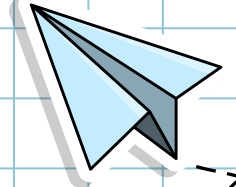


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Dates for your diary

10th November

Odd socks day

11th November

Remembrance Day
Y6 parents to attend assembly
@10.50am

13th November

Reception workshop @9am

14th November

Children In Need

20th November

Reception workshop @9am

27th November

Reception workshop @9am

Children In Need

On Friday 14th November we will be raising money for Children In Need..



Wear own clothes
or Pudsey outfits

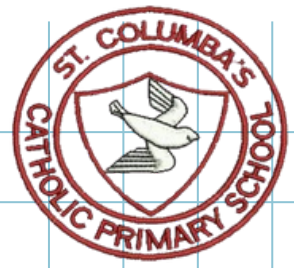
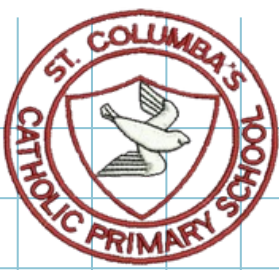
50p per child or £1
per family

School lunch (Fishy Friday) will be at a reduced cost of £1.50!

Anti-Bullying Week

On Monday 10th November, we are encouraging children to wear odd socks with their uniforms, in support of anti bullying week.



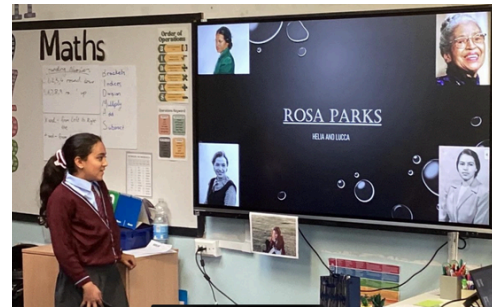


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Black History Month

Classes across the whole school learned about important people in history who have made a difference to the lives of others.



Safer communities

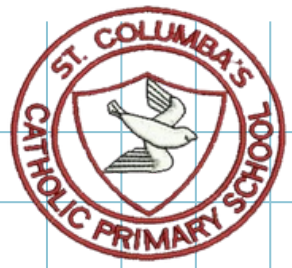
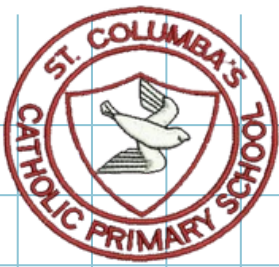
PC White visited KS2 to talk about diversity, tolerance and how to make the right choices and keep ourselves safe.



PCSO Hazel presented to our KS2 children about how to stay safe during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

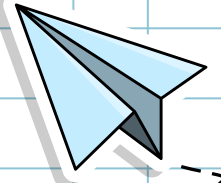
Year 6 went to Crucial Crew which was held at Aintree. They took part in several workshops such as road safety, safety around electricity and power lines, combating racism and healthy eating.





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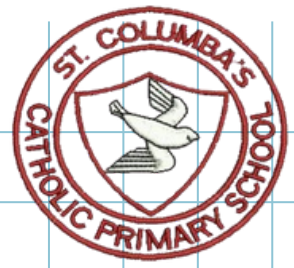
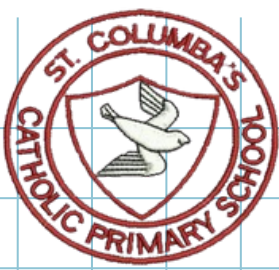


Sports news

We have taken part in many sporting events throughout October... Cross Country at St Edmund's Arrowsmith, Year 1 LFC football tournament, where the team reached the semi-finals, Y2 LFC football tournament to name a few.

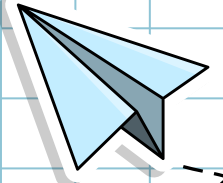
Year 5 and Year 6 football events have been particularly successful. The girls' team secured an impressive 3rd place in the Sylvia Gore Football Tournament. The boys' team are currently sitting at a respectable joint 3rd place in the Huyton League, with more matches planned in November.





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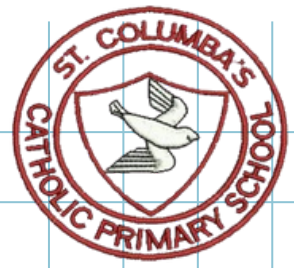
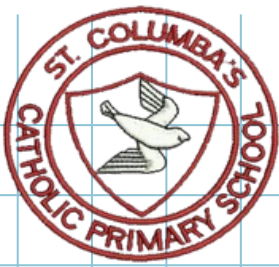
Healthy schools

Our gardening and cooking club, led by our school chef Michelle, has been busy blending up something special! This term, students created their own healthy smoothies.

A big thank you to Tesco Stronger Starts for providing funding towards the fruit used in our smoothies, your support helps our pupils learn and thrive!

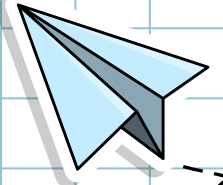
The club continues to support our Healthy Schools initiative, encouraging children to make positive food choices and discover the joy of growing and cooking their own food. We can't wait to see what they whip up next!





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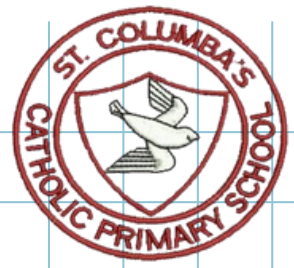
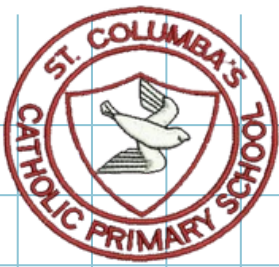


Hello Yellow Day

In support of World Mental Health day- the children wore yellow and bright colours to raise awareness of mental health. Each class learned about the importance of looking after their mental health and emotions.

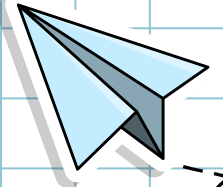
Together we raised £103.35 for the charity Young Minds and school mental health resources.





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Religious Education

October was the Month of Mary and the Rosary. Our pupils spent time celebrating this through prayer and assemblies. They explored the Rosary and its significance.

Our gorgeous pupils also did an assembly on the Harvest Festival. Our Y5 children were brilliant and really captured what The Harvest is all about. Thank you to all the families who donated items for charity, we really do appreciate it.

Next month, our Mini Vinnies will be creating thank you cards for our veterans as well as creating Christmas cards for our local and parish community.



Poppy Appeal

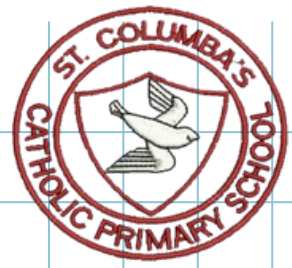
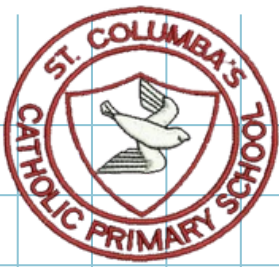
Poppies are now available to buy in school ahead of Remembrance Day on the 11th November.

Please find a member of Y6 to purchase one.

Roald Dahl Day

The children took part in many activities on Roald Dahl Day including reading stories, writing poems, learning about Roald Dahl's life and even some fun Dahl-inspired chocolate making!





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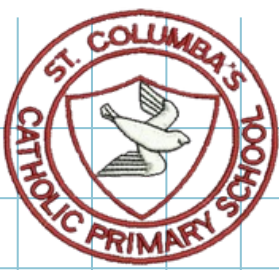
Reception admissions

Thank you to those who attended our Nursery and Reception open evening.

If you were unable to attend, but would still like a chance to view our lovely school before applying for a Reception place- please contact the school office on
01514778360 or
stcolumbas@knowsley.gov.uk to arrange a visit with Mrs Whittaker.

Please be reminded that applications for Reception 2026.27 must be submitted via the online portal before 15th January.

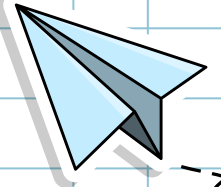
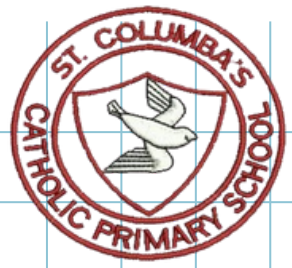
There is NO automatic transfer between Nursery and Reception. All parents must submit an application via the portal. Please contact Miss Banks if you are unsure how.



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Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/october-2025/>

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc.

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+.
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

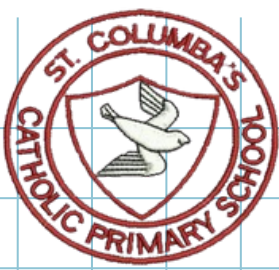
- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

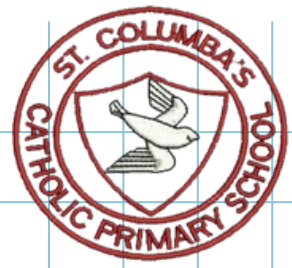
<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>



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WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time, Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxp8>
- https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

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Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>