



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 2023/2024 (a copy of this calendar is available on the school website)

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.

2 - 5 February 2024 (inclusive) February Bank Holiday.

15 – 16 February 2024 (Inclusive) Mid-term break.

18 March 2024 St. Patrick's Holiday.

22 March school closes @ 12 noon – 05 April 2024 (inclusive) Easter Holidays.

08 April 2024 School reopens at 8.50 a.m.

3 - 7 May 2024 May Bank Holiday.

31 May – 4 June 2024 (inclusive) June Bank Holiday.

Friday 28 June 2024 - school closes @ 12 noon. Final Day of term.

Assemblies:

Our first assemblies this week focussed on our school motto "*Treat Others as You Would like to be Treated*". We also discussed our "Thought for the Week" "No one is perfect – that's why pencils have erasers."

Covid 19:

We remind our pupils regularly of the need for good hand hygiene and proper respiratory etiquette. Latest H.S.E. guidelines: if your child tests positive for Covid – 19, they should stay at home for 3 full days from the day their symptoms started. Your child can return to school once they have not had a high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or over) or other symptoms for 48 hours and it's been 3 days since they first developed symptoms.

New Staff Members:

There have been quite a few changes in staff this year. Firstly, we wish Helen McKeown and Brian McGowan many happy years of retirement. Secondly, we say a fond farewell to Sarah Jane Woods, Pádraic Waldron and Conor Beirne who have taken up positions elsewhere. We will miss them all. We will miss their wisdom, experience, professionalism and most of all, their presence in the staffroom.

We welcome back Liz Whelan from career break. A special welcome to those joining us this year, some of whom have worked in St. Colmcille's previously; Victoria Clifford, Ciara Woodcock, Arlene Heraghty, Shauna Donnelly, Lisa Connors, Yvonne Curran and Catriona Cassin.

Finally, I would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for the warm welcome I have received. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Brian McGowan, 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 e-payment link on Aladdin will remain open until **Friday 22 September 2023**.

Medical Matters:

If there are any medical issues in relation to your child, please inform the class teacher at the earliest opportunity. All healthcare plans to be returned to the office for filing as soon as possible.

Important School Policies: We ask that all parents familiarise themselves with some of our important school policies, which can be found at the front of this year's school journal.

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.

Smart Watches/ Wearable Technology: Smart watches/ Fit Bits are not permitted in the school. The rationale for this has been explained clearly to all pupils. If any parent is insistent on their child having access to their smart watch before/ after school, we ask that you ensure they keep devices switched off and in their school bag for the duration of the school day. However, we would strongly encourage pupils to refrain from bringing these devices to school at all.

School Uniform: Full school uniform must be worn three days per week. This includes plain black footwear (including soles and laces) for both boys and girls. On the other two P.E. days, the school tracksuit is worn along with a plain navy polo shirt. Runners should be worn on P.E. days. If a pupil has a sports activity during/ after school on a uniform day, they should bring in their change of clothes and change in their classroom before the activity.

Children are permitted to wear knee length, navy shorts with either the uniform or the tracksuit. The wearing of cycling shorts, GAA shorts, Nike Pros or similar is not allowed.

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.

Enrolment dates for Junior Infants 2024:

St. Colmcille's J.N.S. : to enrol for Junior Infants 2024, **registration will open from 10 am on Monday 2nd October and close at 5 pm on Monday 1st November 2023.** Applications will be made online via the school website portal <https://www.stcolmcillesjns.ie/>

Secondary Open Evenings for 2024-25:

Coláiste Éanna: open afternoon for 5th and 6th class students along with their parents/ guardians in Coláiste Éanna on Tuesday, 26th September, from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Presentation Community College, Terenure: open afternoon for 5th and 6th class students along with their parents/ guardians in Presentation C.C. on Thursday, 28th September, from 6pm to 8pm.

Terenure College, Templeogue: open mornings for 6th class students along with their parents/ guardians in Terenure College on Saturday 23rd and 30th of September, from 10am to noon. Tour takes approximately 2 hours.

Rockbrook Park School, Rathfarnham: open afternoon for 4th, 5th and 6th class students along with their parents/ guardians in Rockbrook on Tuesday, 26th September, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

School Instagram Account:

Our school Instagram account is now up and running. Check it out at [st.colmcillesnknocklyon](https://www.instagram.com/st.colmcillesnknocklyon). 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 update via Aladdin any changes in contact numbers, addresses etc. so that our database can be kept up to date. It is important to ensure you have emergency numbers on Aladdin as a backup in the event that you are uncontactable.

Junior Park Singers: Choir for children aged between 10 and 14 years. Musical Director: Órla Gillan. Auditions will be held for new members on Wed 13th Sep '23 @ 8pm in Firhouse Community Centre (Eircode D24 YYOH)

After School Activities 2023/2024:

Please see below list of after school activities/classes which may be of interest to you. Some other after-school clubs that were already advertised in classes are not listed below, as they are already fully subscribed.

Activity	Groups	Day	Time	Contact
Sports Club	3 rd & 4 th	Wed	2:30 – 3:30pm	gmaher@stcolmcilles.org
Chess Club	3 rd – 6 th	Tue/Thur	2:30 – 3:30pm	eluke@stcolmcilles.org
Guitar	3 rd – 4 th	Tue/Thur	2:30 – 3:30pm	LConnors@stcolmcilles.org
Guitar	3 rd – 6 th	Wed/Thur	2:30 – 3:30pm	Nathan 086 3311215
Lego Club	3 rd – 6 th	Tue	2:30 – 3:30pm	KCooney@stcolmcilles.org
“The Arts” Club	5 th & 6 th	Thur	2:30 – 3:30pm	atimmons@stcolmcilles.org
Speech & Drama	3 rd – 6 th	Tue	2:30 – 3:15pm	sobrien@stcolmcilles.org
Ukulele Class	3 rd – 6 th	Mon	2:30 – 3:30pm	altoschoolofmusic@gmail.com

Play Therapist :

Aoife O’ Reilly, who has worked in St. Colmcille’s SNS as a play therapist last year, has just recently opened her own Play Therapy practice in Templeogue Village. She has 27 years of experience working with children and young people. She has appointments available from October.

If you have any questions or would like some more information please contact Aoife via email patchesplaytherapy@gmail.com or phone 087 171 0097.

Navigating Challenging Behaviour - Parent Webinar:

In this webinar you will gain insights, support & advice from **Debbie Cullinane (mother of 2, former teacher, and child and adolescent psychotherapists specialising in play therapy)** and leave empowered to parent in a way that feels good.

- Gain a deeper understanding of your child's behavior
- Learn effective communication and discipline techniques

- Strengthen your parent-child relationship
- Connect with a supportive community of parents facing similar challenges
- Leave with actionable strategies to implement immediately

Wed 20th September 8 – 9.30 p.m.

Most suitable for parents/guardians of children aged between 5 and 12 (Primary School Age) Tickets: €30.00 Link for tickets - <https://buytickets.at/debbiecullinane/1002209>

Please note: while Debbie Cullinane has no affiliation with St Colmcille's, we felt this webinar might be a good resource for our parent body.

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.

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,

Mary Cleary , Príomhoide
Donal McGovern, Leas-Phríomhoide