



St. Columbas Catholic Primary School

Church Lane, Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness Cumbria LA14 3AD

Head Teacher: Mrs C O'Donnell

Tel: 01229-471522 Email: admin@stcolumbas.cumbria.sch.uk

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10: 10)



October 2019.

Dear Parents,

As we end our half term I write to thank you for your support during Autumn.

Firstly, I would like to say what a supportive group of new parents we have in school! Our Nursery and Reception children (and their families) have been wonderful in joining our current parents/carers at our recent 'Coffee Afternoon' and 'Welcome Mass,' and we have really appreciated all the time you have given us, so far. We managed to raise £486 for our MacMillan coffee afternoon and I would like to thank all our parents and grandparents for taking the time to bake and buy cakes. We are very lucky to have such caring and supportive families here at St Columba's. and I know I can always count on you for help, especially when we are reaching out to other people.

I would like to thank our helpers who come into school to support our Baby Doves Toddler Group, football and reading. We could not manage without you and the time you give; it is appreciated.

Our Little Doves Nursery is currently full so we are unable to take any new children until September. There are plenty of spaces for September so please send in an application to school if you wish to apply.

I would like to thank all children for their hard work and achievements last half term. I have given out many "Head teacher" awards; not only for academic success, but also for good listening, manners and kindness. Children have produced beautiful artwork and writing- they have many talents which they have enjoyed sharing with staff. We appreciate them all for their enthusiasm and the special qualities they bring. There is never a day that goes by when I am not bombarded with children offering to help me. It is amazing to see children caring for one another and wonderful to hear them reading their first words. I feel very proud of the way our Y6 prefects have looked after the younger children. Keep up the good work!

Thank you to all the children and parents who attended our Novena and Confirmation at St Mary's this too was appreciated. Thank you for giving up your time for others as we know life is busy and this is not always easy. Y6 have been amazing and win the award for involvement at out of school events. We are so proud of you and your commitment so far this year.

After half term we will once again be collecting tins for the 'Food bank' in Barrow- The 'Food bank' is an extremely valuable resource for our area, in providing food for those people who may need some support, from time to time. On the run up to Christmas we will also be collecting money for Africa to send out to the school and hospital we have supported for many years.

As you can see, we have some new play line markings in our infant and junior playgrounds. The children are really enjoying playing on them but they were expensive (£5000). We have decided to have a 'Winter Wonderland Disco' on Nov 14th to raise money to pay for our markings. Please look out for details to follow. We will be holding a PTFA meeting on Thurs Nov 7th at 3.30pm for anyone who would like to help out with this event.

A couple of dinner reminders: Please **do not** send nuts in children's packed lunches. This is because we have several children and staff with nut allergies, who could suffer serious reactions to nuts in packed lunches. Also, if you are sending in grapes, please ensure they are sliced lengthways for our younger children, as they are a potential choking hazard. If your child is not going to be in school, please remember to cancel your child's school dinner (even if it is an infant free meal) as it is confusing for the dinner staff who go looking for your child, as well as the fact that it is a waste of food. **Please also remember to order your child's dinner as failure to do so means the kitchen do not have enough food.**

I have had many complaints (and photographs) of people still stopping and parking on the 'Zig Zag' lines outside our entrance to school. Please do not do this as you are putting the lives of our children at risk. Please contact the police if you have concerns about this.

Despite much pleading from school asking parents to voice any concerns to us in person, the same old Facebook parents continue to 'fight the cause' online often saying derogatory things about staff members and the school. What is most upsetting and annoying about this is the comments are often incorrect. If these parents came into school to actually speak to me they would realise that they are wrong. We do see the majority of comments that are placed on Facebook and keep a log in school of our most frequent complainers. Our Whole School Behaviour Policy which can be found on the website is about 'Whole School' behaviour and this includes parents and you need to be responsible. Please read this if you are unsure of how to behave online.

Other school events that have been happening or are going to happen:

- Our community police officers will be coming into school to talk to the children about Bonfire Night safety and Halloween safety.
- Y5 and Y6 have been learning Karate
- Y5 and Y6 have had Cricket training for 6 weeks
- Y5 and Y6 have had training from Barrow AFC for 6 weeks this will be changed to Y3 and 4 after half term
- Nursery have been enjoying Yoga this will continue after half term
- Next term Y1 and Y2 will start 'Relax Kids' sessions
- There is a Curriculum meeting on Nov 18th 5.30-6.30pm for any interested parents
- STEM came in from Siemens to talk to our children
- Some of our Y6 children will be attending an able Mathematics training session next term
- Mrs Manderson has held a reading meeting for parents
- The choir have been singing at the Confirmation Mass.
- Y6 are getting ready to go on their residential to Kepplewray.
- Children have been representing the school in Netball, Cross Country and Football.
- Some of our children have been trained as Sport leaders
- Some of our brilliant dads are training the football teams-we thank them for all their help and skills
- Y4 are learning 'Violin'
- Parents Evening is the week of Nov 25th.
- Barrow AFC will be running a club for Y1 and 2
- Nov 18th is Open Night for prospective parents in Reception and Nursery

I am conscious looking at the above list that Y5 and 6 have had a lot of professional PE coaches training them this term. They have been having 3 hours of PE which is well over the national requirement of 2 hours a week. To even things up a bit after half term Y4 will be going swimming on a Tues afternoon with some of the children from Y5 and 6. Please remember swimming kits for the first week back. Y3 and Y4 will also be having training with Barrow AFC after half term.

Christmas dates are as follows:

Monday Dec 2nd:	Y6 singing for the 'Old Folk'
Friday Dec 6th:	Christmas Coffee Afternoon
Tuesday Dec 10th:	Nursery and Rec Play 2pm and 5pm
Wednesday Dec 11th:	Y1 and Y2 Play 2pm and 5pm
Thursday Dec 12th:	Nursery Party
Friday Dec 13th:	Infant Party
Friday Dec 13th:	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday Dec 17th:	Junior Play 2pm
Wednesday Dec 18th:	Junior Play 6pm
Wednesday Dec 18th:	Y3/4 Party
Thursday Dec 19th:	Y5/6 Party
Friday Dec 20th:	Break up



Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs CM O'Donnell