

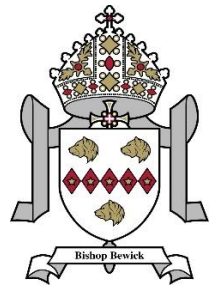
# St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Station Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. NE28 8EN

Telephone: 0191 262 3098 Website: [www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk)

Email Address: [scpschool@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk](mailto:scpschool@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Iona Star – 29th November 2024

St Columba's Families,



It's been a busy afternoon with our extremely popular 'Bring and Buy' sale. A huge thank you to the families who donated so many wonderful items and the PTA volunteers so sold sweets, cakes, crisps and more. A special thank you to Year 5 who ran our 'Human Fruit Machine' game – you did an excellent job! Well done also to the girls in Year 6 who seized the opportunity to make some extra pennies for Walking With.



On Wednesday, we LOVED our whole school trip to the pantomime 'Mother Goose'. It was quite the adventure and some of us fell asleep on the bus on the way home it had been such an exciting morning! Thank you to the extra family members who volunteered to come along and made the trip possible.

Thank you to all of the families who attended the Our Lady and St Columba parish Christmas market last Saturday. A huge well done to our choir who sang so beautifully and made us all feel so Christmassy! A big thank you to Mrs Harris for organising this and helping to prepare the children.



Last week, we also enjoyed a visit from Father David who shared with KS2 his updates from his travels to Muhuroni and showed us some of the work that our fundraising has gone towards.

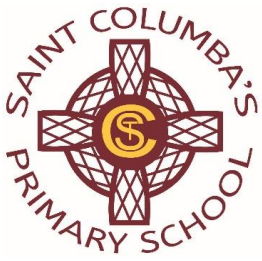
This week, we have also been doing some work in classes to support North Tyneside's 'White Ribbon' appeal; teaching children about healthy relationships in an aim to reduce violence towards women and girls in our local area. We also took part in Google's 'Be Legends' internet safety assembly about being kind online.



Below, you will find key messages and information. Attached to the Iona Star is a guide for both parents and school staff – this week's focus is on helping children with 'Online Trolling'.

If you have any questions about anything in the Iona Star, or anything else that we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Miss Quinn



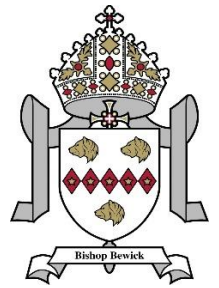
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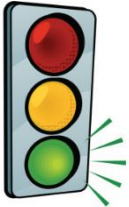
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## Attendance and Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this week has been 90.7%. We are in the amber zone and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education (96%).

We are delighted to announce that Reception are the winners of our attendance trophy with an attendance of 97% this week. Congratulations!

As a school, we are working alongside representatives from North Tyneside's school support team to offer support to children and families who are struggling with attendance. This will also mean that there are more processes in place to monitor and report upon attendance in line with new guidance from the Department for Education including the possibility of attendance plans for children who remain in the 'red' or 'amber' zones consistently.

Please remember that we are here to help and are keen to support families with any barriers towards attendance. Get in touch with us via the school office if you would like to make an appointment.

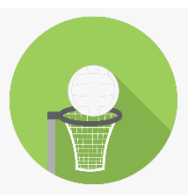
## Staffing Changes

There will be some staffing changes within Year 1 from January and, following the Christmas holidays, Mr Cillie will be teaching Year 1 full time.

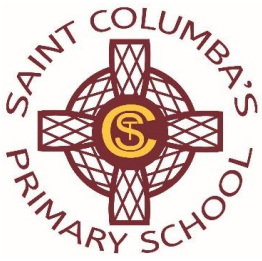
As you know, Mrs Iliadou will be officially leaving St Columba's at Christmas and, as a school, we have been looking at how to cover her roles between staff members. As a result, Mrs Harman will be teaching across other classes on a Monday and Tuesday to cover the non-contact time that these members of teaching staff are entitled to each week.

We appreciate your support over this half term and understand that the variety of supply staffing that has been in place has, at times, been challenging for children. We hope that this will benefit the wider school community as it will add consistency of staffing to cover this non-contact time.

## Netball Club



Attached to the Iona Star is a flyer for a netball club at St Thomas More for pupils of all ages. Many pupils have been enjoying their netball/high five session in PE lessons this half term so may be interested in signing up to this additional opportunity.



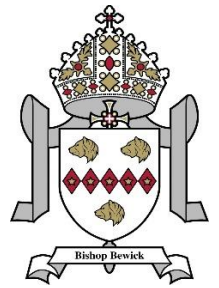
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## Homework and SeeSaw

Families should have received an email informing them that family SeeSaw accounts do not show homework activities and cannot upload items other than through messages. This is because of the setup of the platform which assigns activities to individual children rather than their family members. Activities and uploads need to be completed through individual pupil accounts. Please ask at the school office if you need any help with this.



## 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/>

## Diary Dates

**\*Updated\*** **Christmas Performances** – Family members are welcome to come at the times below to watch their child's Christmas performance in the school hall.

Nursery – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

Reception – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 1 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

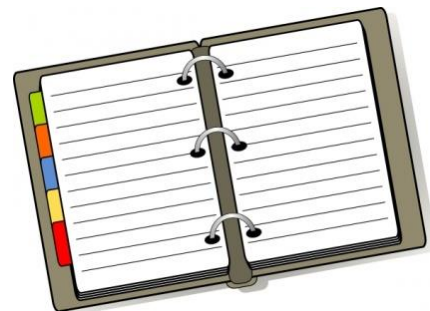
Year 2 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

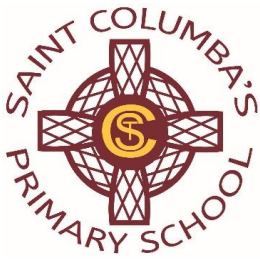
Year 3 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 4 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 5 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 6 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm





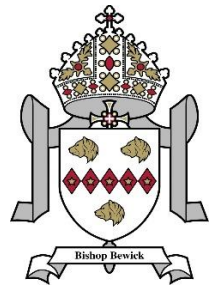
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**\*Updated\*** **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Movie Night – Year 4 to Year 6. The movie will be chosen by the children in assembly on Monday morning. Tickets will cost £2 and will include a drink and some sweets to enjoy with the movie. Tickets will be available from Monday, please send any money in an envelope addressed to Mrs Laidlaw

**\*Updated\***

Family members are invited into school to make a Christingle with their children and take part in a liturgy with their creations. Following feedback from families, we have decided to group this in families rather than by class.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – 2.30pm – families of children whose surname begins with letters A - H

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – 2.30pm – families of children whose surname begins with letters I - Z

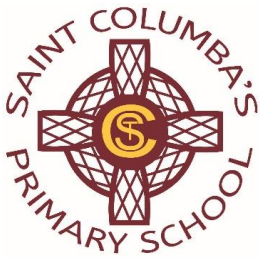
Parents will be welcome to take their children home from school when the Christingle workshop is finished.

**\*Updated\*** **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Dinner Day! Enjoy a Christmas dinner with your friends. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper that day to school in place of their regular school jumper.

**\*Updated\*** **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Movie Night – Year 1 to Year 3. Further information to follow. The movie will be chosen by the children in assembly on Monday morning. Tickets will cost £2 and will include a drink and some sweets to enjoy with the movie. Tickets will be available from Monday, please send any money in an envelope addressed to Mrs Laidlaw

**\*New\*** **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes for Christmas Parties which will take place in the afternoon.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – School closes to staff and pupils for the Christmas break



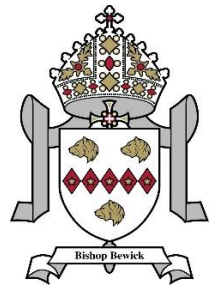
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# Seasiders NETBALL

**Come & play NETBALL @ St  
Thomas More NE29 8LF**

# 2024

**Dates: WEDNESDAY's  
starting back 18th  
September term time**

**Time: 5-6pm Reception to  
school year 4  
6-7pm school year 5 to  
year 11**

**Cost: £4 per session**

**Qualified  
level 2 & 3  
England  
Netball  
Coaches**



**For more information & to  
book a place - complete  
google form via the QR  
code. Maximum places  
available**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TROLLING

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

### HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

### 24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

### HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

### IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

### NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

### DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

### ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

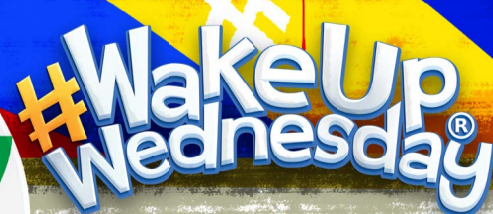
While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College