

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

January Newsletter 2020

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

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Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our children for 2020 and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Diary Dates:

Thursday 9 th January:	Visit by St Joseph's College (P.7 boys)
Friday 17 th January:	Visit by St Fanchea's College (P.7 girls)
WB Monday 20 th January:	P. 1 & 2 Parent Teacher meetings
Monday 20 th January:	PSNI Internet Safety talk (P.6 & 7)
Monday 20 th January:	Visit by Mount Lourdes (P.7 girls)
Thursday 23 rd January:	Robotics workshop - St Mary's Brollagh (P.7)
Thursday 23 rd January:	PSNI Internet Safety talk for parents 7.30pm
Friday 24 th January:	Taster Day in St Joseph's (P7 boys)
Monday 27 th January:	Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday 28 th January:	Indoor Soccer
Friday 14 th February:	Grandparents Assembly

School Closures: Monday 17th - Friday 21st February (mid term)

Bóthar: Thanks to all who donated money to Bóthar in lieu of Christmas time gifts. The total raised through this and from other Bóthar donations was £375.

Christmas Draw: Our annual Draw was a great success. We sincerely thank all those who bought and sold tickets. Thanks also to all those who donated the wonderful prizes that were on offer. The total raised from the Draw and the Christmas productions was £1700. Once again sincere thanks to all.

Phone Numbers: This is the time of year some people may have changed their phone. Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed so we can update our records.

Starting School: If your child is starting school in September 2020, you can apply for their place online through the Education Authority website.

User guides are available on the EA website at www.eani.org.uk

You can apply online between:

12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 January 2020

and

12.00 noon on Thursday 30 January 2020

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Mr Magee or Sandra in the office.

Internet Safety: An Internet Safety talk for pupils in Primary 6 & 7 will take place in school on Monday the 20th January.

As a follow up to this an internet safety talk for parents of all pupils in the school will take place on **Thursday the 23rd January at 7.30pm**. Both talks will be provided by the PSNI.

As a follow up to this talk Charlie O'Connor has kindly agreed to provide practical advice to parents on monitoring ICT usage at home.

We encourage the parents of all pupils to attend this important evening.

Grandparents Assembly:

Our special Grandparents Assembly will take place on **Friday 14th February at 10.00am.**

Grandparents are an integral part of all of our school community and play an ever more important role in handing on both knowledge and experience of faith to children, who are the key stakeholders in our Catholic schools.

Our assembly therefore will be an opportunity to thank Grandparents for all they do and also to remember those that are now with God in heaven. Children are asked to bring in a photograph of any Grandparent who has died.

I hope as many Grandparents as possible will join us and stay for a cup of tea afterwards.

Catholic Schools Week:	This takes place from Sunday 26 th January to Saturday the 2 nd February.
P.1 & 2 Parent Teacher Meetings:	These will take place week beginning Monday 20 th January. A letter in relation to this has been issued by class teachers.
Swimming:	The Key Stage 2 Swimming Programme will commence in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen on Thursday 9 th January 2019. Primary 5 and 7 will swim for the first 7 weeks. Primary 6 pupils will commence swimming on the 5 th March.
Feis Fhearmanach:	The Feis committee have asked us to remind winners from last year to return Feis cups to the section secretaries please. In order to process all entries in time for the closing date- monies and entry must be submitted to the school by <u>Thursday 23rd January 2020.</u> See attached sheet.
Erne Integrated College:	Erne Integrated College are holding an open day for interested Primary 7 pupils on Monday the 20th January 2020. P7 pupils who are interested are invited to attend from 9.30am to 3.00pm Parents of these pupils are asked to make their own travel arrangements for their children to and from the school. A variety of fun and interactive activities are planned and pupils will have the opportunity to have a tour of the school.
St Joseph's College:	St Joseph's College are holding a Taster Day for Primary 7 boys on Friday the 24 th January 2020. The boys will be collected from School at 09.15am by an Education Authority Bus. Supervision on bus is provided senior pupils from St Joseph's. Pupils should come dressed in full school uniform but should also wear trainers for the sporting aspect of the day.

- School Hours:** The school day begins at 9.05am.
Children should not arrive in school before 8.50am as supervision only begins at this time.
- 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.
- Mathletics:** We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to continue to log on regularly to Mathletics. Pupils should aim to achieve a certificate each week.
- Accelerated Reader:** Many pupils in Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 reached their target in AR last term receiving a token for a free hot chocolate in the Custom's House.
New targets have been set according to the STAR reading quiz so please keep encouraging your children to build up points and words.....with rewards to follow!
- Primary 7:** The new teaching arrangement for P.7 pupils will be as follows;
- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Monday | Mrs Gallagher |
| Tuesday | Mrs Gallagher |
| Wednesday | Mrs Gallagher / Mr Magee |
| Thursday | Mr Magee |
| Friday | Mr Magee / Mrs Gallagher |
- Child Protection:** The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.

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.

Walk to School: Our next designated walk to school morning is Friday the 7th February.
We will meet at the bandstand at 8.40am and we encourage as many parents and pupils as possible to join us.

Hair: Please check your child's hair regularly and, if necessary, treat thoroughly with any lotion recommended by a chemist or doctor.

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.

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 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.

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

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.