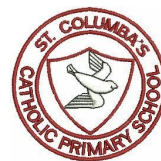


St Columba's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER



January 2024

Note from the Headteacher

Dear parents,/carers

Let me begin by wishing you all a belated happy New Year!

We have had a great start to the new year; despite the freezing cold weather conditions.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that this will be my final school year at St Columba; I have taken the very difficult decision to resign from my post, so that I can take early retirement. I am informing you this early because, the recruitment process for my replacement will be beginning very shortly. The post will soon be advertised and we are hoping to welcome potential candidates to take a tour of our fantastic school.

In the meantime, we will all continue to work hard and be the very best that we can be.

Best wishes

Miss Evans

Careers Week

Last week we welcomed a range of visitors into school to talk to our children about their chosen careers.

We had: a Solicitor, a Business Development Manager, an Operations Nurse and a Tattoo Artist to name but a few.

We were particularly proud to welcome an ex-pupil who had started her own boxing business.

All of the visitors spoke about how they managed to achieve their dreams.

They told the children about how hard they had had to work; the barriers they had faced and the achievements that they had celebrated. Each and every one of them were truly inspirational.

We would like to thank them sincerely for giving up their time out of their busy schedules to speak to our children.



What can our families do to support their children in reaching their full potential?

- ◆ Ensure that your child is in school **regularly**.
- ◆ Ensure that your child arrives to school **on time**.
- ◆ **Read at home** with your child-make this an enjoyable experience.
- ◆ Help your child to practise their **weekly spellings**.
- ◆ Encourage your child to engage in our **online learning packages**, such as Reading Plus and TTRS.

Parent Workshops

- ◆ Last week we invited Year 1 parents in to a **Phonics Fun Workshop**. It was very well attended and a huge success.
- ◆ On **Friday 9th February at 2:30pm**, our **Year 6** children will present an assembly to their parents on the importance of working hard in their **KS2 SATS** preparation.
- ◆ We will host our second **BEDTIME READING** event on **Wednesday 13th March at 4pm**. ALL are welcome.

ATTENDANCE

Above 97%	96% - 97%	Under 96%
Exceeding Target	On Target	Below Target
Class	Graded	%
Nursery	below	79.9%
Reception	Nearly there	95.4%
Class 1	Below	92.3%
Class 2	Below	92.6%
Class 3	Below	90.3%
Class 4	Below	92.1%
Class 5	Below	90.9%
Class 6	Nearly there	94.3%
WHOLE SCHOOL	Below	91.5%



As all of our families are aware, Attendance is a real priority at St Columba. We all recognise and value the importance of attending school on time and regularly. Clearly, children need to be in school on time to learn and make progress.

As a school we recognise that there is still work to be done. We all must renew our New Year promise to work together to ensure that we give our children the best opportunity of achieving their full potential.

In the last few weeks we have had successful attendance and punctuality panels with individual families, which seems to already be having a positive impact.

We have also provided opportunities for our families, and children, to have their say on how school should reward good attendance. See below.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS HALF TERM

CLUB	DAY	YEAR GROUPS	FINISH TIME	LAST CLUB SESSION
Gymnastics	Tuesday	Y3,4 and 5 (limited spaces)	4pm	Tues 6th Feb
Football	Tuesday	Y1 and Y2 (limited spaces)	4.15pm	Tues 6th Feb
SATS booters	Tuesday/ Wednesday	Y6	4pm	6th/7th Feb
School Choir	Wednesday	Y3,4,5 and 6	3.45pm	N/A
Violin	Wednesday	Y5 and Y6	4.10pm	N/A
Yoga	Thursday	Y5	4pm	Thurs 8th Feb
Phonics	Thursday	Reception	4pm	Thurs 8th Feb
Kahoot club	Thursday	Y5 and Y6	4pm	Thurs 8th Feb

The family Votes Are In...

Our families were invited in to register their vote in regards to rewards for attendance.

The majority vote, from parents and children, is that this Spring term we will reward the best attending class with a visit to a Children's Play Area.

We will announce the winner on Friday 9th February; the winning class will go to the play area during the week beginning 19th February.



Full School Uniform and PE kits

Now that the weather is more settled, all children must be in full school uniform or full school PE kit. Please inform school if you are struggling to purchase school uniforms. We have some pre-loved uniform and can also support any families who are financially struggling with buying them.