

Iona Star

Friday 4th March 2022

www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk



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St. Columba's Roman
Catholic Primary School -
Wallsend

World Book Day - THANK YOU!

It was wonderful to see the children dressed in their pyjamas on World Book Day. We all enjoyed singing our special song about 'Books' with Mrs Harris in the Hall and sharing our favourite bedtime stories together in class. A warm and snuggly day was had by all!

Part of the event was dedicated to raising money for our School Library. We are in desperate need of some new books for the children to read and enjoy. We are delighted to announce that, from our two raffles, a total of **£400** was raised! This is tremendous and will help us to purchase new texts.

THANK YOU so much to everyone who bought tickets for our teddy bear raffle and hamper raffle.

THANK YOU very much to all of the staff who helped to organise such a successful event.

The lucky winners were drawn in assembly this morning and are as follows:

Teddy Bear Raffle (raised £250)

Nursery

Connor
Grace

Reception

Destin

Year 2

Polly
Kiren
Jake
Jazmine
Mason
Evie

Year 3

Jasmine
Isobel
Charlie
Maisie
Tommy Ray
Finlay
Abbi
Amelia
Florence

Year 1

Mollie
Leon
Charlie A

Year 4

Fin
Belle
Jake
Pavel

Year 5

Bogdan
Erin
Kaejtan
Mollie
Zac

Year 6

Autumn

Hampers Raffle (raised £150)

Nursery

Annabelle
Elson

Year 3

Violet
Emily

Year 5

Zac

Year 6

Chloe

Staff

Mrs Craggs
Sarah, our school cook

Congratulations

Well done to Kiren in Y2 who can now swim 400m back crawl, which was 20 laps of the pool. He has a wonderful certificate for his achievements.

Congratulations to Jazmine in Y2 who was awarded 'Star of the Week' at her gymnastics club. She has a beautiful new leotard to celebrate her hard work.

Well done to Harrison in Y5 who has a superb trophy for coming in 2nd place overall during the downhill mountain biking challenge. The course had lots of jumps, twists, turns and was a timed event. Excellent work!

Congratulations to Erin in Y5 who competed in her first cheer dance competition last weekend. She was absolutely brilliant and her family are so proud of her. Erin made it into the semi-finals for one of the dances and was awarded a first prize trophy for her own dance.

Well done to Jessica in Y4 who was awarded 2nd place in a street dance competition. She participated in group, duo and solo dances and has a wonderful medal for her achievements.

Keep dancing girls!

Congratulations to Thomas in Y4 who was awarded 'Player of the Week' for Wallsend RFU. He played a rugby match at Kingston Park Stadium.

Class of the Month!

At present, we are working with North Tyneside 'Go Smarter Team' encouraging the children to walk or bring their bikes and scooters to school. Every week, the children take part in a travel survey and the results are recorded. Congratulations to Year 1 who are our 'Class of the Month'. Keep up the hard work everyone!

Sacramental Preparation - Y4

Just a reminder for parents that the fourth Sacramental Preparation session will be held for the Y4 children after school on **Thursday 10th March**. All parents are invited into the Hall at 4:45pm to share their special reflection and liturgy. Children will then be dismissed from the hall at 5:00pm. Thank you.

Fairtrade Fortnight!

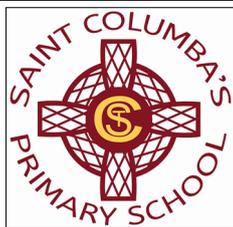
It's Fairtrade Fortnight! This is another one of our traditions at St. Columba's that we are looking forward to beginning again.

For the next two weeks, our Mini Vinnies will be selling tasty treats that they have made with Fairtrade products (no nuts used).

The children in school can look forward to trying their delicious Malteser Tiffin, Smartie Delight or Cranberry Surprise, all for only 50p a slice!

The Fairtrade goods will be on sale in the Hall every afternoon playtime for the next two weeks. All profits will be sent to Cafod's Ukraine appeal.

There will be plenty to go around so remember your 50ps over the next two weeks. Well done Y4.



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St. Columba's Church Ukraine Appeal

I'm sure we are all shocked and saddened by the news of the tragic events taking place in the Ukraine at present.

Fr. David has launched an appeal in conjunction with a parishioner at Our Lady and St. Anne's who is a medical practitioner. She and her colleagues are organising a collection of much needed resources to be sent to the Ukrainian borders. However, we need to act quickly to help. The transport is leaving on **Sunday 13th March**.

If anyone would like to donate any of the following **NEW, UNUSED** items, these can be brought into school next week. We will then deliver our school's donations to St. Columba's Church on the afternoon of **Friday 11th March**. Together, we can make a real difference. Thank you so much in advance for your help and support.

gloves	scarves	hats
warm socks	vests	underwear
toothbrushes	toothpaste	shampoo
shower gel	roll-on deodorants	
first aid supplies		

Prayers for Peace in the World

Many of the children have been discussing the events that are taking place in the Ukraine amongst themselves or to their teachers. Obviously, in school, we are only sharing age appropriate information. Our focus has been on keeping the Ukrainian people in our prayers. We prayed for peace in our world during our Ash Wednesday liturgies.

As families, you may wish to share this prayer together:

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those who are suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.
Amen

Wallsend Children's Community

Across the next few weeks, The Wallsend Children's Community Facebook page will be uploading hints and tips for children and adults as to how to deal with upsetting items that we may have seen, heard or read in the news. Please find a poster explaining more information attached to the Iona Star tonight. Look out for more details on their Facebook page by clicking the link [here](#).

Covid-19 Updates

As parents will be aware, over half term the Government updated national Covid guidance, including information for schools.

While the legal requirement for positive cases to self isolate has been removed, at St. Columba's, we will be following the Government guidance which continues to recommend that pupils who test positive do not attend school for at least five days.

Students with Covid Symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 (a recent onset of a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell) you should order/book a PCR test. Children are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while they wait for the test result.

If you can, you should let people, who they have been in close contact with, know about their positive test result.

Students with Covid-19 should not attend school while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

They can return to school after ten days isolation regardless of the results of LFD tests.

Students who live someone who has Covid-19 should continue to attend school as normal.

Testing

The government has removed the guidance for staff and students in schools to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. However, in response to a local outbreak, routine testing may be reintroduced on the advice of North Tyneside Public Health.

Families will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or online.

Contact Tracing

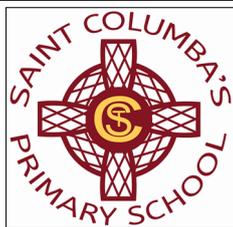
Routine contact tracing will end. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.

Ventilation and Hand Washing

Good ventilation and hand hygiene are still important protective factors when limiting the spread of the virus. We will continue to have windows / doors open in classrooms and communal areas and at specified points during the day the children will wash or sanitise their hands.

Thank you once again for your continued support in helping us to reduce the risk from Covid to children, families and staff at St. Columba's.

Please find a letter attached to the Iona Star tonight from North Tyneside's Public Health Team confirming this information.



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Important Dates for your Diary

Please mark the following important dates in your diary. Further information will follow in due course.

EYFS Parents' Evening

Wednesday 30th March
Wednesday 6th April

Y1 - Y6 Parents' Evening

Monday 4th April
Wednesday 6th April

Y6 SATs Information Evening

Wednesday 30th March

Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust Spring Newsletter

Please find the latest edition of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust Spring newsletter on their website by clicking the link [here](#).

The newsletter contains an update from the Chief Executive, a message from the Chair of Directors and other key information about school success stories and a focus on Key Stage 2 curriculum development.

Bikeability

A last minute cancellation has meant that St. Columba's is able to offer Bikeability training to the following classes next week:

Level 1 training

Tuesday 8th March

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils only
12 pupils in the morning session
12 pupils in the afternoon session
This will take place on the playground

Level 2 training

Wednesday 9th March

Thursday 10th March

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils only
6 pupils per day
This will take place in the surrounding streets around school. Pupils must be able to confidently ride a bike to participate in the Level 2 training.

Children will need to bring their own bike and helmet to school.

Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Parents must send an email to school to book a place for their child so we can monitor the time and date emails are sent in order to allocate places fairly. Emails must be received by 9am on Monday 7th March. We will then confirm successful places and send further information out to parents.
Thank you for your understanding.

Tennis Club

Attached to the Iona Star tonight is a flyer for Collingwood Tennis club who are based at Priors Park in Tynemouth. The new season starts at the beginning of April for junior and senior coaching. Junior Coaching is FREE IN APRIL AND MAY as part of your £40 membership! Please see the flyer for further information or contact Stuart Cass on 07787543072 / stuart.cass4@gmail.com
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CollingwoodTennisClub

Child Choking Hazard Warning

Following an incident in a Nursery in Edinburgh, our Health and Safety advisors have sent the following important information:

Choking occurs when a foreign object becomes stuck in the airway and prevents breathing. People of any age can choke while they are eating or drinking. However, children are more at risk than an adult because they do not chew as well, their swallowing may not be as co-ordinated, and they get distracted during mealtimes. Most choking incidents involving preschool children occur while they are eating. Certain types of food have been identified as high risk because of their shape, texture or size.

Round food such as grapes, nuts, cherry tomatoes and hard sweets can easily become trapped and form a perfect plug, effectively sealing the windpipe. Evidence suggests that other high-risk foods include raw jelly, popcorn, chips, raw vegetables, raisins, peanut butter and chunks of meat or sausage such as hotdogs.

Foods that might pose a risk should be either avoided or cut up into small pieces.

Voluntary Food and Drink Guidelines for Early Years Settings in England — A Practical Guide, published by the Children's Food Trust states that to reduce the risk of choking:

- remove any stones and pips before serving
- halve small fruit and vegetables like grapes and cherry tomatoes
- cut large fruits, like melon, into slices instead of small chunks
- do not give whole nuts to children under five years old.

While food is perhaps the highest risk area for choking, children can of course choke on other items as well. Small objects and toys that could be ingested and cause choking should therefore be kept out of the reach of very young children. This includes items such as button batteries, coins, beads, balloons, strings and cords.

Please could we ask all parents, especially if you have a child in EYFS, to check your child's packed lunch carefully. We would encourage parents to follow the guidance above when preparing fruit and vegetables. Thank you for your support.