

St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Learning, loving and respecting with God in our hearts.



Iona Star – 11th July 2025

St Columba's Families,

We've had so many trips out this week:



- Nursery enjoyed a trip to the park
- Year 1 LOVED the fish at Tynemouth Aquarium
- Year 6 and Reception had a great sunny day at Tynemouth beach
- Some lucky members of Year 5 took a trip to North Berwick to the Renaissance Golf Club in their preparations for the 2025 Genesis Scottish Open
- Year 2 attended parish Mass at Our Lady and St Columba, as well as a class trip to the library
- Representatives of our Mini Vinnies attended North Tyneside Council this afternoon to share the latest work in our School of Sanctuary project



Thank you to all family members who attended our rescheduled Sports Days – the weather was so much better!

Well done to our Reception and Year 6 Buddies who blew their parents away this morning with an assembly that tugged on the heartstrings! We hope that Year 6 continue to enjoy their last few days at St Columba's – we are so proud of you all.

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 'AI-enabled Scams'.

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

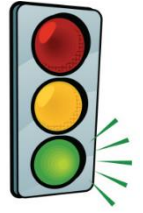
have a nice
WEEKEND



Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this week has been **94%**. 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 AGAIN this week, with an attendance of 99% this week. Congratulations!



Thank you from Year 6!

Year 6 have made a huge profit on their 'Make £5 Grow market Stalls'. In total, they've raised £400 to go towards their treats in the last week of term. A big 'thank you' to all of the families who supported the stalls over the last few days!

Summer Reading Challenge

On Monday, the children enjoyed a visit from Collette who works for the local library service. She told them all about the Summer Reading Challenge which is available for all children to enter. Children in North Tyneside who complete the challenge (reading 6 library books in 6 weeks) are rewarded with a medal and certificate. It's free to take part, just drop into your local library to collect a booklet! For more information please visit: [Summer Reading Challenge](#)



Uniform Swap Shop

If any parents would like to access our uniform swap shop ahead of September, please contact Mrs Craggs or pop into the school office and we will be happy to help you.

Sports Days

A reminder please, that we did request no photography or videos to be taken at this event. If you have taken photos or videos, we do have pupils at school who are not permitted to have their image captured. We would ask you to ensure that you delete pictures with other children in the background, and not share these on social media.



Menu Changes



There is a change to the advertised menu next week. With chicken curry being served on Wednesday and fish fingers being served on Thursday.

Thank you.

School Reports



All children should have brought home their school report tonight. If you require any additional copies, please contact the school office. We would encourage you to complete the parent feedback form at the end of the report to share your views with us.

A reminder that there is an opportunity to pop in and see your class teacher on Monday 14th July from 4pm – 5pm – no appointment necessary.

Mrs Maddison will not be available during the report drop in session on Monday 14th July. Therefore, if any parent in Y6 wishes to discuss their child's report with her, after receiving it, please contact the school office to make a telephone or in person appointment later that week.

High Borrans

Mrs Wallace has sent reminders about payments that need to be made for High Borrans prior to the trip in September. Just a gentle reminder to send any payments before we break up if you wish to spread the cost.

High Borrans

Arbor

Parents will have received an email invite this week to our new data and communication system, Arbor. This will be replacing School Gateway from September so please ensure you sign up as soon as possible.

As we move to Arbor, please remember to clear outstanding debts from Breakfast/After School Club and school meals.



Any outstanding balances (both arrears and credit) will be transferred by Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust but this will take some time to sort out so we do not recommend adding large amounts of credit onto your child's account within these last two weeks.

Ten Ten Parent Newsletter

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/>

Ten:Ten
Resources

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=lb5372e0e7384+337b68bf150a0f7c597>



**WEBINAR**

— The —
Wellbeing Hub
— from Teen Tips —



Coming up this week

Wednesday 16th July 2025

WEBINAR: Helping your child thrive in a digital world with Dr Elizabeth Milovidov, Author, Lawyer, E-safety Consultant and Digital Parenting Expert

Sign up now club.teentips.co.uk

Diary Dates for Parents – Summer 2025

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

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

Tuesday 15th July – End of year Disco. Please see the attached poster.

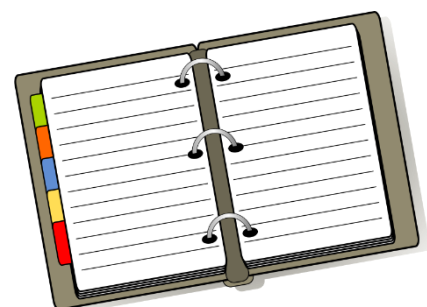
Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly in the school hall. Family members are welcome for a 6pm start

Thursday 17th July – Break the Rules. 50p per school rule broken! All proceeds going to 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.





END OF YEAR DISCO

at St Columba's

TUES. 15TH JULY

EYFS/KS1 - 4.30PM

KS2 - 5.45PM

£2 ENTRY (WITH FREE DRINK)

SWEETS AND HOT DOGS
AVAILABLE TO BUY

Break the
Rules Day!

SOP FINE FOR
EACH RULE
YOU BREAK!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®