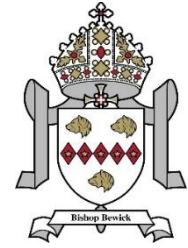


St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss. R. Quinn



Iona Star – 6th December 2024

St Columba's Families,

We've had a great start to the Christmas season with Year 2 delivering the first festive performance at St Columba's! Well done to all of the children and thank you to all of the family members who came to support them, we hope you enjoyed it.

This week, we have decorated our two Christmas trees in school. Each child hung a bauble on one of our large trees as well as helping to decorate the classrooms. Reception class even have an 'Elf Workshop' in their classroom – how exciting!

On Monday, we held our first Advent liturgy thinking about how we can use the season to prepare our hearts ready for Christmas and the Mini Vinnie group has been acting out their faith through the food bank delivery to Walking With. Please see below for further information.

A reminder that we are holding 'Christmas Movie Night' over the next two weeks. We held a vote for the Christmas film in whole school assembly on Monday. As a result of the films chosen, we making a slight tweak and are offering Year 3 – Year 6 the chance to enjoy Christmas Chronicles and Reception – Year 2 to enjoy Boss Baby Christmas. Tickets are two pounds and include a drink and some sweets. Pick up times are listed below.

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 'Choose Respect'.

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

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Quinn



Funds Raised

We would like to thank parents and family members for their generosity and support at our recent events in school. We appreciate that this term has been a busy one!

Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal - £102.76 raised for Royal British Legion

Children in Need - £428.50 raised for the charity

Break the Rules - £230.00 raised for the PTA

Bring and Buy Sale - £300.00 raised for the PTA



Mini Vinnie Food Bank Collection



A huge thank you to everyone who sent in donations for the food bank. The Mini Vinnies delivered the food to 'Walking With' and helped to sort out the contributions. They were shown around the centre and learned about all the ways in which 'Walking With' supports refugees with advice, clothes, kitchen utensils and recycled bikes. They were astounded and grateful for all your kindness. Credit is due to the Mini Vinnies, who spoke to all the year groups in their classrooms and collected the donations every day. Once again our St Columba's Community has shown their generosity. Thank you so much!

School Uniform: PE Hoodies

Following consultation with governors, and further discussion with school council representatives from each class, we have agreed to adopt a school PE hoodie as part of our uniform. For the days that your child has PE, they are welcome to wear this hoodie in place of a school jumper/cardigan.

These will be available to be purchased from Emblematic in the new year. Prices start from £13.00. We are also happy for pupils to wear an alternative maroon hoodie without the school logo from an alternative supplier such as a supermarket or online retailer.



Please note, this uniform item will not be compulsory until September 2025, when we will ask them to replace the cost of one of your school jumper/cardigan purchases. Children will only be permitted to wear these alongside PE uniform and not as part of regular school uniform.

Please remember that, if your child is in receipt of income based free school meals, do get in touch and we are always happy to support you with the purchase of any uniform.

Income Based Free School Meals

If you feel you may be eligible for income based free school meals, please apply online here:

[Free school meals | North Tyneside Council](#)

This not only ensures free school meals and resources for individual pupils but entitles our school to receive funding which benefits the wider school community.

You're eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2025.

Ten Ten Parent Newsletter

Ten:Ten
Resources

You can access the latest parental newsletter from Ten Ten which shares the key messages, prayers and opportunities for worship at home by clicking this link <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Diary Dates

Christmas Performances – Family members are welcome to come at the times below to watch their child's Christmas performance in the school hall.

Nursery – Monday 9th December at 10am

Reception – Monday 9th December at 2pm

Year 1 – Wednesday 11th December at 2pm

Year 3 – Friday 13th December at 2pm

Year 4 – Tuesday 10th December at 2pm

Year 5 – Thursday 12th December at 2pm

Year 6 – Monday 16th December at 2pm

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Movie Night – Year 3 to Year 6. The movie chosen by the children was Christmas Chronicles. Tickets will cost £2 and will include a drink and some sweets to enjoy with the movie. Please send any money in an envelope addressed to Mrs Laidlaw. Pick up will be at 6pm from the school hall.

Tuesday 17th December – 2.30pm – families of children whose surname begins with letters A – H

Wednesday 18th December – 2.30pm – families of children whose surname begins with letters I – Z

Family members are invited into school to make a Christingle with their children and take part in a liturgy with their creations. Following feedback from families, we have decided to group this in families rather than by class. Parents will be welcome to take their children home from school when the Christingle workshop is finished.

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner Day! Enjoy a Christmas dinner with your friends. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper that day to school in place of their regular school jumper.

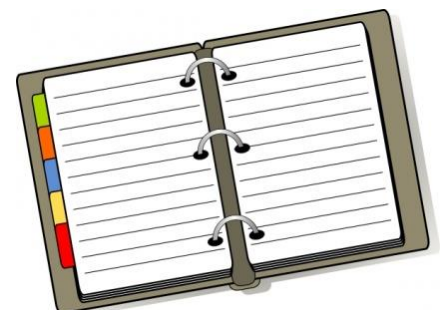
Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Movie Night – Reception to Year 2.

The movie chosen by the children was Boss Baby. Tickets will cost £2 and will include a drink and some sweets to enjoy with the movie. Please send any money in an envelope addressed to Mrs Laidlaw. Pick up will be 5pm from the hall doors.

Friday 20th December – Children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes for Christmas Parties which will take place in the afternoon.

Friday 20th December – School closes to staff and pupils for the Christmas break.

Tuesday 7th January – School reopens for pupils.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College