

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

October Newsletter 2019

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1 st October:	Trusty's Trail - Florencecourt (P.1)
Thursday 3 rd October:	World Cup Rugby Day
Monday 7 th October:	Staff Development Day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 8 th October:	Primary 2/3 curriculum overview (7.00pm)
Tuesday 8 th October:	Phonics workshop (7.30pm)
Sunday 13 th October:	Run for Oisín
Tuesday 22 nd October:	Healthy Me workshop in school (P.6/7)
Wednesday 23 rd October:	Parent workshop - Healthy Me - 7.00pm (all parents)
Thursday 24 th October:	Halloween Ball - Florencecourt (P.2-4)
Friday 25 th October:	Walk to school
Wednesday 30 th October:	Halloween Fashion Show
Wednesday 30 th October:	Primary 6/7 Assembly

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

Halloween Fashion Show: This will take place on Wednesday the 30th October at 9.30am. All children are asked to bring in £2.00
The money raised will be used to purchase equipment to be played with at break time.

Rugby: Sincere thanks to Enniskillen Rugby club who have kindly provided coaching to our P.6 & 7 pupils. As part of the Primary 6 & 7 topic a special 'World Cup Rugby Day' will take place in the school on Thursday the 3rd October. All pupils are asked to come to school dressed in the colours of one of the competing countries in the World Cup. Jerseys are not required. There will also be a special World Cup Dinner menu on this day also.

- Trips:** Primary 1 will visit Florencecourt Gardens on Tuesday the 1st October to complete Trusty's Trail. The cost per pupil is £5
Pupils in Primary 2, 3 & 4 will visit Florencecourt House on Thursday the 24th October for the Halloween Ball. The cost per pupil is £5.
- 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 25th October**.
- Curriculum Evenings:** The Primary 1 & 7 curriculum evenings took place last month and both were very well attended.
- Parents of 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.
- Tuesday 8th October:**
Primary 2/3 - 7.00pm (phonics workshop follows this)
- Tuesday 8th 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.
- Parent - Teacher Meeting:** These will take place as follows;
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|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Primary 7: | WB Monday 14 th October |
| Primary 4: | WB Monday 11 th November |
| Primary 3: | WB Monday 18 th November |
| Primary 6: | WB Monday 25 th November |
| Primary 5: | WB Monday 2 nd December |
| Primary 1 & 2: | January |
- A separate letter will follow. Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week. The times for meetings will be;
8.45am - 9.00am and 2.00pm - 4.15pm

Data Collection:	If your child is a pupil in Primary 2 -7 please fill in the attached Data Collection Form. We want to ensure that the school has all up to date contact details and we are aware of any medical or dietary needs that pupils have.
Topics for October:	Primary 1 - Into the Woods Primary 2/3 - My 5 Senses Primary 4/5 - The Rainforest Primary 6/7- Hunger
Ditch the Dark Day:	We are holding a special walk to school day on Friday the 25 th October. The theme of the day is <i>Be Bright, Be Seen</i> . To raise awareness of safe travel to school as the days become darker, we are encouraging children to walk to school (or at least part of the journey!) looking as bright and shiny as possible! (separate letter will follow)
Website / Twitter:	Please continue to log into the school website on a regular basis. You can also follow us on Twitter. This will help keep you up to date with all that is happening in school.
Golf:	After school golf continues for pupils in Primary 6 & 7 on Thursday evenings with Shaun Donnelly at the school. P.7 Group 2.30pm - 3.30pm. P.6 Group 3.00pm - 4.00pm. The children are really enjoying it and making great progress.
After School Activities:	After school ceili dancing classes with Mrs Murray and Mrs Meehan for pupils in Primary 4 - 7 will commence on Thursday the 7 th November.
Primary 6/7 Assembly:	The Primary 6/7 class will perform their class assembly on Wednesday the 30 th October at 1.15pm. The parents of all pupils in Primary 7 class are invited to attend this.
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. <u>The Primary 1 & 2 day also ends at 1.55pm</u>
Collecting Children:	Please inform the school if there is any change to the person who normally collects your child.

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

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.

Please note we are no longer able to accept the old paper £5 & £10 bank notes from the Northern Ireland banks (Ulster Bank, Danske Bank & Bank of Ireland)

Free School Meals: 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)

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 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.

Attendance: The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. **If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.**
Pupils with full attendance each term will receive a school certificate. Pupils with full attendance for the whole school year will receive a certificate from the Education Authority.
If your child is absent, please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.

Phone Numbers: Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed. Also ensure that all contact details are filled out in your child's homework diary.

Party invitations: We ask that parents do not send party invitations to school for circulation- this may cause distress to some children.

Hair: Please remember to check your child's hair regularly this year. A number of cases of headlice have been reported already this year.

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.

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.

Run for Oisín: The Run for Oisín takes place on Sunday 13th October at 1pm in Belcoo. Locals are encouraged to pre-register.

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. Parking here presents a hazard for children boarding buses and prevents buses from pulling in.