

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

October Newsletter 2023

www.stcolumbanspsbelcoo.com

Twitter - @StColumbans76

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 2 nd October: | Staff Development Day (school closed for pupils) |
| Saturday 21 st October: | Start of walk around Ireland Fundraiser |
| Sunday 22 nd October: | Run for Oisín |
| Thursday 26 th October: | Halloween Disco |
| Friday 27 th October: | Last day of walk around Ireland Fundraiser |

School Closure: Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November.
The full holiday list is on the school website.

Fundraiser: In an effort to raise money for new Interactive Whiteboards for our classrooms I want to let you know about our unique fundraiser planned for Saturday 21st October - Friday 27th October. "Track your Ks for 7 days" gives all our pupils, families, staff and the entire school community a chance to get involved!
Our aim is to walk our way around the coast of Ireland - a total of 3172 kilometres.
All pupils have been issued with a sheet to record their daily kilometres - family members kilometres count too!!!!
A sponsor sheet for each family was also issued along with a Just Giving platform for online contributions.
So, get your trainers dusted off and get clocking up the 'Ks' for 7 days!!
We have a number of activities planned for this week to help us collectively reach our target. More details to follow!

Run for Oisín: This takes place on Sunday 22nd October. Register online before Wednesday 18th October for the best rates. Please note you can use the Kilometres travelled in this event towards our "Track your Ks for 7 days" fundraiser.

Halloween Disco: This will take place on Thursday the 26th October. Children may come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes.

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|---------------|---------------------|
| Primary 1 - 3 | 10.00am - 11.00am |
| Primary 4 - 7 | 11.00am - 12.00noon |

Confirmation: Confirmation will take place on Saturday the 20th April in St Patrick's Church Holywell at 11.00am.

Youth Choir: Youth choir will sing at Mass in St Patrick's Church Holywell on Saturday 28th October at 7.00pm.

Child Protection: The Designated teacher for Child Protection in the absence of Mrs Martina Meehan is Mrs Anne Murray.
The Deputy Designated Teacher is Liam Magee

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

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Primary 7: | WB Monday 23 rd October |
| Primary 4: | WB Monday 13 th November |
| Primary 6: | WB Monday 20 th November |
| Primary 5: | WB Monday 27 th November |
| Primary 3: | WB Monday 4 th December |
| Primary 1 & 2: | January |

A separate letter will follow. Parents will have option of face to face or a telephone call. Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.
The times for meetings will be;
9.00am - 9.30am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Teacher Emails: Teachers can be contacted via email. The teacher will get back to you as soon as practical. Urgent messages should be delivered by telephone.

- Miss Maya Finlay mfinlaymcgovern377@c2kni.net
(teaching P.1/2 at present)
- Mrs Anne Murray amurray394@c2kni.net
- Mrs Siobhan Meehan smeehan445@c2kni.net
- Mrs Paula Gallagher pgallagher466@c2kni.net
- Miss Claire Crudden ccrudden144@c2kni.net
- Mr Liam Magee limagee459@c2kni.net

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 school uniform must be worn each day unless special clothing is required e.g. for field trip.
PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.

**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 school life.

Policies:

The following policies are on the school website;

- Complaints Procedure
- Anti-Bullying
- Positive Behaviour
- Drugs
- E Safety which includes the school's policy on the acceptable use of the internet.
- Child Protection
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Pastoral Care
- Supporting children with medication needs

Please contact Mr Magee or Mrs Meehan if you require any of these policies in paper form.

Nut Free School:

We are now a nut free school. Please note children should not carry or consume in school or on the bus any food / snacks containing nuts, nut derivatives or seeds. We thank all parents and pupils for their cooperation and support on this important matter.

Mathletics:

Please see the attached information with regards to our Mathletics. We encourage all pupils in Primary 2 - 7 to log in to this resource which supports Maths learning. Primary 1 pupils will be able to log in after the midterm break.

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:

We operate a text service as a means of notifying parents with some important messages. Please let us know if your mobile number changes at any time.

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 2 day also ends at 1.55pm
Primary 3 - 7 pupils finish at 2.55pm

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. The menu is available on the school website.

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 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.

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.