

# CHRISTMAS 2021

## Trócaire

We began a tradition in 2009, where we donate money every Christmas to the Trócaire appeal. This money will help families that are in extreme poverty. If you would like to donate, please send in money in a labelled envelope.



We are having a **Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec** to help raise funds for Trócaire. A donation of £1 would be gratefully accepted. We will let you know what we were able to buy to help others who are less well off than ourselves.



## St Vincent De Paul

We also donate a hamper and some money to St Vincent De Paul to help people in our own community.

## Dates for the diary

- ☐ **Santa Run Daily Mile- Friday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- ☐ **Pupils School Christmas dinner- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**
- ☐ **Christmas Jumper Day- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**
- ☐ **School Disco 17<sup>th</sup> Dec- Bop to you drop in your classroom. School fundraiser. More information to follow.**
- ☐ **Christmas holidays- School will finish at 11am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**



## SANTA RUN

We hope to give this a go on Friday as part of our Feel Good Friday initiative. We will be walking or running for 1 mile. Our younger children will complete 7 laps of the school grounds if they can! Older children may go to the GAA club to complete this weather permitting. Children can wear a Christmas hat etc to add to the fun!

## Pupils' School Christmas Dinner

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - £2.60** This is sure to be delicious. Our canteen staff Ann-Marie, Stephanie and Ernesta make beautiful dinners!

This will also be our Christmas jumper day.

## DELIVERING CHRISTMAS CARDS IN SCHOOL

During Advent a Christmas Post Box will be located



in the Foyer. Children, if they wish, may send cards to each other using this special Post

## HAMPER DRAW

We are going to have our hamper draw again this year and every class will fill their own hamper. We would be grateful if you could please send in suitable non-perishable items. We are hugely dependent on the funds raised from this fundraiser to continue to develop and resource our school. The cost of tickets are 3 tickets for £5 or 7 tickets for £10. The tickets will be written in school and put into a box. Please send all ticket money into school in a labelled envelope by Thursday 16th Dec. This draw will take place on Friday Dec 17th. We thank you for your continued kind support for this important fund-raising effort.



### School promotion.

This is the time of year when new prospective parents are making choices as to which school to send their child to. Remember **you** our parents can help us to promote our school by sharing, liking and talking to others about what you like about St Columba's. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out about all that is happening within our classrooms. We are looking for some parents to do some testimonials about our school, these can be either a videos clip or words. If you would like to volunteer to do this, please get in touch. We would really appreciate your contributions.

### Health and Wellbeing

It is well known that that when children are healthier and happier at school, they tend to focus more, get on with their peers better and learn well. Schools have changed so much since we were at school and so too has the society we live in.

As part of the Wellbeing funding which was made available to schools last year we invested in the Jigsaw programme which is our new whole school Emotional health and wellbeing scheme.

We are promoting good mental health and wellbeing in St Columba's by adopting a whole-school approach. Here are some of the approaches that we are using to promote pupil wellbeing:

**Physical activity:** Daily mile, movement breaks, yoga

**Mindfulness lessons:** training that helps children to develop their awareness, in the present moment, of what's happening inside of themselves and externally.

**PSHE:** Personal, social, health and economic education.

**Mental health lessons:** children get opportunities to talk about mental health and what makes them happy/ sad.

As part of our promotion of health and wellbeing we have just started a Feel Good Friday initiative within the school. Watch out for this on our school Facebook, Seesaw and Twitter sites.

## STRAW PTA

**Straw PTA have planned 2 fundraisers in the lead up to Christmas. We look forward to your support! Thank you to this group of parents who work behind the scenes planning and raising money for our school.**



**Children have been sent home a tube of smarties, 1 tube per family. Please fill these with 20p coins over the next couple of weeks and return to school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Christmas Lucky bags for Children. The PTA are in the process of making lucky bags. These will sell at £5 per bag. More news about these later.**

**If you would like to become involved in our PTA please contact the school. We would love to have some new members.**

## \*Gentle reminders

- \* All dinner and break money must be in a labelled envelope.
- \* We are encouraging pupils to have no more than one treat food in their lunch box.
- \* Please ensure your child wears full school uniform each day except for PE days. Black leggings should only be worn on PE days.
- \* We are an allergy aware school. No foods containing nuts please. We have 3 children with a nut allergy in our school. We also have 1 child with an egg allergy. All of these children require an epipen
- \* If your child is off school for any reason please let the school know by phone call or Seesaw as all teachers have to input a reason for absence code into SIMS.
- \* Remember to check Seesaw regularly for messages as this is our main form of communication.