



Welcome Back



1 - Important Back to School Information

We trust you all had an enjoyable summer break. We are very excited about the new year ahead, particularly as we celebrate **St. Columba's Primary School's 50th anniversary year**. We look forward to welcoming all children (Years 1-7) back to school on **Monday 2nd September**. School ends @ 12 noon on Monday for all pupils; school lunch will be served only to those in receipt of free school meals.

A particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils especially our Primary 1 children and those new to our school, we wish them well as they begin their educational journey with us.

A reminder that the **Nursery children have been allocated their own individual start dates**. If any parent is unsure of the start date for your Nursery child, please contact the school office on **Tel: 028 295 40273**.

In the interests of a smooth return to school for all of our pupils, please note:

- All pupils (Year 1 to 7) should arrive at school between 8:40 and 8:55am. **Class begins @ 8:55am.**
- **Nursery children should arrive between 8:45 and 9:00am.**
- As always, we would encourage as many families to **walk to school** in order to reduce the congestion at the school gate.
- The **drop-down zone** in front of the Nursery school operates a one-way system. All traffic should keep moving as far down as possible before children disembark.
 - If you need to accompany your child to the school gate, **please do not park in the drop-down zone.**
- Staff will be on duty to assist all pupils, **Nursery and Year 1 parents can walk their children directly to their classroom.**
- All P1 Pupils go home @ 12 noon for the first two weeks in September. **From Monday 16th September** the P1s will stay in school until 2:00pm.
 - The **two o'clock club** will be in operation from Tuesday 3rd September onwards.

- Our **new After School's club** (3-5pm daily) will begin from Tuesday 3rd September. Thank you to all those who expressed an interest in this service in June/July. Only those parents who have **booked and paid** for a slot on the **first day of each week** will be ensured a place; we have **limited places available**.
- If your **mobile number /email address has changed**, please inform the school asap, so that our system can be updated.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school on Monday and hope they will have an enjoyable and successful year with us in St. Columba's PS.

Many thanks,

Mrs Ciara Henry



2 - School Meals

If you have not received your Free School Meals entitlement your child should either bring a packed lunch or book/pay for dinner in advance via '**Parentpay**'.

We encourage all children to bring a **bottle of water** to school on a daily basis.

Children can bring a **fruit break** to eat during their mid-morning break.

Remember that we operate a **healthy lunch** and children are allowed one treat of chocolate, sweets or crisps on a Friday only. **No nut products** are allowed.

To **apply for Free School Meals** please contact mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

If anyone is interested in a **job with EA Catering locally**, please contact Olivia on 028295 41489



3 - School Uniform Reminders

*The school uniform consists of a grey skirt/pinafore/trousers and a crested school sweatshirt/cardigan. All pupils should wear **grey socks/tights** and **dark-coloured trainers** to school.*

***Years 1&2 pupils** wear a crested **polo shirt**, while pupils in Years 3-7 wear a blue shirt and school tie.*

*Uniforms can be purchased from: **J&M Clothing, 11 Laragh Road, Swatragh.***

Please call at the School office to purchase a school tie (Years 3-7) or a book bag (Years 1&2).

*N.B. **In warmer weather** girls can opt to wear a blue gingham summer dresses with white socks and boys may opt to wear grey school shorts.*