

SAINT COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

March Newsletter 2018

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Friday 2 nd March: | World Book Day celebration |
| Monday 5 th March: | Go Games Blitz (P.4 & 5) |
| Wednesday 7 th March: | Cumann na mBunscol Quiz |
| Wednesday 7 th March: | World Maths Day |
| Friday 9 th March: | Primary 1 /2 Assembly |
| Monday 12 th March: | Townland talk |
| Thursday 15 th March: | Science workshop -Community Centre (P.6 &7) |
| Friday 16 th March: | Walk to School - Green Day |
| Monday 19 th March: | School Closed |
| Friday 23 rd March: | Last date - 'Cash for Clobber' |
| Thursday 29 th March: | School closes for Easter holidays |

Holidays: The school will be closed on Monday 19th March.
The school will close on **Thursday the 29th March** at **12.00 noon** for the Easter holidays. School meals will not be served and there will be no school milk or buses on that day. The school will re-open for pupils on **Monday the 9th April.**

Cash for Clobber: St Columban's Eco-Committee are still collecting old clothes as part of their *Cash for Clobber* collection. If you have any old clothes, old pairs of shoes or handbags that you no longer want/need, then please put them into a bin liner and leave with any member of staff. We would appreciate all items could be in before the Friday 23rd March.

World Book Day: This takes place on Thursday the 1st March. Due to swimming we will celebrate this day on Friday the 2nd. We ask all staff and pupils to dress up on Friday as their favourite character from a book.

Primary 1/2 Assembly: The Primary 1/2 class will perform their class assembly on Friday 9th March at 10.00am. The parents of all pupils in Primary 1/2 class are invited to attend this.

- Science Workshop:** Primary 6 and 7 pupils will attend a Science workshop in Belcoo community centre on Thursday 15th March. This is lead by staff from the Marble Arch Caves. The workshop will be interactive and based on the Earth Science of the Geopark area. The cost per pupil is £2
- Ceili:** A Ceili to celebrate St Patrick's Day will take place on Friday the 16th March. We ask that pupils come dressed in green to school on this day. The School Council will be taking up a collection with all money raised being sent to Trocaire.
- Golf Classic:** The school are running a golf classic at Blacklion Golf Club on Saturday the 16th June. This is in aid of school funds and money raised will go to towards purchasing Accelerated Reading for the school. This is a computerised program that assists with reading and comprehension. If anyone is interesting in sponsoring one of the holes or entering a team of 4 please contact Mr Magee. More details to follow.
- £10 Notes:** The old Bank of England, Royal Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank paper £10 notes will no longer be legal tender after **Thursday 1 March 2018**. Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank £5 notes are no longer legal tender either. We are therefore unable to accept these notes as a method of payment for milk, dinner, swimming etc.
- Mathletics:** The school operates Mathletics for pupils in Primary 2 - 7. It is a multi-award winning learning resource that encourages students and rewards results - hugely popular with students, educators and parents alike. We hope Mathletics helps pupils at St Columban's PS to enjoy Maths and increase their breadth and depth of mathematical understanding for several years. Pupils are set tasks regularly by their class teacher. If you have access to the internet we encourage pupils to complete these at home. Pupils should aim to try and achieve a certificate each week.
On World Maths Day (7th March) make a special effort to get your child to log into Mathletics.

Parent – Teacher Meetings:

In our June 2016 Parent Questionnaire 12% of parents disagreed that they received helpful and regular information about their child's progress at school. As a result of this one of the commitments we made was to, *facilitate a second parent teacher meeting where requested at the end of the second term.*

Due to on-going Industrial action by Teacher Unions this is something staff are not obliged to do. However we all feel it is important to honour the commitment we made in August 2016 and to provide you with any opportunity to discuss any issues you may have with your child's teacher.

Teachers will therefore be available to meet with parents at the following times;

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| Monday 26 th March | 8.30am – 9.00am |
| Tuesday 27 th March | 8.30am – 9.00am |
| Wednesday 28 th March | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Thursday 29 th March | 9.15am – 12.00noon |

Any parent who wishes to avail of this meeting is asked to contact their child's teacher directly to arrange a time.

Swimming:

The Key Stage 2 Swimming Programme continues every Thursday in the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen.

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.

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.

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

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

Any outstanding money should be paid as soon as possible.

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

Attendance: The Department of Education is looking at attendance very closely at present. We get a monthly report of all children's attendance. If a child's attendance falls below 85% we must refer them to the Educational Welfare Officer.

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.

Happy St Patrick's Day

