

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter 2017

Dear Parent,

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

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 1 st November:	School Closed
Thursday 2 nd November:	'Helping your child with phonics' session
WB Monday 6 th November:	Primary 3 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 13 th November:	Primary 5 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 20 th November:	Primary 6 Parent Teacher meetings
WB Monday 27 th November:	Primary 4 Parent Teacher meetings
Monday 13 th November:	Anti Bullying week begins
Friday 24 th November:	Walk to School
Tuesday 28 th November:	Parent evening - 'Helping your child with Maths.'
Tuesday 30 th November:	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Football

Congratulations: We begin the month by congratulating Mrs Gallagher and her husband Ronan on the birth of their new baby boy Leo.

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

Primary 3:	WB Monday 6 th November
Primary 5:	WB Monday 13 th November
Primary 6:	WB Monday 20 th November
Primary 4:	WB Monday 27 th November
Primary 1 & 2:	January

A separate letter will follow. Meetings will however take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. The times for meetings will be:
8.15am - 8.45am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Maths Evening:

A number of parents also requested a further session on helping their child with Maths. This will take place in the school on Tuesday the 28th November at 7pm.

Phonics Session: A session on 'helping your child with phonics' will take place on Thursday the 2nd November at 2.00pm. A number of parents requested this through the evaluation at the end of our curriculum information evening. This is open to all parents who feel they would benefit from the session.

Halloween: 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 20th November a homework free night!!! We hope all pupils enjoy this evening.

Anti-Bullying Week: Anti-Bullying week is from Monday the 13th - Friday 17th November. There will be a poster competition for each class.

Ditch the Dark Day: We held a special walk to school day on Friday the 20th 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.
As a result of the positive feedback from parents to this we are going to have a walk to school on the last Friday of every month beginning on **Friday the 24th November**.
We will meet at the bandstand at 8.40am and we encourage as many parents and pupils as possible to join us.

Primary 4/5 Assembly: The Primary 4/5 class will perform their class assembly on Wednesday the 29th November at 10.00am.
The parents of all pupils in Primary 4/5 class are invited to attend this.
We thank all parents who attended the Primary 7 assembly last month.

Policies:

The following policies are available on the school website;

- Child Protection
- Pastoral Care
- Anti-Bullying
- Intimate Care
- Positive Behaviour
- Attendance
- Complaints Procedure
- E Safety
- Supporting Children with Medication Needs

If you need a copy of any of these policies please contact Mr Magee or Sandra in the office.

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

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 9th November. After school golf has two sessions left this term.

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.

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 Mary's Church Arney on Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 3.00pm.

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 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.

Christmas Draw: 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.

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

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.

Children must change into plimsoles - for indoor wear

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.