



29 September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

European Day of Languages

We celebrated this year's European Day of Languages on Tuesday with Cumber Claudy Primary School. We look forward to further partnership working throughout the course of the academic year.



Whole School Mass

On Thursday, we had our 'Beginning of Year' whole school Mass. Thank you to Fr. O'Kane, the R.E & Music departments and to all of the staff and pupils involved. It was a such a special occasion.





Gideon Bibles

Our Year 8 pupils received their Gideon Bible today. Pupils are asked to include their name in their Bible and use this Word of God to support them in their lives.

Mass for Deceased Children and Young People

Please note that the date of the Diocesan Mass for Deceased Children and Young People will be celebrated by Bishop McKeown on Sunday 12th November at 7.00pm in Saint Eugene's Cathedral.

Winter Uniform

With the autumnal weather starting, some pupils have started to wear outdoor coats. Please can I therefore remind you of the uniform requirements. We would like pupils to be warm when travelling to and from school and pupils are able to wear an outdoor coat over their blazer - any plain black or navy coat (preferably without fur trim) is acceptable.

In addition:

- Any hats or gloves should be black or navy. School scarves only (No fashionable scarves)
- Any vests should be white or cream.
- Outdoor clothing can be worn outside at break and lunch. **Hoodies are not permitted.**

Lost property

Please may we request that all items of uniform and any personal belongings (such as water bottles, pencil cases etc) are clearly labelled with your son/daughter's name and Form group. This will enable us to reunite pupils with their lost belongings as swiftly as possible.



Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance Applications

Parents/guardians should submit any valid applications as soon as possible so that all eligible applicants are recorded on the system of the Education Authority. Where parents/guardians require assistance with the submission of a valid application they should contact the helpdesk at the Education Authority by email on mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk or by telephone on 028 904 18044.

Attendance Matters

I am really pleased with all of our pupils who have not missed a single day so far this term. I believe (as a father of school-aged children, as well as a Principal) that being in school helps young people feel connected, and is good for them as well as obviously preparing them for successful lives.

You may have heard or seen in the media last week there has been a dip in attendance at some schools since they returned after the pandemic. Thank you for all your support in helping to get your son/daughter to school every day as it is not only good for their studies but definitely good for their soul.



Journalism Club

Journalism Club will start on Monday 2 October, in Mobile 2 from 3:45pm - 4:30pm. All new members from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are welcome to join.

Gaelic Football

Our U16 Boys Gaelic Team has been drawn in a group in the *Ulster Schools Pat King Cup* with St. Patrick's Dungiven, St. Colm's Draperstown and Gaelcholáiste Dhoire Dungiven. The top two from each group will qualify for the knockout stages. The first group game is against St. Patrick's on Tuesday 3rd October, and we wish our pupils and management the very best of luck.



Safeguarding & Child Protection

All members of St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College staff, both teaching and support, are trained in child protection, are alert to the possible signs of child abuse and are aware of the guidelines and procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

The Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Designated Teacher - Mr B Rainey & Deputy Designated Teacher - Mr P McCullagh

Designated Governor for Child Protection - Ms M Hargan & Chair of the Board of Governors - Ms H Crossan

Parents/guardians are asked to contact the designated teacher/deputy designated teacher if they have any concerns in the first instance.

Key Dates

Monday 2nd October

Monday 30th Oct – Friday 3rd Nov

W/b Monday 6th Nov

Sunday 6th Nov

Journalism Club begins

Half-Term break

National Chemistry Week

Diocesan Mass for Deceased Children and Young

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Last Sunday, the Church celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees which always falls on the last Sunday of September. The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914 so here is an appropriate prayer:

*God, Father Almighty,
grant us the grace to work tirelessly
for justice, solidarity, and peace,
so that all your children may enjoy
the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.*

*Grant us the courage to denounce
all the horrors of our world,
and to combat every injustice
that mars the beauty of your children
and the harmony of our common home.*

Amen

**World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees
24-IX-2023**



"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay"

And finally, I end with a Chinese proverb: "Be not afraid of going slowly; be afraid only of standing still." I think I half-agree with that. Except at weekends, when we think you owe it to yourself to stand, sit or lie still ready for the week ahead. Slow or still – have a good weekend once it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH
College Principal