

Iona Star

Friday 8th April 2022

www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk



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St. Columba's Roman
Catholic Primary School -
Wallsend

Online Safety - Safety Cards

Please find attached the next two Safety Cards in our series of 'quick reads'. These are designed to give parents hints and tips around online safety when using specific social media apps or games.

The Safety Cards highlight age restrictions and give easy to follow information around how to block or report concerns.

Attached to the Iona Star tonight is a Safety Card for **Discord** and one for **Instagram**.

Two more cards will be published after Easter.

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

Additional Bank Holiday

As parents will be aware, it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June with an extra Bank Holiday falling in the May half term week. Schools are therefore able to plan one more day where they are **closed** to staff and pupils during this academic year.

In discussions with our Governors, and in conjunction with St. Thomas More, the extra day's holiday will be the last Friday of the summer term – **Friday 22nd July 2022**.

Our planned training day will now move to **Thursday 21st July 2022**.

Therefore, school will close to pupils on **Wednesday 20th July 2022**.

School Lunches

Our new catering provider, Mellors, have served lunches for their first full week. It is always difficult taking over a new establishment, ordering food from different suppliers and working within changing regimes and protocols.

The feedback from the children has been mostly positive this week and our kitchen staff have been delighted with the progress they have made. After Easter, we will begin on **Week 1** of the published menu. This will allow us to assess and review a full 3 week menu, take feedback from the children around their likes, dislikes and personal preferences and make any necessary changes to the published menu.

We will keep parents informed as we progress through next half term and continue to make tweaks and changes in order to serve the best meals possible to our pupils. Thank you.

Dogs on the Premises

Could we please remind parents that, where possible, dogs should not be walked on leads around the premises. Some of the pupils in Key Stage 1 were upset at home time this week as they were a little frightened of one of the larger dogs.

Please could we ask parents to leave dogs at home, tie them to the fence at the front of school, or carry them where appropriate. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Congratulations

Well done to Jayden in Y5 who has achieved his purple stripe belt in Shotokan Karate. He has a fabulous certificate for his achievements.

Congratulations to our superb swimmers who have been awarded the following certificates and badges:

Joshua in Year 1 - Stage 3

Rosie in Year 1 - 5 metres

Halle in Year 1 - Stage 3 and 25 metres

Jay in Year 2 - Stage 5

Alfie in Year 4 - Stage 8

Alfie in Y4 was also awarded 'Man of the Match' at the weekend for his football team. He plays for Hebburn Involve FC. Well done Alfie!

Congratulations to Thomas and Ethan in Y4 who have fantastic medals for their achievements at a rugby festival held in Blyth last weekend. The boys' team won one game, drew one game and lost one game. They play for Wallsend RFC.

'Wor Flags' NUF Competition

Last week, we reported that Ava in Year 4 was the overall winner from St. Columba's who was chosen to attend the next stage of the competition at St. James' Park. We are delighted to announce that Ava's flag design won the **entire** competition! Her design will be made into a flag which will debut at Newcastle's final game of the season against Arsenal in May.

We are so proud of Ava! She presented her winning design to the judges, spoke brilliantly about the rationale behind her choices and was an absolute credit to her family and St. Columba's. We look forward to seeing Ava's winning flag design proudly flying high with 'Wor Flags' at St. James' Park.

NUF Easter Holiday Courses

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

* Goals, High Gosforth Park,

* Consett AFC, Belle View Stadium,

* John Spence, Preston Road,

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.

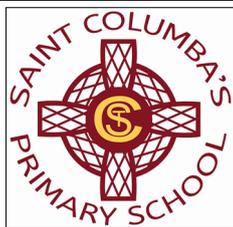
To book your place, visit: nufoundation.org.uk

Gardening Club

Mrs Rowan is very keen to set up a Gardening Club again in order to maintain our large school grounds. We are blessed with a wonderful outdoor space. However, this is hard to upkeep! If any parents, grandparents or family members would be willing to help, please could you email:

gardening@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk

Mrs Rowan will then gather expressions of interest. This will help us to plan future events and potential 'gardening days'. Thank you for your support.



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Updated Guidance from Public Health

Please read the following information carefully from our North Tyneside Public Health Team:

Changes to COVID guidance and what to do if your child is unwell

As parents may know, from 1st April 2022 free universal testing for COVID-19 is no longer available for most people.

Attending face to face education or childcare is hugely important for children and young people's health and their future. As we learn to live safely with coronavirus (COVID-19), the imperative remains to reduce disruption to children and young people's education.

As the national guidance has changed, the information below explains what you should do if your child is unwell or has a positive test result for COVID-19.

Children who are unwell

Children and young people with mild symptoms (e.g. a runny nose) who are otherwise well will be advised to continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

They can return to educational or childcare settings when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough.

Positive COVID-19 result

Any child or young person with a positive COVID-19 test result (for example through private testing) should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for **3 days** after the day they took the test. They can return to their educational setting after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

An adult with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home for 5 days after they took the test.

At St. Columba's, we continue, where possible, to promote effective hand hygiene and good ventilation. Thank you for your support and understanding over the last two difficult years.

Childline Kids

Childline Kids has a special area of the Childline website specifically for children under the age of 12. *Childline Kids* has child-friendly advice on topics such as family and relationships, school worries, self-esteem, coronavirus, staying safe and bullying. It also features games, videos and friendly illustrations, providing a fun and reassuring safe space for children online.

Help is always available by calling Childline free on 0800 1111 at any time. Children can also log in and chat to a counsellor online - it's a safe area for children to share how they are feeling.

We would highly recommend parents and children visit the website to find out more: childline.org.uk/kids

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!

Easter Holidays

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

We wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter. Have a wonderful rest with your families.

Holy Week Services

During this important week, Fr David would like to invite as many of you as possible to attend the Holy Week celebrations. Times of Masses and services can be found below or by visiting the Parish website at: Wallsend Catholic Churches

Our Lady and St. Columba's

Good Friday: 15th April at 3:30pm

Easter Vigil: 16th April at 5:00pm

St. Bernadette

Good Friday: 15th April at 2:00pm

Easter Sunday: 17th April at 11:30am

Our Lady and St. Aidan

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 14th April at 6:00pm

Good Friday: 15th April at 12:00pm

Easter Sunday: 17th April at 10:00am

A Happy and Holy Easter to you all.

Have a restful holiday.

