

St. Colman's Primary School

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ST. COLMAN'S P.S.
DROMORE

*Learn together, play
together, thrive together.*

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Dear Parent/ Guardian

We have had an extremely busy start to the year, with lots of new procedures and routines to get used to! It hasn't always been smooth sailing, but thankfully we have had a hugely successful restart. I would like to thank you on behalf of all the staff for your support and cooperation as we navigated the initial reopening phase of our return. It is a credit to our whole school community that our children have adapted and settled back in to school life so well. They have been engaged in a wide range of activities throughout September and it is fantastic to see them learning and playing together again. Check in with our school website to keep up-to-date with all that is going on.

School Motto/Crest Competition

Last year we ran competitions to create a new school motto and also to design a new school crest. I am delighted to announce that we now have a winning motto which will appear on all future school letters and documents and will also be added to our website. The Student Council were involved in shortlisting the entries and from that the staff voted on their favourite. The pupil who came up with the motto is now a past pupil; congratulations to Lucy Dornan for her winning entry: **Learn together, play together, thrive together.** Your prize will be winging its way to you soon!

The school crest competition produced many great ideas and we were able to combine these with entries from a previous competition that had been held a number of years ago. As a result, we have sent our concepts to a designer, who is currently drawing up our new crest and we will hopefully be able to reveal it in the coming weeks.

Designated Charity

Over the last few days you will have received a letter and envelope with information regarding our charity for this term which we have decided will be **Daisy Lodge, Cancer Fund for Children**. These donations will be made on behalf of the school and in particular Mrs Dwyer who asked that she receive no gifts on her departure, but rather we did some fundraising for this much deserving charity. All contributions, however small, will be very much appreciated.

Morning/Evening Routines

The phased drop off and collection times, along with the new entrance and exit systems, are working well. Please ensure that your child is dropped off at the correct time slot in the morning. If your allocated slot no longer suits, ring the school office and arrange a different slot. It is important that children in the older classes do not enter the school grounds before 8.30am, always ensure that a member of staff is at your child's class entrance before dropping them off. Children should not be 'queuing' in the mornings before the door is opened.

Reminders:

As we continue to adjust to our new school day it is important that you follow the procedures and protocols outlined in previous correspondence. Here are just a few reminders of some of those:

- **Unnecessary items must not be brought into school**, children are only permitted to bring their lunch/snack (in a plastic lunchbox or disposable bag) and water to school. The only other items permitted are those agreed with the class teacher e.g. reading books.
- **Attendance:** it is vital that you report any absences to the school office on the first morning that your child is off school. This must be communicated via phonecall preferably before 9.30am. On your child's return, send a message to their teacher via Class Dojo to explain. Our updated Attendance Policy will be available soon.
- **Children coming to school late or leaving early** e.g. for a medical appointment must be signed in and out at the school office. We are using online forms, so if possible bring your mobile phone with you to access this.

Communication

We are currently using a number of platforms to communicate with you and we ask that if you have these downloaded to your phone please ensure they are updated regularly and notifications are switched on:

- **ClassDojo** – it is great to see that all parents are now connected as this is an invaluable tool to allow you to communicate with your child's teacher and receive important updates and information in a private platform.
- **School Website** – we use this to showcase the fantastic work that goes on in the school and also to communicate information to yourself and the wider community.
- **School Facebook** – this platform allows us to share information not only from ourselves but from other groups, organisations and pages.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These will take place on **Friday 23rd October**; unfortunately, due to current circumstances and DE guidance they will not be face to face. You will be allocated a 10min telephone slot on the day to discuss your child's progress. Further details about this will be sent out next week.

I would like to once again thank you for your support, it is more important than ever that we continue to work together as a school community for the benefit of our children. As such, we will continue to monitor and review our procedures and policies and ensure that you are updated at the earliest opportunity.

The coming weeks and months ahead will, I'm sure, present further challenges and uncertainties, however I would like to reassure you that we will do everything possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our whole school community is paramount.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Savage
Principal