

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEAR PARENT/CARER

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL HALF-TERM PERIOD. Over the holidays the Church season of Lent began and will continue till we break up for Easter. During this period we will be preparing for Easter and engaging in a range of activities including Fundraising for the following charities:- **CAFOD, Catholic Care and Mission Together.** Please support our fund raising activities.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION LESSONS START THIS THURSDAY 25TH FEBRUARY in school from 3.15 – 4.10pm. Each child will be given a special book to do his/her work in. Some of this work will need to be done at home with parents. Then it should be brought to Mass at the weekend and collected by Father who will return them to school for the next week. Parents will need to make arrangements for their children to get home after each lesson.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS WATSON'S CLASS 6W who have won our Magnificent Attendance Trophy for their super attendance during the last week of last term. A big well done to all the pupils in Miss Watson's class and I do hope you keep up your super attendance. As a reward you will have extra playtime this week receive extra points for our termly attendance competition and a special prize if you are one of the winners of this competition at the end of term. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that children have as little time off as possible. This is because when children are not in school they miss lessons and sometimes crucial pieces of learning. Research shows that missing only one or two lessons can have a considerable effect on a pupils educational progress.

ENROLMENT MASS SUNDAY 6th MARCH AT 11.15AM IN ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH. At this Mass those children who intend to make their First Communion this year will be 'enrolled' on the programme. If you are free please come along and worship with us.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE JUBILEE DOOR AT ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL 10.30am to 1.00pm on Saturday 5th March. During this Year of Mercy Pope Frances encourages us to go on a short pilgrimage to one of the "Jubilee Doors of Mercy" which have been established in each Diocese. Travelling to a Jubilee Door and passing through it is a gesture showing that we are leaving the past behind and beginning afresh. I do hope you will go on this pilgrimage which will start at 10.30am with confessions at St Anne's followed by prayer and contemplation and Mass at 12.00noon.

READING AT HOME. ENSURING THAT YOUR CHILD READS AT HOME EACH EVENING AND WEEKEND IS (after ensuring your childs good attendance) the major thing you can do to help your child make good progress at school. At the end of each school day your child will come home with material to read that evening or weekend. Some children will be able to do this on their own and others will need you or another family member to read with or to them. Please ensure this reading work is done and ensure that the record sent home to show this is signed and returned to school.

SCHOOL BUILDING FUND – Have you sent in your contribution to our schools building fund? Because we are a Catholic School we do not get as much money to spend on repairs as state funded schools. The Government expects us to raise 10% of capital and essential improvements from parents and to do this our school asks each parent to contribute £5.00 a term or £15.00 a year to our school Building Fund. If you have not yet made your contribution for this term or year please do so.

TOMORROW AND EVERY TUESDAY OUR PARENT AND TODDLER MEETS 9.00am – 11.00am IN SCHOOL. If you are a parent or carer with a young child and you would like to meet with other parents with toddlers please come to this club. Refreshments are available and toys for the children and our Parent Involvement Worker will be in attendance to answer any queries you may have about the school and education and related matters. **If you are free do come along.**

P Spillane