

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

February Newsletter 2018

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1 st February:	Grandparents Assembly
Monday 5 th February:	Indoor Soccer Competition
Friday 9 th February:	Cumann na mBunscol Quiz
Thursday 15 th - Monday 19 th :	School Closed
Monday 26 th February:	School Photographer

Holidays: The school will be closed on Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Monday 19th February (Mid term).

Catholic Schools Week: This takes place from Sunday 28th January to Saturday the 4th 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.

Photographer: The School Photographer will be in the school on Monday the 26th February. Any child who wishes to have their photograph taken should inform their class teacher. Primary 1 and Primary 7 class photographs will also be taken on this day.

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 now overdue.

Walk to School: Our next designated walk to school morning is Friday the 23rd February.
We will meet at the bandstand at 8.40am and we encourage as many parents and pupils as possible to join us.

Primary 1/2 Assembly: The Primary 1/2 class will perform their class assembly on Friday 2nd March at 10.00am.
The parents of all pupils in Primary 1/2 class are invited to attend this.
We thank all parents who attended the Primary 2/3 assembly last month.

Hair: Another case of head lice has been reported to me **today**. I ask that you please check your child's hair tonight and, if necessary, treat thoroughly with any lotion recommended by a chemist or doctor. Please check your child's hair on a regular basis.

Swimming: The Key Stage 2 Swimming Programme continues on Thursdays in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen.

Primary 6: A couple of parents from the Primary 6 class have contacted myself regarding the Transfer procedure next year. I feel more parents in the P.6 class may want information / clarification on this issue. Miss McCormack and myself will therefore provide an information session regarding the transfer procedure for Primary 6 parent.
This will take place on Monday 26th February at 3.30pm.

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

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

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.

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.