

ST COLUMBA'S N.S.
School Newsletter
 Issue 1 - September 2016

We are just two weeks back and already it feels like we were never away. The children are working hard and it is lovely to see them back rested and happy after a lovely summer. As usual we have a lot of news to share with the St Columba's community.

Welcome

We have a number of new faces around the place. We would like to extend a special St Columba's welcome to our new Junior Infants and their families. Some of you are already familiar to us and some are completely new. We hope that everyone is happy and settled in with us, but if there is anything we can do to make you feel more welcome, please let us know.



We have two new members of staff here as well, Mrs Sarah Northcutt will be with us for the year while Ms Stoddart explores the world and Ms Ruth Donovan will be with us as SNA, working mostly in Mrs Malone's room. The two ladies have already added a smile or two to our lives and we hope they enjoy being here.

Finally, we welcome our new rector Rev'd Garth Bunting who joined the parish in August. He and Zach (his retriever) are now settled into the rectory and we will see Rev'd Garth at the Harvest service at the end of the month.

PTA

The PTA had their Welcome Cuppa Morning

last week and we are grateful to the committee for organising that. The term of office of our current band is almost at an end, so please consider whether you could contribute to their efforts either as a committee member or as a helper. They are planning some events in the near future, so keep an eye out for emails and posters about the place.

Trips and Tours

Although we are only back a fortnight we have already booked our first adventures. Junior Infants to **1st class** will be going to The Ark to see Aston's Stones on Thursday 13th October and **2nd to 6th** will also go to the Ark on Tuesday 20th December for A Christmas Carol. This trip will be subsidized by the PTA and details of cost and travel arrangements will follow closer to the trips.

Traffic management

North Strand Road is a very busy place and we are aware that it could be a very dangerous place for children. The teachers will of course teach modules on road safety during the year, however, we do need the cooperation of our families to make sure the children are safe. For that reason here are a few "do's & don'ts"

- Please do not drive into the school/church grounds at any time
- If your child cycles to school ask them to dismount at the gate
- Please do use the storage shed for bikes, but place your mount carefully to avoid damaging other bikes and scooters
- Consider using the small gate at the main door when entering and leaving the complex to avoid the traffic on the main road.

We are engaging with Dublin City Council to find a way to make our pedestrian crossing safer. Please bear with us on this as big bodies move slowly!!

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In-service for teachers

The teachers have been instructed to attend an in-service day for the revised language curriculum on [Monday 24th October](#). As a result, the school will be closed that day. I hope that the early notice of this closure helps parents who may have to arrange childcare or indeed may use the opportunity to book a long weekend somewhere!!!!

School services

Our Harvest service, and our first with Rev'd Garth takes place on Wednesday 28th September at 10.30am. We would love to be able to give him a wonderful "North Strand Welcome"

so please feel free to welcome to join us in our celebration.



School website

The new improved school website is almost ready to be launched. It will contain information about day-to-day events in the school and will have useful items such as calendars, policies and book lists. We will let you know when it is ready and we would value any feedback you may have.

Attendance and Timekeeping

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of regular attendance at school. Children who miss school days often miss out on important elements of the curriculum and more importantly can end up finding the social world of school difficult. We will be keeping parents informed regarding their child's attendance by notifying you of every 5th absence.



Children who are absent for 20 or more days are notified to TUSLA, the child and family agency as per legislation.

We would also like to point out the importance of timekeeping, not just because it is disruptive for the children in the class and the child who is late, but also because timekeeping is a life skill.

Start of Year Stationery Fees

There are still some families who have yet to send in the stationery fee for their children, can you please submit the required amount to your child's teacher without delay.

....and finally

We are always ready to listen if you have anything you need to share with us concerning your child or the school. Please talk to the class teacher in the first instance as they are usually able to sort out problems quickly and simply if they are approached in a timely manner

Let's hope that everyone has a wonderful year.

Mrs Creaner & Staff

