



Iona Star

Friday 14th January 2022
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Catholic Primary School -
Wallsend

Poverty Truth Commission

The Poverty Truth Commission exists to ensure that the voices of people who have experienced poverty are listened to by the people and organisations that have a role in creating solutions.

The Commission is intended as a safe, supported space, in which stories of what it is like to experience financial hardship can be shared and inform action.

The project will be led by Children North East, which has worked with thousands of families impacted by issues related to poverty.

Help us to tackle poverty for future generations by getting involved with the Poverty Truth Commission. To learn more and show your interest you can contact: Quinn Stanger: 07706326845 or email: quinn.stanger@children-ne.org.uk

Please see the flyer attached to the Iona Star for further information. Thank you.

School Uniform

We have noticed that several pupils are wearing very short skirts, particularly in Y5 and Y6. We appreciate that this is an age where pupils begin to express their personal preferences and individuality. However, at Primary school, the children do still sit on the carpet, cross their legs, complete practical lessons which can involve bending and stretching over tables and play gymnastics / dancing games on the playground with their friends.

Staff have noticed that several girls are restricted in their movements and are unable to sit comfortably on the carpet or cross their legs as their skirts are so tight and short. We are also concerned that several pupils may be embarrassed if they realised how much can be seen when they bend over. We wish to protect their modesty and dignity where we can. Could we please ask all parents to check the length of their children's skirts to ensure they are as safe and comfortable as possible in school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sacramental Preparation - Y4

Pupils in Y4 will begin their Sacramental Preparation journey in February. There will be a meeting for parents on **Monday 24th January** at 3:40pm in the School Hall with Father David, members of school staff and the Catechists from the parish.

Parents are welcome to attend in person. Social distancing will be in place and we would kindly request that parents wear masks unless they are exempt. If anyone would prefer an online link for Microsoft Teams, please email: Year4@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk

We look forward to working together as you begin this next stage in your child's faith development.

Head Lice

We have had several cases of [head lice](#) in school this week. Please check your child's hair carefully.

COVID-19 Updates

We have seen a high rise in the number of positive cases of Covid-19 throughout the school this week. Reception, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 are well over the 10% marker.

However, there are also positive cases in Year 1 and Year 2. These are the highest numbers we have ever seen at St. Columba's which fits with the regional and national data at this current time.

We would ask parents to please remain vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19, or any more general signs that your child is unwell. Where parents feel it is appropriate, we would recommend the use of regular lateral flow tests.

We are continuing to follow government guidance in school by ensuring that: windows are open for ventilation; additional cleaning takes place; the children follow good hand and respiratory hygiene. They are also remaining in smaller groups for assemblies, as well lunch and break times.

As parents may have seen, self-isolation guidance was updated again last night. From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and providing they do not have a temperature.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate **until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days** or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Once someone has completed their full 10 days of isolation, a negative lateral flow result is not needed to allow a return to normal activities. They can stop isolating provided they no longer have a temperature.

Thank you to all parents for your support at this time.

Pizza Party Funday Lunch

A reminder that our 'Pizza Party' themed funday lunch will take place in school on **Thursday 20th January 2022**. Pupils will have the chance to win prizes on the day and be entered into a special, Local Authority wide, prize draw.

The menu was attached to the Iona Star last week.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are invited to stay for a school meal on this day. A funday lunch for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will cost £2.25 (unless pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal).

Pupils in Year 3,4,5 and 6 need a ParentPay account to pay for their meal. If you require an activation code please email parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk. Please support your school to ensure a high uptake of school meals on this census day.

For more information visit my.northtyneside.gov.uk/pizza-party Thank you.