



St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

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Email Address: scpschool@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Learning, loving and respecting with God in our hearts.



Iona Star – 4th July 2025

St Columba's Families,

This week, we have enjoyed welcoming some of our past pupils back from St Thomas More who were completing work experience. They've been a great support around school and the children have loved working with them.



Thank you to all family members who attending Sport's Day on Tuesday – we hope that you enjoyed it, we know the children did! We do hope that as many people as possible are able to attend the rescheduled date for KS2 on Thursday 10th July (Friday 11th for Year 6). We apologise for the inconvenience but the weather on Wednesday really would have made the afternoon impossible, we're sure you'll agree.

Year 4 have taken part in pedestrian training this week, learning about safety on the roads and when walking next to busy traffic. Year 2 had a great time at Tynemouth on Thursday where they enjoyed a trip to the Watchtower and some free time on the beach as their end of year trip.



The end of the week has been quiet without our Year 6, who have been attending their transition days at St Thomas More – we hope you all had a fantastic time!



Yesterday, Year 4 enjoyed a day of celebration for their Holy Communion. Fr David arranged a celebration Mass, cupcakes for the children and they had a lovely afternoon with party food and games. Thank you to Mrs Watson for arranging the afternoon of fun!

Today, Year 3 have enjoyed a trip to Tynemouth Aquarium and the beach for their end of year trip and Year 5 have been participating in the North Tyneside Swimming Gala! What a busy week!

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 'Apple iPads'.

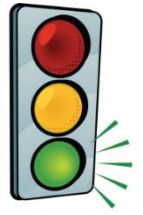
If you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or if there is anything that we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Take care, Miss Quinn

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 Reception and Year 5 are the joint winners of our attendance trophy with an attendance of 99.6% this week. Congratulations!



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

Parents will have received information detailing the rescheduling of KS2 Sports Days. Due to prior commitments, this will run on Thursday 10th July at 2pm for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. 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

For Year 6, this will run directly after the Buddy Assembly on Friday 11th July. We will aim to provide refreshments for parents but we will need to be mindful of lunch being served from 11.45am. Year 6 children will be expected to remain at school for the remainder of the day.

Family members are welcome on both days

We hope to see you there!



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Mrs Harman and her husband for the arrival of their new daughter! Little baby Sylvia was earlier than anticipated but both mum and baby are doing well.

We wish them all the best at this happy time!

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 SchoolComms and ParentPay 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.

Year 6 Report Drop In

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.

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

Make £5 Grow – Tuesday 8th July – Reminder

Year 6 will be welcoming the whole school to their '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 for the rest of the week (from Tuesday onwards) after school as the Year 6 children will be set up outside the building.

Thank you for your support!

Wellbeing Hub



Parents at St Columbus' 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=1b5372e0e7384337b68bfl50a0f7c597>

The advertisement features a circular image of a young girl with brown hair, wearing a dark blue patterned top, looking down at a smartphone. The background is dark blue with a light blue curved shape at the bottom left. In the top left corner, there is a blue box with a white microphone icon and the word 'PODCAST' in white. In the top right corner, the text 'The Wellbeing Hub' is written in white, with 'from Teen Tips' in smaller white text below it, and a green circle with a white 't' logo to the right. The main text 'This week's content' is in large white font, followed by 'Week commencing 7th July' in smaller white font. Below this, the text 'PODCAST: Tackling the SCRENDemic with Dr Sanjiv Nichani OBE, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist and Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester' is written in white. At the bottom right, a blue button contains the text 'Listen now: club.teentips.co.uk' in white.

— The —
Wellbeing Hub
— from Teen Tips —

This week's content
Week commencing 7th July

PODCAST: Tackling the SCRENDemic with Dr Sanjiv Nichani OBE, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist and Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester

Listen now: club.teentips.co.uk

Diary Dates for Parents – Summer 2025

Monday 7th July – Nursery visit to Richardson Dees park

Monday 7th July – Year 1 visit to Tynemouth Aquarium

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

rescheduled Thursday 10th July – Sports Day for Year 3, 4 and 5 at 2pm

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

rescheduled Friday 11th July – Sports Day for Year 6 following the Buddy assembly

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 to their new environment

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.

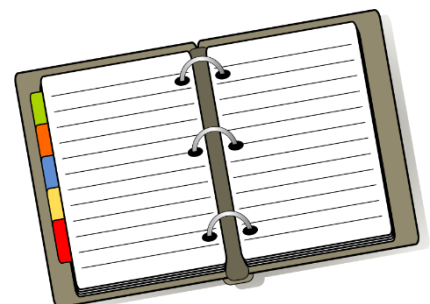
Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly in the school hall. Family members are welcome for a 6pm start

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.





**SPORTING
WALLSEND**

SUMMER HOLIDAY

FOOTBALL & MULTI ACTIVITY CAMP

WEEK 1

MONDAY 21ST JULY
TUESDAY 22ND JULY
WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY
THURSDAY 24TH JULY

WEEK 2

MONDAY 28TH JULY
TUESDAY 29TH JULY
WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY
THURSDAY 31ST JULY

WEEK 3

MONDAY 4TH AUG
TUESDAY 5TH AUG
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUG
THURSDAY 7TH AUG

WEEK 4

MONDAY 11TH AUG
TUESDAY 12TH AUG
WEDNESDAY 13TH AUG
THURSDAY 14TH AUG



FREE SPACES AVAILABLE

AGES 5 - 12 YEARS OLD £50 FOR ALL 4 DAYS £15 PER DAY

10.00AM - 3.00PM VENU: KIRKLEY PARK, RHEYDT AVE, WALLSEND, NE28 8SX

FOR MORE INFORMATION: wallsendboysclub@gmail.com or call 0191 263 9490



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple’s voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child’s emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It’s a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they’re made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



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