

Iona Star

Friday 16th July 2021
www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk



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St. Columba's Roman
Catholic Primary School -
Wallsend

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to you all for the cards, gifts and good wishes that staff have received at the end of term. As always, we are absolutely overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness.

We wish you all a relaxing summer holiday. Have a good rest and we will see you in September!

As we look back on another challenging but successful year, please read this reflection and think about your unique qualities!

You are Special

*In all the world, there is nobody like you.
Since the beginning of time, there has never
been another person like you.*

*Nobody has your smile, your eyes,
your hands, your hair.*

*Nobody owns your voice, your handwriting,
your unique way of communicating with others.*

You're special.

Nobody can paint like you.

*Nobody has your taste for food, music, dance or
art. Nobody in the world sees things as you do.*

*In all time, there has never been anyone who
laughs in exactly your way, and what makes you
laugh or cry or think, may have a totally different
response in another.*

So - you're special.

*You are different from any other person who has
ever lived in the history of the world. You are the
only one in the whole world who has your
particular set of abilities.*

*There is always someone who is better at one
thing or another. Every person is your superior
in at least one way.*

But YOU are special.

*Nobody in the world can reach the quality of the
combination of your talents, your feelings.*

*Through all eternity, no one will ever love, walk,
talk, think or act exactly like you.*

Remember - you're special.

*You are rare and in all rarity there is enormous
value. You are special, and it is no accident that
you are.*

*Please realise that God made you for a special
purpose. God has a job for you to do that nobody
else can do as well as you can.*

*Out of billions of applicants, only one is
qualified. Only one has the unique and right
combination of what it takes and that one is you.*

You are very special.

Goodbye and Good Luck

Today we have said goodbye and good luck to our Y6 pupils who will be moving onto Secondary school in September. We are so very proud of their personal successes and achievements and will miss all of the special qualities and talents that they bring to St. Columba's. We wish you all the best of luck for the future. Come back and visit us at any time!

We also say *Au Revoir* to Mr Knox who has taught our Key Stage 2 children French for the last 5 years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to share his expertise, passion and enthusiasm for Modern Foreign Languages and links to French schools. We will miss Mr Knox tremendously.

Merci beaucoup pour tout, Monsieur Knox.

Thank you for your support

It has been such a shame that year groups have had to self-isolate for this last week of term. It was with a heavy heart that we phoned or emailed parents over the weekend. However, our primary reasons for any difficult decisions have always been the safety of pupils, parents and staff. We have prayed this week that all of our pupils and families remain safe and well.

Given the data in North Tyneside over these last few weeks and months, we have been blessed at St. Columba's. We wish to say a big THANK YOU to parents and pupils for your support, understanding and help in the ways in which you have worked within and supported the protocols and procedures in place. It has helped to ensure that safety is paramount in our community.

Thank you for all of the wonderful messages of support that we have received from you as parents and for the kind and understanding ways in which you have received the difficult phone calls and emails from us over the last few weeks.

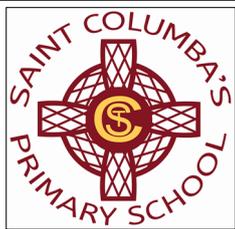
We now look forward to September and are planning for another academic year of hard work, learning and fun! We will email all parents over the holidays *if* we need to update you following any announcements from the Government.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer holiday and a well-deserved rest.

A reminder that school closes tonight to all pupils. School will open again on **Tuesday 7th Sept 2021**. Take care.

Covid Alerts

At the start of every holiday period, it is very important that school staff continue to Track and Trace positive results. If your child tests positive for Coronavirus via a LFD home test kit, or a PCR test, please email: covidalerts@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk This is necessary until Friday 23rd July.



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Community Clothing Scheme

Parents may remember that we have made a link with the Community Clothing Scheme based on the Cobalt Business Park. They collect donations of school uniform and display them in their shop.

"We have a huge uniform department providing uniform for hundreds of schools in the Northeast. All uniform is good quality, pre loved uniform. Not only do we stock uniforms but also coats for all ages, winter wear, school footwear, P.E kits and after school club kits such as cubs, dance, football and gymnastics. The dressing up department is also in here too. Everything within the uniform department is FREE."

We have finally managed to obtain a clothing bin which will be delivered in September. Parents can donate any good quality, pre-loved uniforms here.

If any Y6 parents would like to donate old uniforms, this can be bagged and dropped off at school at the start of September. The school premises will be open from 8am to 3pm from 1st September if parents wish to drop off bags for the clothing bin.

<https://www.communityschoolclothingscheme.org/>

A Plea from Reception

If parents are having a clear out over the summer and have any of the following items, Mrs Rowan would be very grateful for your generous donations. These can be dropped off at the main office labelled for 'Reception Class'.

We are in urgent need of:

- Boys jumpers, trousers, shorts and PE shorts
- Girls skirts, dresses, tights and socks
- Underwear for boys and girls

Uniform between the ages of 3 to 6 years would be gratefully received.

We also need donations of toys for the classroom please. Any of the following would be wonderful:

- * jigsaws
- * dinosaurs
- * Barbie dolls
- * stickle bricks
- * farm animals
- * Popoids
- * Empty diaries or notebooks for the writing area

We have plenty of books and construction sets. Unfortunately, we do not have room for any large toys but any donations of small toys would be gratefully received. Thank you for your support.

End of Term Mass

We celebrated a beautiful end of term Mass on Thursday, live streamed into classrooms. Thank you so much to Father David for his support this year.

School Uniform Policy / Term Dates and Holidays

Attached to the Iona Star tonight is a reminder for parents of our term dates and holidays for the academic year 2021 - 2022.

There is also a reminder of our school uniform policy if parents are purchasing new uniform for September. Many thanks.

Congratulations

Well done to Jasmine in Year 2 who has achieved her Level 2 in swimming.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back again. This provides free access to books with fun, creative activities during the holidays.

Children can sign up through their local library to receive a Wild World Heroes collector poster. The children then borrow and read six library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special stickers to complete their poster and extra incentives along the way.

See the official Challenge website for more details.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Procedures for September

As parents may be aware, the Government has released guidance for schools in preparation for September which indicates that some of our current Covid safety systems and protocols can be relaxed.

As we are all aware, the data and guidance from the Government could change drastically in the next 7 weeks.

At St. Columba's, we are proposing that the return to school for pupils and parents in the first couple of weeks will be similar to the processes we know now:

- Our one way system will still be in operation.
- The children will still enter through their fire doors in the morning from 8:45am onwards.
- Hand washing will still be crucial.
- Separate toilet blocks will still be allocated.
- The children will remain in Pods initially.

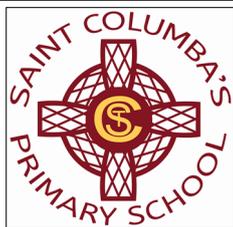
However, the way in which we complete contact tracing will change in line with guidance.

It would seem unwise, at present, to plan for too many other changes. This will be re-evaluated in September and any future decisions will be based on current data and information from Public Health at that time. If we make changes and begin to 'relax' routines, these will be planned from the week beginning 13th September onwards.

Thank you for your understanding.

School Zone—Being Active Challenge

Research shows that physical activity can have a positive impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing. To help pupils stay active this summer, Better Health has teamed up with Disney to create a 'Shake Up Toolkit'. This Disney, Pixar and Marvel inspired pack is filled with new and exciting "10 Minute Shake Up" games for families to enjoy together at home. From Olaf's Snowball Dodge to Black Widow's Secret Spy Mission, each game is designed by experts to help children master skills such as teamwork or coordination, but most importantly to have fun and keep active over the summer. Click [here](#) to access the link to the pack.



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Charles Causley Young Persons' Poetry Competition

A message from the Causley Trust:

We are delighted to announce the launch of the 2021 Charles Causley Young Persons' Poetry Competition!

The competition is open to all young people aged 5-18. Entry is free, and prizes will include vouchers, books and other writing-related treats! Following the judges' decisions, winners will be invited to a prize-giving event hosted by our Patron, celebrated author Patrick Gale.

Visit our website <https://causleytrust.org> and follow the links to the competition to find out how to enter.

The theme of this year's competition is Belonging. What does 'Belonging' mean to you?

For some great tips on how to make the most of your poem, there are two interesting articles which could help with ideas on the Young Poets Network website, entitled 'The Secret of Poetry Competitions' and 'Our top tips for submitting your work'. Remember that brilliant poets and writers come from all walks of life, so we encourage everyone to have a go and enter our competition!

All entries must be written in English and sent in a compatible and secure Word or PDF format. Poems submitted by email must be sent via an approved and authorised email address. When receiving postal entries, The Charles Causley Trust is unable to provide notification of delivery. All poems must be accompanied by an entry form.

To find out more about the competition, follow the link to our website <https://causleytrust.org>.

Good luck to everyone, and we look forward to reading all of your inspiring and imaginative poems!

A Message from Northumbria Police Prevent

The purpose of Prevent is to stop people from becoming drawn into or supporting terrorism. ACT EARLY is a website designed for the public, to inform and encourage them to make Prevent referrals if they have worries about their children, family or friends.

For further information, please see the attached flyer or visit: <https://actearly.uk/>

Piano and Trumpet Lessons

A new music studio has opened recently in Newcastle where children can learn to play the piano or trumpet. The tutor who runs the studio is a qualified music teacher with a full enhanced DBS.

If children are interested in beginning to learn either the piano or trumpet, the first lesson is free of charge. Lessons cost £18 for 30 minutes, £24 for 45 minutes or £30 for 60 minutes. For further information, please visit:

www.newcastlemusiclessons.co.uk

North Tyneside Council

A letter is attached to the Iona Star tonight from the Mayor, Norma Redfearn.

Jacqueline Laughton, Deputy Chief Executive, would like to make all parents aware of the consultation happening around the refresh of 'Our North Tyneside Plan'. Consultation ends on the 15 August. If parents would like to contribute, please click the link below.

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/node/28582>

A Google calendar has been created for vaccination clinics to ensure dates and times for each clinic are kept up to date. The QR code attached to the Iona Star tonight directs residents straight to the web page. Or please visit:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/page/28592/vaccination>

Go Smarter, Go Active

A new fun-filled cycling roadshow has been launched which aims to get more people across the region on their bikes this summer – and beyond!

The Go Smarter, Go Active Roadshow is a brand new seven-week-long celebration of cycling which will tour Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Durham throughout the summer holidays.

The free roadshow will begin on 19th July and will visit ten North East venues this summer, helping children and adults access free cycle training, interactive workshops and demos to encourage a greater use of active travel - a sustainable and accessible way to get around.

All sessions are completely free, however spaces are limited to allow for social distancing and to operate within Covid guidelines, so we encourage you to book early. To find out more and to book, visit www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk/events/

Summer of Fun Wallsend Children's Community

Thank you to all parents who expressed an interest in the Wallsend Summer of Fun activities programme over the holidays. We are delighted to announce that the funding bids were successful and the planned events will be taking place over the summer.

Places are going quickly! If parents haven't signed up already, a link to the booking form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/oxU1d6yvEtsYcice7>

Play days in the Park are back again this year. Please see the attached flyer for further information and booking details.

Outdoor Play Days will take place at:
Rising Sun Country Park—Thursdays
5th, 12th, 19th and 26th August

Wallsend Parks—Tuesdays
3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August