

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

October Newsletter 2017

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th October - Trip to Florencecourt (Primary 1 & 2)

Monday 16th October: - P.6/7 Go Games Blitz

Friday 20th October: - Ditch the Dark Day

Thursday 26th October - Halloween Fashion Show

Friday 27th October - The Halloween Ball (Primary 2, 3 & 4)

School Closures: The school will be closed on Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st October, and Wednesday 1st November for the Mid-Term Break.

Curriculum Evening:

We had a great turnout of parents at the curriculum evening. The feedback both oral and written was very positive. As follow up to the evaluation on the night an afternoon session on 'helping your child with phonics' will take place on Thursday the 2nd November at 2.00pm.

Demonetisation of round £1 coin: The old, round £1 coins will no longer be legal tender after Sunday 15 October 2017. We are therefore unable to accept the as payment for dinner / milk / trips etc after Friday the 13th October.

Halloween Fashion Show: This will take place on Thursday the 27th October at 9.30am. All children are asked to bring in £2.00 The money raised will be used to purchase equipment to be played with at break time.

Primary 7 Assembly:

The Primary 7 class will perform their class assembly on Thursday the 26th October at 1.15pm. The parents of all pupils in Primary 7 class are invited to attend this. We thank all parents who attended the Primary 6 assembly last month.

- Child Protection:** The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.
- Ditch the Dark Day:** We are holding a special walk to school day on Friday the 20th October. The theme of the day is *Be Bright, Be Seen*. To raise awareness of safe travel to school as the days become darker, we are encouraging children to **walk to school** (or at least part of the journey!) looking as bright and shiny as possible! (separate letter will follow)
- 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.
- Golf:** After school golf continues for pupils in Primary 6 & 7 on Friday evenings with Shaun Donnelly. The children are really enjoying it and making great progress. Weather permitting the remaining sessions will take place at Blacklion Golf Club. We thank the Club for allowing us to use their facilities.
- 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.
- Run for Oisín:** The Run for Oisín takes place on Sunday 15th October at 1pm in Belcoo. There are pre-registration nights on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th at 8pm. Locals are encouraged to pre-register. Any volunteers willing to help out on the day, contact Nigel 07816166739.
- Trips:** Primary 1 & 2 will visit Florencecourt Gardens on Thursday the 4th October to complete Trusty's Trail. The cost per pupil is £5
Pupils in Primary 2 - 4 will visit Florencecourt House on Friday the 27th October for the Halloween Ball. The cost per pupil is £5.

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

Primary 7:	WB Monday 24 th October
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

Collecting Children: Please inform the school if there is any change to the person who normally collects your child.

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 (This payment can be made in one or two stages by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to St Columban's PS)
1st Stage - £60 due before Friday 6th October 2017.
2nd Stage - £30 due before Friday 26th January 2018.

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.

- Belcoo O'Rahilly's:** Congratulations to the Belcoo O'Rahilly's senior team who won the Fermanagh Intermediate Championship recently. We thank Niall McGovern, Ryan McGovern, Jonathan Feely as well as club chairman Bernard Feely who visited the school with the cup and talked to pupils. We wish them well in their Ulster campaign.
- 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.
- Party invitations:** We ask that parents do not send party invitations to school for circulation- this may cause distress to some children.
- Hair:** Please remember to check your child's hair regularly this year. A number of cases of headlice have been reported already this year.
- Attendance:** The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. **If a child's attendance falls below 85% we are asked to refer them to our Educational Welfare Officer.**
Pupils with full attendance each term will receive a school certificate. Pupils with full attendance for the whole school year will receive a certificate from the Education Authority.
If your child is absent, please send a note or fill out the absence note in the homework diary.
- Phone Numbers:** Please let the school know if your home, work or mobile telephone number has changed. Also ensure that all contact details are filled out in your child's homework diary.
- School Hours:** The teaching day begins at 9.05am and children should be in their classrooms by this time. Children should not arrive in school before 8.55am.
The Primary 1 & 2 day ends at 1.55pm

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.

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.

Healthy Break: The school, in keeping with its healthy eating policy, asks parents to ensure that only healthy snacks are sent for break e.g. vegetables or fruit. All pupils in the school should bring their own break time snack. Please do not send chocolate, sweets, biscuits etc for break.

Pupils in Primary 1 & 2 should bring one item of fruit on a Friday for a shared break. Pupils in these classes will prepare their break together and share it out among their classmates.

Chewing gum is not allowed in school.

Young people: We as adults are sometimes guilty of passing comments about the young of today. A couple of interesting quotes below. Note the years they from!!!

"The world is passing through troubled times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint. They talk as if they knew everything, and what passes for wisdom with us, is foolishness with them."

(Peter the Hermit in 1274AD)

"I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words... When I was young, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly wise [disrespectful] and impatient of restraint".

(Hesiod, 8th century BC)

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. Parking here presents a hazard for children boarding buses and prevents buses from pulling in.