our June 2019 parental questionnaire and the outline of actions we will be taking as a result of your responses.

**Photographs / Internet:** Please fill in and return attached sheets in relation to using the internet and the using of children's photographs and videos.

**Curriculum Evenings:** The Primary 7 curriculum evening took place last last week and was very well attended.

Parents of all other pupils are invited to attend the curriculum evening as detailed below. The teachers will outline the curriculum content and class organisation for your child / children at this meeting.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September:**

Primary 1 - 7.00pm

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October:**

Primary 2/3 - 7.00pm (phonics workshop follows this)

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** - 'Helping your child with phonics' workshop. This is open to parents of all pupils in Primary 1 -3 and begins at 7.30pm.

The curriculum night for parents of pupils in Primary 4 - 6 focussing on numeracy will take place after the mid-term break.

**Topics for September:**

Primary 1 - Wonderful Me

Primary 2/3 - My 5 Senses

Primary 4/5 - The Rainforest

Primary 6/7- Hunger

**Accelerated Reader:**

After a successful first year we are subscribing again to the Accelerated Reading Programme. Primary 4 pupils will now be able to use this programme. STAR reading quizzes will take place this week to determine which level/colour of book your child can select from. When they read the book they login to take a quiz (quizzes can only be accessed within school). The quiz aims to determine how well the child has read and comprehended the text. Last year we seen great growth in children's reading ages proving the success in the programme.

As a new initiative this year we aim to involve parents/carers a little more by allowing them to view quiz results etc. Information will follow on this process shortly.

We thank parent and carers for their support in this new initiative as well as contributing to fundraising events which has helped to renew subscription and replenish our stock of books, in a hope to enthuse your children to keep reading.

If you would like any further information on Accelerated Reader please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or Mrs Gallagher.

**Policies:**

The following policies are available on the school website.

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Child Protection
- Complaints
- Intimate Care
- Pastoral Care
- Positive Behaviour
- Supporting children with Medication Needs

If any parent needs a copy of one or all of these please contact Sandra in the office.

**Child Protection:**

The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.

**Healthy Break:** The school, in keeping with its healthy eating policy, asks parents to ensure that only healthy snacks are sent for break e.g. vegetables or fruit. All pupils in the school should bring their own break time snack. Please do not send chocolate, sweets, biscuits etc for break.

Chewing gum is not allowed in school.

**Fruity Friday:** Due to last year's success of extending Fruity Friday to all classes, it will continue to run every Friday for all pupils this school year. Each child is asked to bring in one piece of fruit which will be prepared together and shared with their class at break time on Friday.

**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). The EA submits a list of children receiving free school meals to us.

If your child's name is not on this list and you feel they should be I ask that you contact the EA immediately.

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.

**Classical Music:** A number of children in P5 -P7 classes avail of tuition in classical Music. The tutor will visit the school each Monday throughout the school year.

**The cost for the year is £90.00**

Cheques should be made payable to St Columban's PS before **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

- GAA:** Congratulations to the Belcoo Under 13 team who won their league title last Saturday. It was great to see so many past and current pupils of the school involved. Fermanagh county board and the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will provide gaelic football coaching for pupils in Primary 4 - 7 over the next couple of months.
- 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.  
Please remember that for Child Protection reasons, only members of staff are permitted beyond the foyer during the school day.  
Visitors using the pedestrian gate during the school day are asked to ensure that this is kept closed.
- Collecting Children:** Please inform the school if there is any change to the person who normally collects your child.
- Hair:** Please remember to check your child's hair regularly.
- Party invitations:** We ask that parents do not send party invitations to school for circulation- this may cause distress to some children.
- 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. School uniform must be worn each day unless special clothing is required e.g. for field trip.
- Golf:** After school golf starts on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> September for Primary 6 & 7 pupils with PGA Professional Shaun Donnelly. A note with full details will be sent home with pupils. Lessons will take place in the school or Blacklion Golf Club depending on weather.

**Rugby:** Pupils in Primary 6 & 7 will receive rugby coaching over the next few weeks on Thursday mornings from the Enniskillen club. We thank them for providing this.

**Phone Numbers:** Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed.

**School Hours:** The teaching day begins at 9.05am and children should be in their classrooms by this time.

**Children should not arrive in school before 8.55am as supervision only begins at this time.**

The Primary 1 day ends at 1.00pm up until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. **From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September Primary 1 pupils stay until 1.55pm.**

**The Primary 2 day also ends at 1.55pm**

**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.**