

Iona Star

Friday 6th May 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 **Facebook** and one for **YouTube Kids**.

Two final cards will be published next week.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to our Year 4 pupils who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday. They attended Mass at St. Columba's Church at 10:00am and made their First Confession with Father David in school in the afternoon.

The children were an absolute credit to St. Columba's and their families. Father David commented upon their reverent and sincere confessions. Well done Year 4!

Sacramental Preparation

Tomorrow, Saturday 7th May, our first Year 4 group will make their Holy Communion at Mass at St. Columba's Church at 5pm.

They have worked incredibly hard for this day. Our sincere thanks goes to Mrs Watson, Mrs Doherty and the team of Catechists from school and the parish who have worked so hard to prepare the children for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

We ask you to keep all of our Year 4 children in your thoughts and prayers and we pray especially for Amelia, Ava, Belle, Isabelle and Eliza this weekend. We wish them all a wonderful day on Saturday and many congratulations.

Swimming Lessons in Year 5

A reminder that Year 5 will begin their swimming sessions this Monday, 9th May until Friday 20th May. The coach will pick the children up after lunch and they will receive their lessons during the afternoon. Girls need to have full costumes and boys must wear swimming trunks, not baggy shorts. All children will need a towel but will not be allowed to use shampoo, shower gel or deodorant spray. If parents have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Shackford or Mrs Garbutt. Thank you.

Letters regarding Year 6 swimming will be sent home in due course.

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!

Congratulations

Well done to Fin in Year 4 who has achieved his 200m swimming certificate. His favourite stroke is front crawl.

Congratulations to Jooles in Year 4 who attended a football tournament at Flamingo Land last weekend. His team came in 3rd place and he has a wonderful medal for his achievements.

Well done to Rowan in Year 6 who has been awarded 1st place in a weightlifting competition. He was competing in the under 10s age group and under 49kg weight category. Rowan has added 11kg since his last competition. Many congratulations on your gold place medal!

Please bring your medals, certificates and good news to Mrs Garbutt's office. We love to hear about the children's successes and achievements.

Weekly Attendance

We are pleased to announce that our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this week is 94%! This is slightly lower than last week's. Keep trying hard everyone!

We are delighted to announce that Year 2 and Year 5 have 99% attendance for this week and are the joint winners of our attendance trophy. Congratulations to both classes!

Holidays in Term Time

We understand how the pandemic has impacted upon family holidays. Travel has been incredibly difficult for us all and now that the restrictions have lifted, it is encouraging that we can spend time away relaxing with family once more.

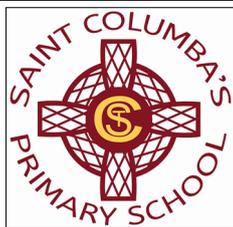
We appreciate that pre-booked holidays may have been rescheduled several times and diary dates are always difficult to organise. However, we do have a lot of families that are going away over the next three weeks.

In order for us to monitor holiday requests, and in line with our attendance protocols and procedures, please could we ask all parents to complete a 'Pupil Absence Request Form' and hand this in to the office. A copy of this form is attached to the Iona Star tonight. This needs to be completed even if you have already spoken to Mrs Craggs or Mrs Wallace recently. Thank you for your support.

Reception Stay and Play

Mrs Harris and the Reception children are inviting their parents to attend a class Stay and Play session on either Tuesday 17th May from 2pm - 3pm or Wednesday 18th May from 2pm - 3pm.

Due to space, and for health and safety reasons, only one parent or family member can attend one of the sessions. Thank you for your understanding. Please save the dates and more information will follow this week.



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SATs week

This coming week Year 6 will be sitting their SAT tests. The children have worked **incredibly hard** for these and we are all **very proud** of the dedication and commitment they have shown. We know the Year 6 pupils will do their very best and that is all anyone can ask of them.

Our sincere thanks must go to Miss Quinn, Mr Keilty and Mrs Carr for preparing the children so well.

The tests are a statutory requirement of the Government, therefore, wherever possible, **please could you ensure that your child attends school all week and is punctual every morning.** If your child is seriously unwell, please let Mrs Garbutt know as soon as possible as we have standard procedures to follow in the event that a pupil is unable to sit their SAT paper. Mrs Craggs will be providing toast and juice during the morning to give the children that extra boost!

We are all very proud of you Year 6 - make sure that you get some early nights, have a good breakfast and keep smiling!

As Year 2 parents may be aware, we are now also in the Key Stage 1 testing period. There are no set dates or times for the Year 2 tests; they are completed throughout the course of May. The children are very often unaware that they have completed anything other than a 'special job'! If parents have any concerns, please speak to Mrs Whitelaw or Mrs Maddison.

Further information about the statutory tests in Year 2 and Year 6 from the Standards and Testing Agency can be found [here](#)

The STA has produced a short information guide and video for parents which you may find useful.

Year 5 Residential to Holy Island

Thank you so much to our Year 5 parents for their prompt response to the letters regarding the residential visit to Holy Island. We will be holding a parents' meeting, in school, on **Tuesday 17th May at 3:30pm**. Here, we will share more information about the three day residential, itinerary and what to pack! Please save the date.

Additional Bank Holiday

Please do not forget the published changes to the end of the summer term holidays. This takes into account the extra Bank Holiday that schools are entitled to, which currently falls in the May half term week.

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

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

St. Columba's Church

Fundraising and Parish Events

On Friday 3rd June, the Wallsend Catholic Churches will be hosting a celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All are invited to a family picnic on St. Aidan's school field. Any profits raised will go towards the St. Columba's roof appeal.

It will be a great family day out which will include activities such as a cake stall, bottle tombola, raffle, cream teas, face painting, bouncy castle, plant stalls etc.

The Steve Hepworth Band will also be performing all of the classics from across the decades - 60s to the present day!

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Come anytime during the course of the afternoon.

On Thursday 9th June, we celebrate the Feast of St. Columba. The Wallsend Community Choir will be singing at St. Columba's Church from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Tickets are priced at £5 and any profits raised will go towards the St. Columba's roof appeal. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church Hall.

The repertoire of the Choir is very varied from musical theatre, classical, popular and modern day songs to hymns. There is something for everyone! Tickets will be on sale in all three parishes after Mass at the weekend. We look forward to seeing you there.

As a school, we will also be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and St. Columba's Feast Day with the children. More information will follow.

Dogs on the Premises

Could we please remind parents that dogs **should not** be walked on leads around the premises. We have had **another** distressing incident at home time this week where some of the pupils in Key Stage 1 were upset as they were 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.

If this matter does not improve for the Key Stage 1 pupils, we may have to discuss further options with our Local Governing Committee. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Gateway Accounts

Please could we remind all parents to top up their child's School Gateway account if schools meals are paid for. Some accounts are in a small amount of deficit. Please remember to add credit to these regularly if your child orders a school meal.

Thank you for your support and understanding.