



St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Iona Star – 27th June 2025

St Columba's Families,

We hope that you have had a good week.

This week, Year 6 have been extremely busy again! They've been out to St Dominic's in the city centre as part of their 'Faith in Action' work. They've also been to the Emmaus Youth Village today for the YMT festival where they've enjoyed a day of celebration.

Year 5 have been out of school too – they enjoyed a trip to the Centre for Life yesterday and enjoyed a visit to the planetarium which helped to enhance their recent scientific knowledge of 'Earth and Space'.

We apologise that Year 2 class assembly was cancelled today – we are working to reschedule this and will be in touch as soon as possible.

Below, you will find key dates and messages. Also attached to the newsletter is a leaflet for staff and parents, the focus this week is on 'Nintendo Switch'.

If you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or if there is anything that we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Take care!

Miss Quinn

happy
WEEKEND!

Attendance and Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this week has been **93.6%**. We are in the **amber zone** and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education (96%).

We are, however, delighted to announce that Year 5 are the winners of our attendance trophy with an attendance of 98.6% this week. Congratulations!

Welcome!

An official welcome to Ms Marshall who began her role with us in Breakfast and After School Club this week.

Both Ms Marshall and Mrs Feehan have been enjoying getting to know the children and are committed to working with us to make both Breakfast and After School Club a great experience for the children who attend!

We look forward to working with you both!



New Starters – September 2025

A reminder that there is a meeting on Monday at 9.15am in the school hall for any parents of new starters in Reception class for September 2025. We hope to see you there!

Year 6 Transition to St Thomas More

For any pupils starting at St Thomas More in September 2025, there are two days of transition next week on Thursday 3rd July and Friday 4th July.

Pupils must wear their full school uniform on this day please (no leavers hoodies or PE kit).
Thank you



Sports Days

Parents will have received a letter this morning detailing the running of Sports Days next week. Please note that:

- Family members are welcome on both days
- Each class will also hold an **optional adult race**
- Families are welcome to bring camping chairs or picnic blankets to sit on while watching the events
- After the races, children will return to their classrooms to collect their belongings. Families are then invited into the school hall, where **refreshments will be available for purchase** for both adults and children
- For safeguarding reasons and pupil privacy, **photographs and video recordings are not permitted** during the event
- Please note that **energy drinks and isotonic/electrolyte drinks (e.g. Lucozade) are not allowed** on school premises

We hope to see you there!



Wellbeing Hub



Parents at St Columbas' Catholic Primary School

Through our partnerships with Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, we are pleased to be able to offer all parents, staff and children aged 10+ access to a wealth of information through The Wellbeing Hub.

Positive mental health is fundamental to young people's ability to thrive and make the most of the opportunities available to them while at school. By collaborating with The Wellbeing Hub, we aim to equip all our staff and parents with the knowledge, understanding, and strategies to support our pupils effectively. To register, please use this link or QR code.

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=1b5372e0e7384+337b68bfl50a0f7c597>

The banner features a circular image of a young woman with long blonde hair, looking down with her hand to her forehead. The background is dark blue. In the top left, there is a blue box with a microphone icon and the word 'PODCAST' in white. In the top right, the 'The Wellbeing Hub' logo is displayed, consisting of the text 'The Wellbeing Hub' and '— from Teen Tips —' next to a green circle with a white 't'. The main text in the center reads 'This week's content' in large white letters, followed by 'Week commencing 30th June 2025' in smaller white letters. Below this, the text describes the podcast: 'PODCAST: Cyberbullying and online harm prevention with Dr Colli Tzani, Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield and Cyber-bullying Prevention Researcher'. At the bottom right, a blue button contains the text 'Listen now: club.teentips.co.uk'.

Ten Ten Parent Newsletter

Ten:Ten
Resources

You can access the latest parental newsletter from Ten Ten which shares the key messages, prayers and opportunities for worship at home by clicking this link

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Diary Dates for Parents – Summer 2025

Monday 30th June – Meeting for families of children starting Reception in September. 9.15am start

Tuesday 1st July – Year 6 at Holy Island with Our Lady of Lourdes parish schools with Fr David

Tuesday 1st July – Sports Day for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will be a 2.00pm start and family members are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 2nd July – Sports Day for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. This will be a 2.00pm start and family members are welcome to attend.

Thursday 3rd July – Sports 'Stay and Play' for Nursery. Family members are welcome to stay for the first hour of the day

Thursday 3rd July – Year 2 visit to the watchtower at Tynemouth

Thursday 3d July – Year 4 Holy Communion Mass and Celebration. Further information to follow

Friday 4th July – Year 3 visit to Sealife Centre

Friday 4th July – Senior leaders and governors will be available for parents to 'drop in' and discuss any issues, concerns or raise any suggestions for next academic year. Please join us if you can!

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July – Year 6 pupils who are transitioning to St Thomas More will have two days there, more information to follow

Monday 7th July – Nursery visit to Richardson Dees park

Monday 7th July – Year 1 visit to Sealife Centre

Tuesday 8th July – KS2 SATs results are made available to schools

Tuesday 8th July – Teddy Bear's Picnic for Year 5 and Nursery. 9.45am – 10.30am. Children need to bring a teddy bear or soft toy from home. They will meet their 'Buddy' for the new academic year.

Tuesday 8th July – Year 6 'Make £5 Grow' market. Year 6 are taking part in an enterprising experience called 'Make £5 Grow' – they will be setting up their own market stalls for the rest of the school on Tuesday afternoon. Other classes will need a small amount of money if they wish to purchase anything.

Market stalls can also be visited by parents and children the rest of the week after school as the Year 6 children will be set up outside the building.

Wednesday 9th July – Year 6 and Reception buddies visit to Tynemouth Beach

Thursday 10th July – Year 6 leaver's mass with North Tyneside Roman Catholic family. This is in the afternoon at Our Lady and St Columba church. Unfortunately, we can not invite family members due to space restrictions

Friday 11th July – Reception and Year 6 final Buddy assembly at 9.15am. Family members are welcome to the hall

Friday 11th July – Reports will be given to parents

Monday 14th July – Report drop in (optional) for parents. Parents are welcome to drop in at any time, without an appointment from 4.00pm to 5.00pm

new **Tuesday 15th July** – Transition morning. Each class will meet their new teacher for an introduction

Tuesday 15th July – Whole school Mass in the hall with Fr David at 2.15pm. Family members are welcome to book a space through the school office.

Tuesday 15th July – End of year Disco. More information to follow from the PTA.

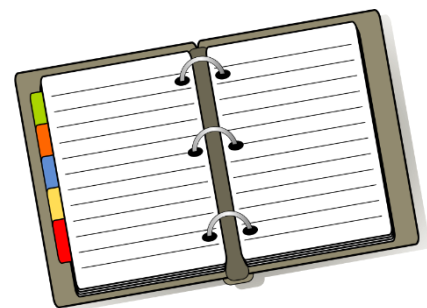
Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly in the school hall. Family members are welcome for a 6pm start

Thursday 17th July – Break the Rules. More information to follow from the PTA

Thursday 17th July – Year 6 parents will be welcome to join us in the afternoon for leavers activities. Further information to follow

Thursday 17th July – School closes to pupils and staff for the summer holidays.

School opens to all pupils on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.



Year 5 and 6 - Wallsend Rugby Club - Amazon Voucher Offer

Would your daughter like to receive a £30 Amazon Gift Card? If the answer is yes, then bring them along to one of our Girls Only Rugby Sessions 📖

As part of the lead up to the Women's Rugby World Cup and the opening game taking place in Sunderland, Wallsend Rugby Club have are running weekly rugby sessions every Sunday during the summer to introduce the sport to more girls players.

All you need to do to receive your £30 Amazon Voucher is attend 5 of the sessions over the summer period.

The sessions are fun, games based and no experience is required to take part. The girls will build confidence, make friends and possibly consider joining a team!!

📞 To sign up or find out more, contact Davy on 07534 289478 📖



WALLSEND RFC

YEAR 5 & YEAR 6

GIRLS

RUGBY TRAINING

EVERY SUNDAY

10AM START

- **NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**
- **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**
- **FUN & FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE**

ST PETERS FIELDS, NE28 7JN

DAVY DAVISON - 07534289478

Free holiday camp spaces for any families in receipt of income related free school meals.

Full days of active participation with lunch included

Week 1

Mon 21st Jul - Fri 25th Jul

Burradon Community Primary

Week 2

Mon 28th Jul - Fri 1st Aug

Denbigh Community Primary

Week 3

Mon 4th Aug - Fri 8th Aug

Burradon Community Primary

Week 4

Mon 11th Aug - Fri 15th Aug

Denbigh Community Primary

Week 5

Mon 18th Aug - Fri 22nd Aug

Burradon Community Primary

Week 6

Mon 25th Aug - Fri 29th Aug

Denbigh Community Primary

Ages 5 - 12

9.30am - 3.00pm

Lunch Included

Free Summer Holiday Camps



Requirement



Income Related Free School Meals



To register, simply visit <https://easeinto.northtyneside.gov.uk/>
or contact Andy on 07568316487

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT



Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES



While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 3 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION



GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS



The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS



Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS



Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS



Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College