



Iona Star

Friday 4th February 2022
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St. Columba's Roman
Catholic Primary School -
Wallsend

Important Information for pupils who attend Breakfast and After School Club

Please read the following important messages carefully:

Over recent weeks, staff have raised concerns that children are being dropped off for Breakfast Club at the bottom of the car park or on the driveway leading up to school. This can be as early as 7:30am when it is still quite dark outside. At this time, lorries and vans can also be accessing the driveway to Eothen Home, Beadnell Court or our school kitchen. We have deliveries of fresh food and milk every morning. On a couple of occasions recently there has been a 'near miss' as a delivery lorry had not seen two children walking through the car park after being dropped off at the entrance to the school gates. Please could we ask parents to bring their children to the Activity Centre doors, especially when being dropped off for Breakfast Club in the early hours. Thank you.

Please note that breakfast is served between 7:30am and 8:30am only. If your child requires a breakfast, please ensure they arrive at Breakfast Club before 8:30am. Thank you.

Please could we ask children not to bring in their own cereal and breakfast items from home. Staff have to take into account any food allergies and medical needs for all of the children who attend Breakfast Club. Some items brought in from home could pose a risk to other children. If parents have any questions about the food on offer at Breakfast Club, please speak to Mrs Cramman or Mrs Adamson.

When collecting your children from After School Club, please let the staff know if another family member or friend is picking up that night. Again, during the darker evenings and at later collection times, it is important that Mrs Cramman or Mrs Adamson are aware of exactly who the adults are coming to the Activity Centre doors between 4:00pm and 5:45pm.

Thank you very much for your support and understanding in these important safety matters.

Punctuality

Several children are regularly late for school at present. We appreciate how the dark, cold mornings make early starts more difficult, but children do need to arrive at school on time in order for a smooth start to their morning routines and lessons.

Please note the gates are only open from 8:50am to 9:00am. **This includes Nursery.** Where possible, please ensure that your child arrives at school before 9:00am. Thank you for your support.

Congratulations

Well done to Kiren in Y2 who has achieved two certificates. One in Karate for passing his 8th grade yellow belt exam and one for gaining his bronze award in swimming. Keep up the hard work Kiren!

Sacramental Preparation - Y4

Just a reminder for parents that the first Sacramental Preparation session will begin for the Y4 children after school on **Thursday 10th February**. Children can be collected from the Y4 Fire Door at 5:00pm. Many thanks.

Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies are very excited to announce their next project. They have chosen to sponsor a Guide Dog for the Blind.

Starting on Monday 7th February, the Mini Vinnies are asking for donations of £1 in exchange for a 'dog tag' ticket. Children can choose the name to put on the dog tag. On Friday 18th February we will draw out two 'dog tags' and the winners will receive a cute, cuddly, guide dog pup toy!

'Dog tag' tickets will be on sale daily. Please put your donation in an envelope with your child's name on the front. Thank you.

Once we start the sponsorship, the school will receive updates on our puppy throughout its training. The commitment needs to be for a minimum of two years, so this is quite a responsibility. However, we are sure you agree it is a worthy cause which our Mini Vinnies have wanted to be involved with for some time. We look forward to sponsoring our Guide Dog very soon!

COVID-19 Updates

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and understanding with regards to helping to slow the transmission of Covid-19. It has been another reassuring week with cases on a downward trend.

We currently only have four pupils isolating throughout the whole school. Two of these pupils are due back on Monday.

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

St. Columba's Parish Fundraiser

St. Columba's Church are holding a fundraiser on **Saturday 19th February 2022** from 7:00pm - 11:00pm at the Lindisfarne. Events on the night include a pie and pea supper, bingo, a raffle and two excellent bands to dance the night away! Tickets are priced at £8 each and are available after all weekend Masses. All funds raised will go towards the cost of the new roof and building project at St. Columba's Church. It would be wonderful to see you there.