

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

January Newsletter 2018

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Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our children for 2018 and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 10 th January:	Visit by St Joseph's College (P.7boys)
Tuesday 16 th January:	Visit by St Mary's Brollagh (P.7 pupils)
Monday 22 nd January:	NSPCC visit
Monday 22 nd January:	P. 1 & 2 Parent Teacher meetings begin
Friday 26 th January:	Walk to School morning
Monday 29 th January:	Catholic Schools Week
Monday 29 th January:	Primary 2/3 Assembly
Thursday 1 st February:	Grandparents Assembly
Friday 9 th February:	Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

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 process all entries in time for the closing date- monies and entry must be submitted to the school by **Friday 19th January 2018.** See attached sheet.

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.

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 £350.00.

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 was almost £1500. Once again sincere thanks to all.

Primary 2/3 Assembly: The Primary 2/3 class will perform their class assembly on Monday the 29th January at 10.00am. The parents of all pupils in Primary 2/3 class are invited to attend this. This date also marks the start of Catholic Schools Week. We thank all parents who attended the Primary 4/5 assembly last month.

P.1 & 2 Parent Teacher Meetings: These will take place week beginning Monday 22nd January. A letter in relation to this will be issued by class teachers.

Swimming: The Key Stage 2 Swimming Programme will commence in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen on Thursday 11th January 2018. Primary 5 and 7 will swim for the first 7 weeks. Primary 6 pupils will get swimming after the mid term break.

Classical Music: A number of children in P5 -P7 classes avail of tuition in classical Music. The tutor will visit the school each Wednesday throughout the school year.
The cost for the year is £90.00
If applicable please note the 2nd Stage payment (£30) is due before Friday 26th January.

Walk to School: Our next designated walk to school morning is Friday the 26th January. We will meet at the bandstand at 8.40am and we encourage as many parents and pupils as possible to join us.

**Catholic Schools
Week:**

This takes place from Sunday 28th January to Saturday the 3rd February.

Our special Grandparents Assembly will take place on **Thursday 1st February at 1.30pm.**

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.

Primary 1 and 2 pupils will remain in school this day until 2.55pm.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.