**November Circular 2020**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a lovely mid-term break.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings** In a change to our normal school year and as a result of the current restrictions we have taken the decision to reschedule our Parent Teacher Meetings. Our intention is now to hold our meetings early in Term 2 subject to public health guidance at this time.

Please note if at any time, you wish to speak to your child’s Class/SET teacher regarding a concern, your child’s progress or development please do not hesitate to contact the school office by phone or email and a meeting will be arranged.

**Christmas Cards** We are organising our very own Christmas Cards both as one of the key fundraising activities of the year and to allow the children share their individual artwork when families are sending Christmas greetings to their nearest and dearest. Further details to follow in the coming weeks.

**Voluntary Contribution** A very sincere thank you to all who have returned class fees and voluntary contributions to date. We are very grateful for your continued support.

**Covid-19** We sincerely appreciate your support and compliance to date with our efforts here in school.

As we mentioned frequently we must continue to …

* remain extremely vigilant and cautious, continue to communicate well with us here in school, and recommend good hygiene and coughing etiquette inside of and outside of our school environment.
* keep your children at home should they feel ill or show any symptoms associated with Covid-19.
* focus on all the basics: handwashing, sanitising, social distancing etc.

Finally, we would ask that you remain familiar with all national directives. In particular, with regard to how and when to restrict your movements if you or someone you live with has C19 SYMPTOMS, is scheduled for a test or is a close contact of a confirmed case of C19. The following link and attachment below will help clarify and answer any questions you may have: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/managing-coronavirus-at-home/if-you-live-with-someone-who-has-coronavirus.html> .

As always should you have any personal concerns or indeed suggestions as to what we can improve please do not hesitate to get in contact. We have an important role to play in ensuring the safety of all and must continue to take personal responsibility for all our individual interactions and movements.

**Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Cover** Pupil Insurance (Allianz 24/7) cover for all pupils in St Colmcille’s NS. Please see link for further details <https://www.allianz.ie/pupil-personal-accident/>

**Enrolment 2021-2022** Places in our Junior Infant classes for September 2021 will be offered next February.

**Mindful of Safety** Please ensure that your child wears their Hi Vis Vests (labelled with their name) when walking and cycling to and from school every day. We urge all students to ensure that they have a proper light on the back and front of their bike.

**Sport** Our 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th class are taking part in a 10km challenge for the next six weeks. They do a weekly 1.5km run. Well done to all our boys and girls for their super efforts.

**Wet Gear/Change of Clothes** During the pandemic it is important that classrooms are adequately ventilated, in order to achieve this we need to allow the children out to yard for their breaks where at all possible. Please ensure your child has wet gear to school every day and a change of clothes - spare runners, two or three pairs of socks, tracksuit bottoms/shorts, spare top which can be left in a labelled bag in their box at school. If they are wet on arrival or get wet during yard time they can use their change of clothes to ensure they stay dry during the school day.

**Guidelines** If you need to collect your child early or drop off their lunch please ring the school in advance and when outside we will organise your child or someone to meet you at the roundabout. If you are entering the school grounds please make sure you wear a mask. It is imperative that we continue to adhere to all HSE guidelines to ensure our school remains open.

**Importance of Reading** The most important homework that children receive each evening is their reading. This is also the homework that pupils most often ‘forget’ to do. Reading is an essential tool for all pupils. Please try to make time to listen to your child read and encourage them to practise their reading daily. Please read to your children regularly. Remember, a child is never too old to be read to!

Le gach dea ghuí,

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Kevin Munnelly, Principal