

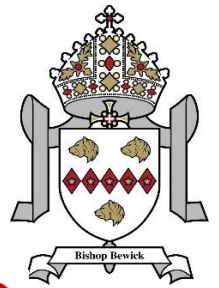
# St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Station Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. NE28 8EN

Telephone: 0191 262 3098 Website: [www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.co.uk)

Email Address: [scpschool@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk](mailto:scpschool@stcolumbasprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Iona Star – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

St Columba's Families,

Welcome back after the summer holidays! It has been so wonderful to see all of the children back at school, and, although things are a little different in our new building, the children have all settled extremely well!

A huge thank you to all of the staff who worked extremely hard to unpack boxes, move furniture and prepare for the children's arrival back. Another huge thank you to all the parents and family members who have supported us this week with new routines, visited the building and worked with us to settle the children back into school life. The week has been filled with positivity from children, staff and families – we really are extremely grateful for our school community.

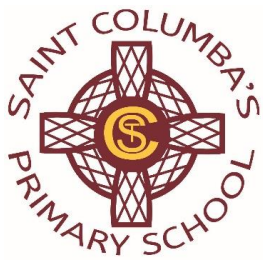
This afternoon, we have shared a wonderful Mass with Fr David in our new school hall. We look forward to welcoming parents and family members back to our next Mass now that we know we can fit you all in!

Below, you will find key messages and information. Attached to the Iona Star is a guide for both parents and school staff – this week's focus is on helping children to manage conflict.

If you have any queries about anything in the Iona Star, or anything else that we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Take care,  
Miss Quinn





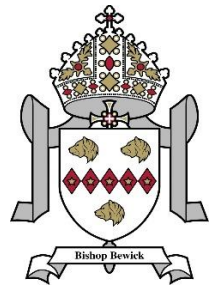
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## Attendance and Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this week has been 96.8%. This means that we are in the green zone and we are meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

We are delighted to announce that Year 6 are the winners of our attendance trophy with an amazing overall attendance of 100%. Congratulations!

## PE Days

Please see below for PE days for each year group. A reminder that your child should wear their PE kit to school.

Reception – Monday and Friday

Year 1 – Wednesday and Friday

Year 2 – Monday and Wednesday

Year 3 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 4 – Monday and Tuesday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday

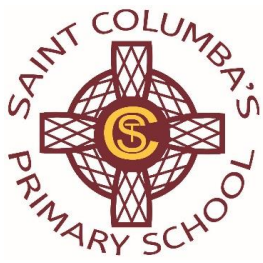
Year 6 – Thursday and Friday



## Violin Lessons



If any children are interested in taking group lessons to learn the violin, please contact the school office for further information. Lessons are delivered by a specialist teacher who comes to school once a week.



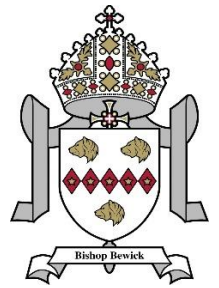
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## Forest School

We are delighted to have retained our forest school areas on the school premises. Miss O'Connor, our forest school lead, has plans to develop forest school sessions across the school throughout this academic year.

Forest school has a wealth of benefits for children in terms of their mental health and wellbeing, offers outdoor learning experiences for children and teaches them skills for working with natural materials.

In order to develop this across the school, we need some work done in our forest area to cut away nettles, brambles and to help to prepare the areas for children to use; the new access from our temporary building is extremely overgrown. If you feel you could support with this, either on a weekend or during a holiday, please let us know at the school office or speak to Miss O'Connor at the Nursery door. Thank you

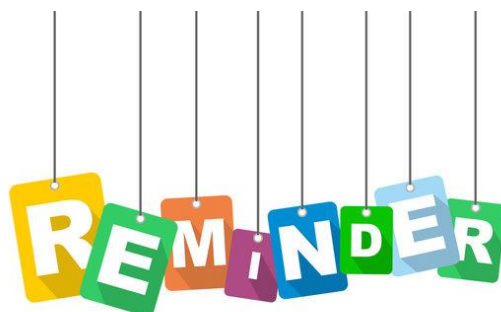


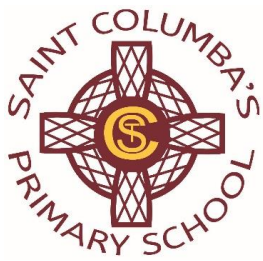
## Reminders

A polite reminder about school procedures:

- Pupils are not permitted to wear trainers to school on any day that is not their PE day.
- Earrings are not permitted to be worn in school, other than flat plastic retainers
- Water bottles must contain only water, no juice or fizzy drinks please
- School bags and items brought into school are kept to a minimum as coat pegs are now located within the classrooms

Thank you for your support with this.





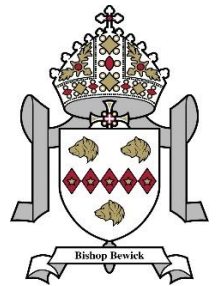
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## SeeSaw and X (Twitter)



We are keen to keep parents up to date with news, events and achievements within school. We know that many parents struggle to switch between children's accounts on SeeSaw – we are looking into this and hope to upgrade our system to include family logins as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, our recent Instagram account has not be sustainable. As we are a group rather than an individual, we need to have a business account. Business accounts can not be private on Instagram, therefore we feel this is not a suitable platform as we could not monitor who is accessing our content.

We do feel as though we need a social media platform where parents can view whole school news, rather than individual class news on SeeSaw. In order to do this, we are going to reuse and reopen our old Twitter account (now known as X). We have chosen this option as staff can approve followers, therefore we are able to control who views our images. You can follow us by searching for the handle: @stcolumbasrc

Staff will only approve family members that we can connect to a current pupil within school. If we are unsure of your identity, we may send a message to clarify this.

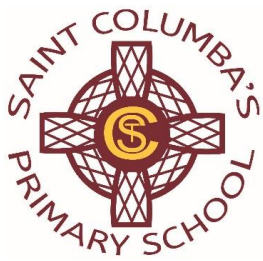
Pupil permissions for social media usage and image sharing will be sent out next week, via Microsoft Forms – no staff will post photos of children on any platform other than SeeSaw until then.



## Diary Dates

We appreciate how challenging it can be to support your child at events throughout the school day without future planning, therefore we try to give you as much notice as possible for pre-planned events each term.

Please note that these dates can be subject to change and further dates will be added as events are planned into the school calendar, so please continue to check the Iona Star every week.



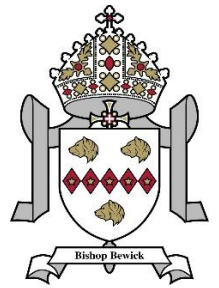
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## WB. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Welcome Evenings

Please pick your children up as usual at 3.30pm. You are then welcome to take them home or come into the hall where tea and coffee will be provided. Senior members of staff will be available if you have any questions about the temporary building. Then, you will be invited along to your child's classroom at 4pm to meet with their teacher. This is expected to last until around 4.30pm.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Year 4 and Year 5 Parents

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - Year 6 and Year 3 Parents

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Year 2 and Year 1 Parents

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Nursery and Reception Parents



If you cannot attend, please do not worry, as information will be shared via email

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Year 5 and Year 6 residential to High Borrans.

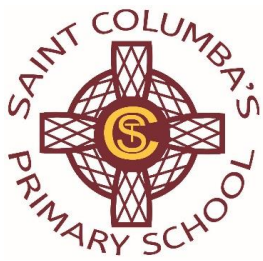
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October - Year 6 assembly and CAFOD lunch. Year 6 family members are welcome to come to the school hall for assembly at 2pm and then share a soup lunch. Due to restrictions in the classroom, only one family member per child please.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October - World Mental Health Day. Wear something yellow to school to support YoungMinds. 'Because We Stand Brighter Together'.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Year 4 assembly. Family members are welcome in the school hall for 9.15am

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Year 6 and Reception Buddy assembly. Parents of both classes are invited to the school hall for 9.15am

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Year 4 to be visited by North Tyneside Fire and Rescue education team.



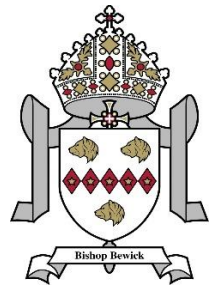
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**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** – Halloween Disco, more information to follow

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 5 assembly. Family members are welcome in the school hall for 9.15am

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – School closes to staff and pupils for October half term

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – School reopens to staff and pupils

**WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – SEND parent review meetings. Parents will be invited to book an appointment with Mrs Harman and their class teacher via SchoolCloud two weeks before this date.

**WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Internal school assessment week. All pupils in KS2 will complete assessments.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need. Wear your spots to school!

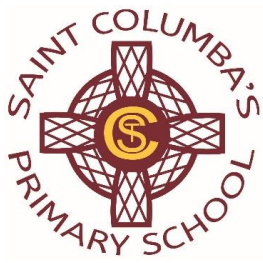
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 3 assembly. Family members are welcome in the school hall for 9.15am

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Parents Evenings. All parents will be invited to book an appointment with their class teacher via SchoolCloud two weeks before this date. Appointments are in person, for 10minutes and will be available from 3.45pm onwards.

**Christmas Performances** – further information to follow

Nursery – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

Reception – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm



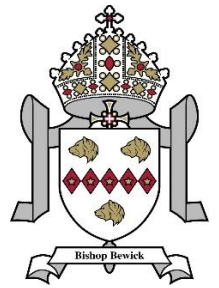
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Year 1 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 2 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 3 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 4 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 5 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Year 6 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

**WB Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – further information to follow

Family members will be invited into school to make a Christingle with their children and take part in a liturgy with their creations.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – School closes to staff and pupils for the Christmas break.

