



Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

I hope this finds you all well as we approach our first half term.

In this Nuachtlitir we share some of what's been happening in St. Colmcille's SNS since September '23 and some of what's to come.

Dates for the Diary/ Dátaí don Féilire:

30 October – 3 November 2023 (inclusive) Mid-term break.

6 November 2023 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

22 Dec school closes @ 12 noon – 5 Jan 2024 (inclusive) Christmas Holidays.

8 January 2024 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

Parent Teacher Meetings: Our Parent Teacher meetings will take place during the week 13th November. This year parents and teachers will have a face-to-face meeting in school. Your class teacher will be in contact via Aladdin to arrange your meeting.

Lost and Found: We have a large number of unclaimed items (coats, jumpers, hats etc) in our lost and found. These items will be on display in the atrium over the course of the week of Parent Teacher meetings. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at Christmas time.

Secondary Schools: A reminder to parents of 6th class pupils that many of our local secondary schools have a window for accepting applications for the school year 2024/2025. Check it out at your earliest convenience.

Student Council: We just formed our second Student Council in St. Colmcille's. The Council has a representative from each of our 6th classes. There is also a representative from 3rd, 4th and 5th class on the council. There has been a very positive response from our pupils and we look forward to learning together as we proceed with this process.

Foróige: Fridays @ 7 p.m. in Knocklyon Community Centre. Contact adunola.olugboun@foroige.ie / www.foroige.ie

Board of Management: Elections for Parent Representatives on our next Board of Management 2023-2027 were held on Thursday 19th October. The new board term will begin on 1st December 2023.

Father's Representative 2023-2027: Aonghus O' Neill

Mother's Representative 2023-2027: Siobhan O' Reagan

We wish to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Parent's Reps for 2019-2023, Billy Griffin and Barbara Kelly for their valuable contribution to the board. We also thank those who put themselves forward for election and very much appreciate your expression of interest in becoming involved in school life in St. Colmcille's SNS.

Health and Safety: We ask that parents remind their children about the importance of entering and exiting the school grounds safely i.e. staying on the footpaths, walking (not running) and being aware of cars and other pedestrians. We are also aware that some pupils have been crossing through the staff carpark at home time. There have been a number of near accidents and we remind all that children are not allowed to pass through the car park.

Podcasts: This year we have continued with our podcasts and we hope to share our next podcast with our parents and the wider school community. Keep an ear out!

Music Matters: On the musical front we're delighted to hear the sound of choirs and grúpaí ceoil around the school again. We're currently busy preparing for our Oíche Ceoil on Thursday 7th December. On the night, children from our Junior and Senior Choirs, Boys' Choir, Scoil Rock and Grúpaí Ceoil will entertain the audience with a blend of old and new songs under the stewardship of our wonderfully musical staff members who dedicate their time to these various groups. Tá gach duine ag súil go mór leis an Oíche Ceoil.

Sporting Matters: On the sporting front we entered an unprecedented six teams in the Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic leagues this year. It was wonderful to see a new league for junior girls start this year, giving our fourth-class girls an opportunity to represent the school. In addition to this, with the help of Ballyboden St. Enda's and Knocklyon Community School, we ran some hurling and camogie coaching blocks for our 3rd and 4th class pupils. We also had some 5th class football coaching for children who were not involved in teams. A particular mention must go to our Senior Girls Corn Austin Finn team who were narrowly beaten in an excellent semi-final played at Russell Park in Blanchardstown. Thank you to Ms. Cooney and Ms. Kirwan who worked with this group and to all the other staff members who gave so much of their time to coach and manage our various teams. We look forward to Hurling and Camogie getting underway after Christmas.

Debating Matters: Debating has been on the agenda of our 6th classes over the past few weeks. The inter class debates were of a very high standard and keenly contested with arguments and rebuttals. Special thanks to Ms. Grace Maher who once again this year is co-ordinating our debating activities.

Library: Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to help us each day with the admin tasks involved. Special thank you to Cronan Corbett who has invested a huge amount of his time, energy and creativity to ensure we have a fantastic library facility at our disposal here in the school.

Family Learning: Tallaght Library is hosting a new Family Learning Course for parents, guardians, grandparents and carers to help their children with their learning and homework. It will take place on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12pm, starting on Thursday, 9th November and running for 6 weeks. The course is delivered by Adult Education Service Tallaght with Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board. Tea & coffee will be provided. Booking is through Eventbrite: [Family Learning Course - Six Week Course Tickets, Thu 9 Nov 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Tel: +353 1 462 0073 | [General queries: talib@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:talib@sdblincoco.ie)

Book Fair: Our annual book fair will take place the week of 13th November. The Fair provides families with an opportunity to pass on books that are no longer needed while also affording parents and children the opportunity to purchase books at a much – reduced cost.

We will be collecting books between now and the Book Fair. We would appreciate it if you could send in any unwanted books (in good condition) to the school at the earliest opportunity. Children will get an opportunity to visit the Book Fair during the week of the parent teacher meetings.

The Book Fair will be open to parents on the afternoons of Tue 14th, Wed 15th and Thurs 16th November from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm. This will allow you to purchase books on the afternoons you are attending your Parent/ Teacher Meeting.

We appreciate your assistance and generosity during the Book Fair. Proceeds will go towards new books for our school library.

School Policies: All our school policies are available to view on our school website www.stcolmcilles.org under the Our School - Parents - Policies tab. All school policies continue to be reviewed on a regular basis. At our September Board of Management meeting, the annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti Bullying Policy and our Code of Behaviour was carried out. Our Admissions Policy and Notice 2024/2025 were ratified and published on our school website.

What Week? Walk to School Week and Maths Week were some of the weeks we celebrated recently. Thank you to all staff who organised activities/events to provide fun and learning for all our pupils.

Science week will run from 20th November – 24th November inclusive.

Words/Frásáí/Thoughts: Please see below some of our frásaí and thoughts which we have shared with our pupils in the first half-term.

Frásaí na Seachtaine: Cad a rinne tú ag an deireadh seachtaine (What did you do at the weekend?)
Cad a rinne tú tar éis scoil inné? (What did you do yesterday after school) Inis dom fuait féin – Ainm, aois, clan, caitheamh aimsire (Tell me about yourself – name, age, family, past times) A mhúinteoir, ní thuigim (Teacher, I don't understand), Tá sé fuair, grianmhar, fliuch, tirim inniu. (It is cold, sunny, fliuch, dry today)

Thoughts for the week

When in doubt, just take the next small step. Some day is not a day of the week. No-one is perfect – that's why pencils have erasers. You don't have to win every argument- stay true to yourself. No one is in charge of your happiness but you. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Instagram: Keep up to date with our school activities via our school Instagram a/c [st.colmcillesnsknocklyon](https://www.instagram.com/st.colmcillesnsknocklyon)

Backpack appeal:

Dublin Homeless Backpack appeal: Please see note of appreciation from Finbarr Dolan below:

Dear Parents,

I wish to thank you kindly for your great response to my Homeless Backpack appeal .

In total between Senior and Junior school I received circa 200 very good usable backpacks which I delivered to four homeless service providers who look after men/ women / children. They were

greatly appreciated. I also supply these service providers with toiletries , scarves,hats, gloves,thermal wear when funds allow

The people in the Knocklyon area never fail to impress me with their kind support for worthy causes .

Thanking you

Finbarr Dolan

Finally, we wish to take this opportunity on behalf of all staff to thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation. We hope you have a wonderful, safe Hallowe'en and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back on November 6th.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Mary Cleary, Príomhoide

Donal McGovern, Leas Phríomhoide