



# Newsletter

October 2021

## Parent – Teacher meetings

Parent/teacher phone calls will take place on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. To facilitate this school will finish at 1 pm on these 2 days.

To ease traffic congestion children will be released in groups.

Children with a **surname** -

- A-L - collection time 1 pm
- M-Z- collection time 1.10 pm.

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted over the phone similar to last year. This will be an opportunity for the class teacher to tell you about how your child has settled into their new class. You will find out about their strengths and any focus areas for development. You will also be able to communicate any concerns or questions you may have and find out how you can give support.

## **Halloween Extravaganza day!**



We hope to have a fun day on Friday 22nd October. There will be a class disco followed by fun and games. All children can come into school wearing a Halloween costume. We will use this day as a fundraising opportunity. More news about this later !

## Dates for the diary

- **School photographer 19<sup>th</sup> October (Donny Mc Gale)**
- **Halloween Fun day 22<sup>nd</sup> October**
- **Midterm break- 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> October**
- **Shoe box appeal- boxes returned to school on November 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Flu vaccine- 9<sup>th</sup> November**

For health, safety and insurance reasons you cannot drop off and leave your child/ren unattended at school before 8:50am in the morning. The school doors open at 8:50 for those who do not attend Breakfast Club. We want to keep all our children supervised and safe at all times.

It has been brought to our attention that some of the children who walk after school are not behaving safely. It has been reported to us that some children who walk have been throwing stones into the building site. Please talk to your child about the appropriate behaviour when you are not with them.



## Music



Many of our music teachers are returning to St Columba's for music tuition.

We have

- Guitar (James Bradley)
- Violin (Mrs Mc Kay)
- Wind instruments (David Tohill)

Sean Scullion hopes to return to piano lessons really soon so watch this space !

# ST COLUMBA'S PS, STRAW



## PROCEDURES FOR A PARENT TO RAISE A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN

### What can I do if I have a concern regarding a/my child's safety?

I can talk to the class teacher.

I can talk to the Designated Teacher (Mrs Mc Elhatton



Deputy Designated Teacher (Mr Henry)



or the Principal (Mrs Mc Alister).



If I am still concerned I can write to the Child Protection Officer on the Board of Governors (Mrs Clerkin),

84 Sixtowns Road, Draperstown, BT45 7BB.

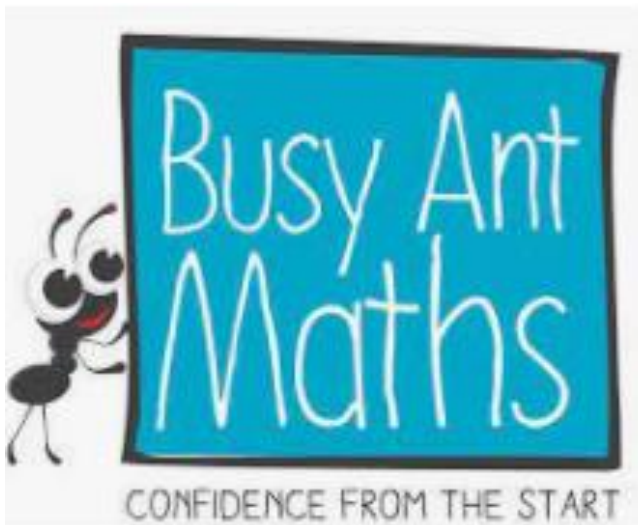


### *Child Protection is everyone's responsibility*



Our newest venture- the Breakfast Club is proving to be a great success in St Columba's. It is providing a service for our parents and the children are enjoying breakfast followed by games and chat in the mornings. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Breakfast Club please contact the school.

# Fundraising ventures 21-22



We have just purchased a whole school scheme of Maths called Busy Ant Maths. This is our first purchase this year. More news about fundraising for this soon.



A garden pod which would provide a designated calming area indoors. This would function as a therapy room, a sensory room, a nurture room- a place where a child/ren can go to if they need time alone or a place to work with an adult.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another great year at St Columba's. This is the time of year when we look at what we can provide to improve our school and enhance the opportunities for your children. As you know school budgets continue to be very unrealistic and it can be a real challenge to make significant changes in school on a limited budget.

I know that the parent body within St Columba's has always been very supportive and I thank you for this continued support. I was amazed by the level of generosity shown by our parent body last year and we managed to raise £7500 through various fundraising ventures. We used this money to purchase new Ipads and to finish the poly-tunnel and other outdoor learning areas.

When planning our fundraising we also have to be selective in the types of ventures we can pursue due to the risks posed by Covid. If you have any fundraising ideas please share them with us. We also have an active PTA in our school. More news about this later!

The money we raise this year is going towards funding

- a new maths scheme in our school
- a garden pod.

Please support us !