

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter 2017

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Diary Dates:

Tuesday 5 th December:	Ceili (pupils who attended after school class)
Friday 8 th December:	Primary 5, 6 & 7 Trip
Thursday 14 th December:	KS 1 Dress Rehearsal for play
Thursday 14 th December:	Christmas Dinner
Friday 15 th December:	Walk to School
Friday 15 th December:	KS 1 Play
Monday 18 th December:	Carol service
Tuesday 19 th December:	Christmas Jumper Day & Draw
Thursday 21 st December:	School closes for Christmas holidays

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on **Thursday 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 **Friday the 5th January 2018**.

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 Tuesday the 19th December in school.

Key Stage 1 Play:

Pupils in Key Stage 1 will perform 'Christmas around the world' for Key Stage 2 pupils on Thursday the 14th December at 10.00am. They will perform for parents on Friday the 15th December at 1.45pm in the school.

Christmas Carol Service: The KS 2 Christmas Carol Service will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Monday the 18th December at 7.00pm.

Christmas Dinner Christmas Dinner for all those who wish to have it on **Thursday 14th December**. The cost will be **£2.60**. Numbers for Christmas Dinner need to be in by Tuesday 5th December. The EA catering department have informed the school that dinner on this day will be cooked in St Columban's PS.

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.

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 Friday 8th December. We thank those who have already kindly donated.

Journey to Santa Challenge: This is part of the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme. It runs from the Monday 4th to Friday 15th December. See separate letter which explains all. Please note staff members will only accompany children walking to school on the final day of the challenge Friday 15th December.

Trips: Primary 5, 6 & 7 pupils will visit Florencecourt House on Friday the 8th December to take part in a Victorian Christmas Crafts workshop. Pupils who attended afterschool ceili dancing classes will attend a ceili in Enniskillen on the 5th December.

Maths Evening: Thanks to all parents who attended the Maths evening. The feedback both oral and written was very positive. The booklets that were handed out on the night are now available on the school website. Please go to Curriculum - Maths & Numeracy section.

Child Protection: Our updated Child Protection Policy is included with this Newsletter. This Policy is also available on the school website.

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.

Homework Policy: Our updated Homework Policy is also included. This Policy includes the results of last years parent questionnaire regarding homework.

Starting School: Application forms are now available in school for children coming to school in September 2018. If you wish to receive an application form or information about the school please contact the school. Closing date for applications is Wednesday the 10th January 2018 (12 noon)

Anti-Bullying Week: The winners of the Anti-bullying poster competition were as follows:

Primary 1: Lea Leonard and Eva Donnelly

Primary 2: Ava Stewart and Jack Coburn

Primary 3: Keeva Whitmore and Shay Rafferty

Primary 4: Alfie McCann and Roisa Stewart

Primary 5: Zoe Lavery and Jack O'Connor

Primary 6: Aaron Ashley and Emilie McCallion

Primary 7: Ciara McGuinness and Eimear Gray

Confirmation: This will take place in St Mary's Church Arney on Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 3.00pm.

First Communion: This will take place in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday the 2nd June 2018 at 11.00am.

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.

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.

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.

Assembly: We thank all parents who attended the Primary 4/5 assembly last month.

Credit Union Art Winners: Thanks to McNear Credit Union Limited who organised this art competition and provided the prizes. Mr Joe Broyan and Mrs Clare Lavery attended the Primary 4/5 class assembly and presented the prizes.

The winners were;

Primary 3

1st - Keeva Whitmore 2nd - Terry Ferguson

3rd - Shay Rafferty

Primary 4

1st - Cara Donnelly 2nd - Orlaith McAloon

3rd - Roisa Stewart

Primary 5

1st - Kayla McGrath 2nd - Jack Barrett

3rd - Keira Szewczyk

Primary 6

1st - Conal Walker 2nd - Logan Boswell

3rd - Lisa Lavery

Primary 7

1st - Riona Keaney 2nd - Finn Maes

3rd - Caitlyn Nolan

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.

