

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

September Newsletter 2017

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

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- Welcome Back:** We welcome everyone back for a new school year and hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. We would like to especially welcome the new children to the school and we hope they have many happy and fruitful years at St Columban's. The children starting Primary 1 this year are; Pauric Cullen, Eva Donnelly, Ryan Ferguson, Blaithe Hanrahan, Lea Leonard, Mateja McGourty, Safiya Palmer, Katelyn Rafferty, Anna Ryan, Alanna Timoney and Oisín Treacy.
- School Closure:** Monday 2nd October (Staff Development Day)
Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November (Mid term break)
The full holiday list is on the school website.
- Primary 6 Assembly:** Primary 6 will perform their class assembly on Friday the 29th September at 10.00am. The parents of all pupils in the Primary 6 class are invited to attend this.
- Curriculum Evening:** All parents are asked to attend the curriculum evening as detailed below. The teachers will outline the curriculum content and class organisation for your child / children at this meeting.
Wednesday 27th September:
7.00pm - parents of children in Primary 1 - 3
7.45pm - parents of pupils in Primary 4 - 6
8.30pm - parents of pupils in Primary 7
- Child Protection:** The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Martina Meehan. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Anne Murray.

Policies:

The following policies are available on the school website.

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Child Protection
- Complaints
- Intimate Care
- Pastoral Care
- Positive Behaviour
- Supporting children with Medication Needs

If any parent needs a copy of one or all of these please contact Sandra in the office.

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.

Our head cook Mrs Maguire is off sick at present. The Education Authority have informed us that meals will be delivered from St Patrick's PS Derrygonnelly. We are unsure how long this arrangement will last for.

Free School Meals: Some children may be entitled to free meals. An application form may be obtained from the Education Authority, School Meals Department 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 OAW. Telephone (028 82 411411). The EA submits a list of children receiving free school meals to us.

If your child's name is not on this list and you feel they should be I ask that you contact the EA immediately.

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.

- 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 & 3 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.
- 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 day ends at 1.00pm up until Friday 11th September. From Monday 18th September Primary 1 pupils stay until 1.55pm.
The Primary 2 day also ends at 1.55pm
- Collecting Children:** Please inform the school if there is any change to the person who normally collects your child.
- Hair:** A case of head lice was reported to me this week. Please remember to check your child's hair regularly.
- 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.
Please remember that for Child Protection reasons, only members of staff are permitted beyond the foyer during the school day.
Visitors using the pedestrian gate during the school day are asked to ensure that this is kept closed.
- 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.

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. 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.