

# Iona Star

Friday 1st April 2022  
[www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk)



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Catholic Primary School -  
Wallsend

## A Message from Northumbria Police

Parents may be aware, from social media, that a serious incident was reported by a 63 year old female at around 4:00pm on Monday, March 28th in the Rising Sun Country Park in Wallsend. An appeal for information is ongoing. Parents may wish to click the link below to find out more details, including a description of the alleged attacker:

[Northumbria Police Appeal](#)

Anyone who has any information is asked to contact Northumbria Police via the [Tell Us Something](#) page of its website or by calling 101 quoting reference NP-20220328-0700. Alternatively, contact Crime stoppers anonymously on TEL: 0800 555 111.

Northumbria Police would like to reassure parents that, while incidents of this nature are very rare in North Tyneside, understandably this has shocked the borough. The Local Authority is working very closely with the Police to support an increase in patrols and offer reassurance to our communities:

*"Your safety is paramount and we understand this may cause concern. Officers will be on patrol in the park and surrounding areas, so if you have any concerns, please don't be afraid to approach our officers - they are here to help."*

As a school, we would like to highlight this incident to parents of pupils, especially in Year 5 and Year 6. We are aware that many of our pupils walk home unaccompanied at this age and often meet in the park together after school. We would ask you to talk to your children this weekend, where appropriate, about how to keep themselves safe after school.

## Online Safety - Safety Cards

As part of our commitment to educating children and parents about online safety, we will be publishing 'Safety Cards' each week on the Iona Star. These are 'quick reads' designed to give parents hints and tips around online safety when using specific social media apps or games.

The Safety Card highlights the age restriction and gives easy to follow information around how to block or report concerns.

Attached to the Iona Star tonight is a Safety Card for **WhatsApp** and one for **Snapchat**.

Two more cards will be published next week.

If parents would like any further information about this, please ring the school office.

## Closure of After School Club - 08.04.2022

After School Club will be closed on **Friday 8th April** only. This is to allow for a deep clean of the toys, resources and Activity Centre in preparation for the Summer term. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Breakfast Club will be open as usual.

## Congratulations

We have many fantastic swimmers at St. Columba's. The following children have been awarded wonderful certificates and badges for their achievements:

Henry in Reception - 5m  
Charlie in Year 1 - Stage 3  
Alfie in Year 1 - Stage 3  
Charlotte in Year 3 - Level 3  
Leah in Year 4 - Stage 8, 200m and 400m  
Ethan in Year 4 - 25m  
Sophie in Year 5 - Level 5  
Chloe in Year 6 - Stage 4 and 10m

We also have many skilled karate experts. Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded their belts and certificates this week:

Fraiser in Nursery - Yellow Stripe  
Mateo in Year 2 - Brown Stripe  
Jay in Year 2 - 7th Grade Orange Belt

Well done to Ethan in Y4 whose team were awarded 1st place in the Rugby Under 9s Coast Festival at the weekend. Ethan's team are in 3rd place in the main league. He plays for Wallsend RFC.

Congratulations to Charli in Y1 who has been awarded trophies and certificates to celebrate her achievements in her dance exams. Charli has passed Intro 2 Tap and Ballet.

## 'Wor Flags' NUF Competition

Newcastle United Foundation has teamed up with 'Wor Flags' supporters' group. Two weeks ago, they ran a competition for the children in Key Stage 2. Their task was to design a flag based on your love of one (or both!) of the following:

- City of Newcastle
- Newcastle United Football Club

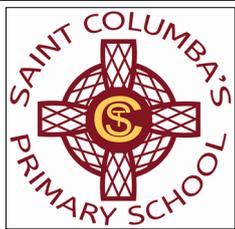
We had lots of entries from our school, the NUF team were overwhelmed! The first stage was to pick one winner from each year group. Our lucky year group winners are:

Year 3 - Jacob  
Year 4 - Ava  
Year 5 - Charlotte  
Year 6 - Autumn

**Congratulations to you all!**

The next stage was to pick an overall winner from St. Columba's who now has the opportunity to go to St. James' Park and present their winning design to a panel of judges. 'Wor Flags' will select their favourite design from all of the schools present. The winning flag will be on display this season and the lucky winner will wave it for its debut at a home game!

We are delighted to announce that **Ava** in Year 4 was the overall winner from St. Columba's. We wish her all the best and lots of 'good' luck' on her trip to St. James' Park. Hopefully, we will see your design being waved on the pitch this season, Ava!



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## Sacramental Preparation - Y4

Just a reminder for parents that the final Sacramental Preparation session will be held for the Y4 children after school on **Thursday 7th April**. All parents are invited into the Hall at 4:45pm to share a special reflection and liturgy. Children will then be dismissed from the hall at 5:00pm. Thank you.

## Teacher Training Virtual Drop-In Session

Are you interested in a career in teaching? Carmel Teacher Training Partnership will be hosting a virtual drop-in session on **Monday 4th April** via TEAMS from 10:00am to 10:30am. To book a place, please email: [teachertraining@carmel.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:teachertraining@carmel.bhcet.org.uk)  
Or visit their website for further information:  
[Carmel Teacher Training](#)

## NUF Easter Holiday Courses

Newcastle United Foundation will be running the following Easter Holiday Football courses at the venues listed below:

\* Goals, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5HP

\* Consett AFC, Belle View Stadium, Delves Lane, DH8 7BF

\* John Spence, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU

Join us from 11th April to 14th April from 9.30am - 3.30pm. Ages range from 5 - 11 and the cost is £50 per child

To book your place, visit: [nufoundation.org.uk](http://nufoundation.org.uk)

## Events Next Week

Next week our Year 5 pupils will attend the North Tyneside skipping festival at St. Thomas More on Tuesday 5th April.

Our Year 3 pupils will be attending the Quicksticks Hockey Festival at The Parks on Thursday 7th April.

We wish Year 3 and Year 5 the best of luck - enjoy yourselves!

On Thursday 7th April, we will also be celebrating our end of term Lenten Mass with Father David. Unfortunately, parents are unable to attend due to restrictions with space in the Hall. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers during Mass.

## Easter Holidays

School closes on **Friday 8th April** for two weeks for the Easter holidays. School will reopen again to all pupils on **Monday 25th April**.

## Brides Dream

A message from Brides Dream:  
Our 2022 Communion dresses and accessories are now in stock at: Brides Dream, 37 Coultts Rd, Walkergate, Newcastle. NE6 4RB  
For appointments please call - 0191 2240644

## New Catering Provider -

### Welcome to Mellors!

Our new Catering Provider officially took over our school kitchen as of today - Friday 1st April. We look forward to working in partnership with Mellors and providing good quality lunches for our pupils.

Parents should have received copies of the new menus and information about how to pay for a school dinner for your child via the School Gateway app. **ALL** parents need to register their child on this app, regardless of whether they benefit from Universal Free School Meals or Free School Meals. This is in order for the School Office to order lunches for your child.

Next week, Mellors will be serving 'Week 2' of their menu. Please look out for further information to follow over the next few weeks or visit their website:

[Mellors](#)

If parents have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

We welcome Mellors to our St. Columba's family!

## Parents' Evening Appointments

A reminder that parents' evenings will take place on the following days:

### Nursery and Reception:

Wednesday 6th April and Wednesday 27th April  
Year 1 to Year 6

Monday 4th April and Wednesday 6th April

Parents can now attend together. There is no limit on attendance since restrictions have been lifted. However, we are asking all parents to enter and exit via the classroom fire doors and to walk around the outside of the premises rather than through school. This will reduce the volume of parents waiting in our small, narrow corridors.

We are also asking parents to please try to attend at the allocated time and stay for the allotted 10 minutes only. If parents have more questions, or would like more detail following the 10 minute appointment, please contact the office or your child's class teacher and a follow up appointment can be arranged.

It is so important that teachers keep to time, where possible, in order to reduce waiting times for other families.

Thank you for your support in this matter. We look forward to seeing you next week.

## Wallsend Online

Don't forget to visit the [Wallsend Online](#) website for the latest news in our area, interesting information and support for families. They are always looking for articles that would be of interest to local people!