



Nuachtlitir: Tús na Bliana

Newsletter: Start of The Year

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Management and all the staff at St. Colmcille's Senior National School we would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to everybody as we begin a new school year together. The whole school community looks forward to the year ahead and we pray for God's blessing on each of us as we learn and grow together throughout the coming year.

"Treat Others as You Would like to be Treated".

Our school motto of "*Treat Others as You Would like to be Treated*" plays a central role for all of us here in St. Colmcille's S.N.S. Thank you to everyone in our school community and the wider community who try to live by our motto. This allows all of us to learn, grow and develop in a secure, safe, welcoming environment.

School Calendar 2022/2023 (a copy of this calendar is available on the school website)

31 October – 4 November 2022 (inclusive) Mid-term break.

7 November 2022 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

22 December 2022 – 4 January 2023 (inclusive) Christmas Holidays.

5 January 2023 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

3 - 6 February 2023 (inclusive) February Bank Holiday.

16 – 17 February 2023 (Inclusive) Mid-term break.

16 – 20 March 2023 (Inclusive) St. Patrick's Holiday.

3– 14 April 2023 (inclusive) Easter Holidays.

17 April 2023 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

1 - 2 May 2023 May Bank Holiday.

2 – 6 June 2023 (inclusive) June Bank Holiday.

Friday 30 June 2023 Final Day of term.

Assemblies:

Thankfully we have been able to resume our year group assemblies again this year. Our first assemblies last week focussed on our school motto. We also discussed our "Thought for the Week", a quote from Nelson Mandela "*To value our children is to value our future*".

Covid 19:

We remind our pupils regularly of the need for good hand hygiene and proper respiratory etiquette. We will also continue to inform parents if there is a case of Covid 19 in your child's class.

New Staff Members:

There have been quite a few changes in staff this year. Firstly, we wish John Murphy, Annmarie O'Gara, Ann Fahy and Audrey Murphy many happy years of retirement. Secondly, we say a fond farewell to Susan Naughton and Joanne McCormack who have taken up positions outside Dublin. We will miss them all. We will miss their wisdom, experience, professionalism and most of all, their presence in the staffroom. Joining the team of retirees at the end of September will be Ciaran Kearney and Catherine English (SNA).

We welcome back Eva Luke and Sinéad O'Mahony from career break and a special welcome to our duo from Mayo, Pádraic Waldron and Conor Beirne. West of the Shannon is always a bonus!

Finally, I would like to welcome Donal McGovern to his new role as Deputy Principal here in the school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank his predecessor, John Murphy, for the immense contribution he made to life here in St. Colmcille's.

Past Pupils/New Pupils:

Good luck to all our 6th class pupils who have just started their secondary school adventure. We wish them every success and they will always be welcome to visit us in St. Colmcille's.

We welcome all our new 3rd class pupils to our team here in the Senior School. We also welcome pupils who have joined our 4th, 5th and 6th classes.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance:

As mentioned in our email last week, we highly recommend the Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. It provides accident cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for your child at a **cost of €9**. No form needs to be returned as Allianz will accept payment as registration to the scheme. The epayment link on Aladdin will remain open until **Friday 23 September 2022**.

Medical Matters:

If there are any medical issues in relation to your child, please inform the class teacher at the earliest opportunity. Indemnity forms need to be completed and returned to the school in order to allow school staff to administer any medication to your child.

Mobile Phones: The use of mobile phones/phone devices during the school day is prohibited. However, if your son/daughter needs to bring one to school, we ask that you email your permission to the class teacher. Please note the following:

1. The mobile phone must be turned off between 8.40 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
2. The phone must be kept in the pupil's bag at all times.
3. If a child is found to be in possession of a phone which is not turned off, the class teacher will contact the child's parents who will be requested to collect the phone from the school office.

Uniform Shop: The uniform shop will be open each Thursday. Please refer to the Uniform Sales Information tab which can be found on the Aladdin app.

School Instagram Account:

Our school Instagram account is now up and running. Check it out at [st.colmcillesnsknocklyon](https://www.instagram.com/st.colmcillesnsknocklyon). We look forward to sharing with you some of the activities and events that happen in our school.

Lunches:

We have a Healthy Eating Policy in the school and pupils are encouraged to eat healthy nutritious lunches. **Please do not give your child nuts, or bars containing nuts, in their lunches as we have a number of children and staff members with severe nut allergies.** Friday is our sweet treat day and we all look forward to that! Large bags of sweets or large tubes of Pringles etc. are not appropriate!

Contact Numbers: Please notify your child's teacher of any changes in contact numbers, addresses etc. so that our database can be kept up to date. It is important to have a backup system in place in the event of your child becoming sick during school.

After School Activities:

Please see below a list of after school activities/classes which may be of interest to you.

Homework Club	contact Ms. Laura Leonard	lleonard@stcolmcilles.org
Sports Club	contact Ms. Grace Maher	gmaher@stcolmcilles.org
Creative Minds	contact Ms. Ciara Kenny	ckenny@stcolmcilles.org
Chess Club	contact Ms. Eva Luke	eluke@stcolmcilles.org
Art Club	contact Ms. Aisling Timmons	atimmons@stcolmcilles.org

For Guitar classes contact Nathan at 086 3311 215.

Table tennis classes take place in Ballyroan Boys School, contact Tibor at 085 1079 317 or tabletennistt@gmail.com

Cumann na mBunscol:

Our Cumann na mBunscol boys/girls football teams play their first games shortly. We wish all players and coaches the best of luck in the weeks ahead.

Sensory Garden:

You may have noticed our Sensory Garden beginning to take shape at the main entrance to the school. Keep an eye out for further additions to it in the coming weeks.

Finally:

Thank you to all our parents for your ongoing support, co-operation and understanding as we settle into the rhythm of another school year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Brian McGowan, Príomhoide
Donal McGovern, Leas-Phríomhoide