



MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM...



Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

As we settle into the rhythm of the term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start we've had here at St Columba this academic year. From day one, the energy and enthusiasm of our children and staff have been truly inspiring. We have seen this positivity in the great progress the children are making!

This term has been brimming with enrichment opportunities. Highlights include cinema trips that sparked creative imaginations, and a fascinating visit from the RNLI, which taught us valuable lessons about safety and community service. These experiences, and many more, have added depth to our curriculum and brought learning to life. We are looking forward to many more exciting events, including our whole school nativity coming up. Please take note of the diary dates below.

We are proud to say that St Columba continues to be a warm and welcoming place, something echoed by the many visitors we've hosted this term. Governors, prospective parents, and special guests alike have commented on the positive atmosphere and the wonderful sense of community they've experienced. We have had great feedback, but please as always, if you have any suggestions please do let us know. We are always looking forward with aspiration and hope to continue to drive the successes of the school further.

Thank you for your continued support in making St Columba a truly special place for our children to learn and grow. We look forward to sharing more exciting updates as the term unfolds.

Mrs Viola
Head of School

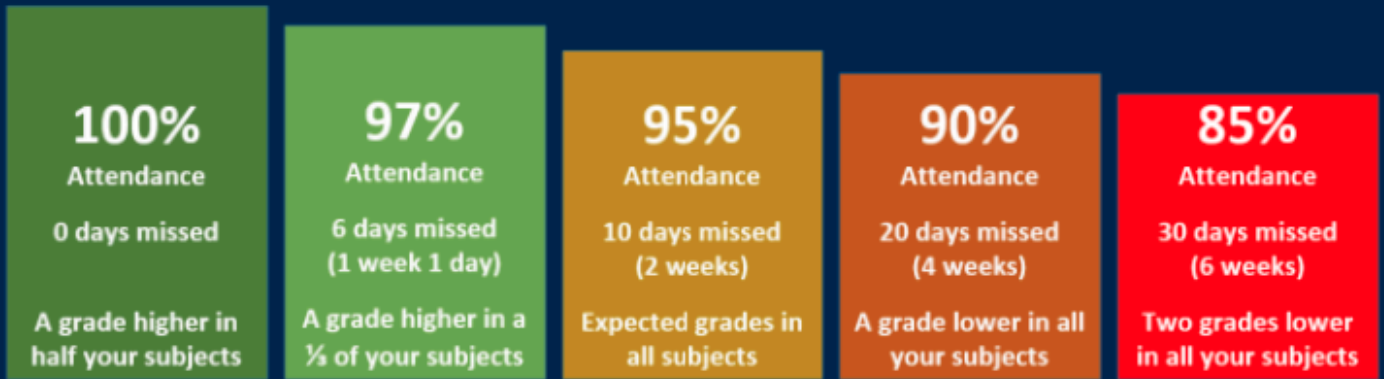


PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2024 - 2025







Attendance matters



Did you know?

<p>A two week term time holiday will make your attendance 95%</p>	<p> 10 minutes late per day = 95% attendance</p>	<p> 20 minutes late per day = 90% attendance</p>
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🎯 Attendance Matters! 🎯

At St Columba School, we believe that every day counts! Attending school regularly is vital for your child's learning, confidence, and overall success.

We're excited to share that we have Termly Class Attendance Rewards to celebrate and encourage excellent attendance across the school. The class with the highest attendance each term will earn a special reward, so make sure your child's class is in it to win it!

But that's not all! 🎉 This term, we're giving an extra special incentive for our superstar attendees. Any child who achieves 100% attendance for the term will be entered into a prize draw to win TWO match day tickets to watch Portsmouth Football Club play! ⚽

Let's aim high, stay healthy, and work together to ensure our children don't miss out on the amazing opportunities at school.

Thank you for your support in making attendance a priority. Let's cheer on our learners—and maybe Portsmouth FC, too! ❤️

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Reporting Absences

When reporting your child absence, please ensure you call the school office at the earliest possible opportunity as registers are taken at 08.50.

REMINDERS

Please can we ensure children do not ride on their bikes or scooters on school grounds - it is important to keep EVERYONE safe.

The school gates will be locked at 08.30 until 15.30 please do not park on the school grounds or outside of the school gate.



As we approach the colder weather, please can you ensure your child/children have their coats and sensible shoes! Please ensure children have wellies for Forest School days, you are welcome to leave a pair at school

All children must come to school wearing PE Kits on PE days.

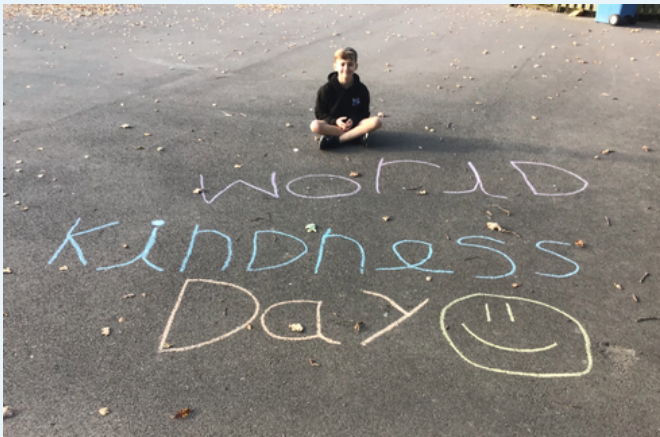
Mondays	Years 1/2 - Willow Years 5/6 - Oak
Tuesday	Years 3/4 - Beech Reception - Hazel
Wednesday	Reception - Hazel Years 5/6 - Oak
Thursday	Year 1/2 - Willow Years 3/4 - Beech



Please can we ensure your child brings their water bottle in to school - Juice is not permitted - Water only please!

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

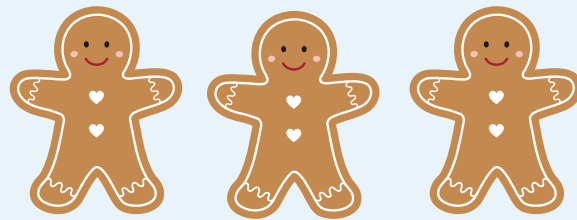
Our wonderful School Council have been very busy! They made posters, which were displayed around the school, to remind everyone about 'World Kindness Day' which was on Wednesday 13th November. They also went on to the playground to create some pictures, words, and quotes to inspire kindness so that the rest of the school could see these at break time. Thank you to the School Council for these acts of kindness.



HAZEL CLASS GINGERBREAD BAKERS! 🎄🍪



OUR WONDERFUL HAZEL CLASS HAS BEEN GETTING INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT BY ROLLING UP THEIR SLEEVES AND BAKING GINGERBREAD! AS PART OF OUR FESTIVE PREPARATIONS THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN LEARNING THE ART OF GINGERBREAD MAKING – FROM MIXING AND ROLLING DOUGH TO CUTTING OUT FUN, HOLIDAY SHAPES.



THE CLASSROOM WAS FILLED WITH THE DELIGHTFUL SMELL OF SPICES, AND THE CHILDREN HAD A FANTASTIC TIME DECORATING THEIR CREATIONS.



THIS HANDS-ON ACTIVITY HAS BROUGHT A LOT OF JOY AND CREATIVITY AS WE HEAD TOWARD CHRISTMAS. WELL DONE, HAZEL CLASS – YOUR GINGERBREAD GOODIES LOOK DELICIOUS!



OAK CLASS COMMUNICATION TESTERS



OAK CLASS HAVE BEEN TESTING THEIR COMMUNICATION SKILLS!



THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GUIDING EACH OTHER AROUND OBSTACLES, SIMILAR TO HOW THE BRITISH RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WORK - DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN!



REEL CINEMA

**KS2 ENJOYED THEIR
PRIVATE VIEWING OF THE
WILD ROBOT!**



BUTSER FARM

**BEECH CLASS TOOK A TRIP BACK
IN TIME, EXPLORING STONE AGE
TO IRON AGE!**



CHRISTMAS

We invite the community....

TO OUR FREE CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

CONTACT ADMIN@STCOLUMBA.SCHOOL TO GET BOOKED IN

FREE

We welcome
Ages 0-Pre
School

**CHRISTMAS
CRAFT DROP IN**

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, MUSIC
AND DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS TREATS!

3RD DECEMBER

3PM UNTIL 5PM

ST COLUMBA C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,
TEWKESBURY AVENUE, FAREHAM,
PO156LL

SPACES LIMITED, SCAN OR
EMAIL TO BOOK TO BOOK
YOUR SPACE

admin@stcolumba.school

Open to all.
A chance to come
together, talk to
other parents and
children and be
festive!

QR code for booking

*For pre school children aged 0 - 4 years - come and
join our Christmas Craft Drop in*



Christmas Fayre

PLEASE SUPPORT WITH DONATIONS TO MAKE THIS A TRUELY MAGICAL EVENT

ST. COLUMBA PTFA
PRESENTS
THE

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

JOIN US FOR A JOLLY GOOD TIME!

TUE 10TH DEC
15:30-17:30

Father Christmas
Raffle - Bottle Tombola - Chocolate Tombola
Exciting Games & Prizes
Cakes - Food & Drinks

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

CASH ONLY





Michael Rosen Day

This half term, we enjoyed celebrating the first ever Michael Rosen Day by joining a live event online.



Michael's Manifesto

1. Reading books helps children make the most of what school and the world offer them.
2. Books give children language, thoughts, ideas and feelings.
3. Books show them places and times and cultures very near and dear to them.
4. Books show them places and times and cultures they may not have come across before.
5. Books help children walk in other people's shoes, seeing things from someone else's point of view.
6. Books help children see that they are not alone.
7. We have to do what we can to put books into children's hands.
8. We have to do what we can to find space and time for children to talk about books.
9. We have to celebrate children's books.
10. Children's books are for everyone because we are all children at some time or another.

The Wild Robot

Key Stage 2 enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see 'The Wild Robot'. Here are some snippets of what they thought:

"I like the way the animation brought the book to life" (Vincent)

"It was really, really good. It was more emotional than the book" (Remus)



"I liked the film because you got to hear the way the characters talk which made it funnier" (Jasper)

"I preferred the book because you get more backstory" (Clara)



Regular Readers

Thank you to all those that have been supporting our Regular Reader initiative.

Children are being asked to read at least **3 times a week** at home. This needs to be recorded in the reading record. This can be in the form of a comment, initials or even a smiley face! Older children can complete their own entries of what they have read.

Each Friday, we have been celebrating the winning class within our Celebration Worship.

Well done to Hazel Class who were our first class to achieve over 50% of the class being Regular Readers.

Well done to **BEECH CLASS** who have the most wins this half term.

Home reading

Reading with your child at home is not only a way to spend time together but will also foster in them a love of stories, characters and adventures. Reading helps children develop their vocabulary and this impacts on their writing and spelling too.



Free eBooks!

Did you know ... Oxford Owl have a free eBook library?

This has been created to help children 3-11 develop their reading skills at home. As well as stories, there is a great range of non-fiction eBooks to help your child explore their world.



AUTUMN 2 CLUB LIST

CLUB	YEAR GROUP	DAY	TEACHER
DANCE	ALL	MONDAY	MRS CLEMENTS MISS LEVER
ARTS & CRAFTS	YR-Y3	MONDAY	MRS JAMES
GYMNASTICS	Y1-Y6	MONDAY	SUPERSTAR SPORTS
FOOTBALL	Y1 - Y6	MONDAY	MR SMITH
COOKING	Y3-Y6	TUESDAY	MRS JAMES
GARDENING	ALL	THURSDAY	MRS CHORLTON
FIRST AID CLUB	Y1 - Y6	THURSDAY	MRS ROBERTSON
CHOIR	Y3-Y6	THURSDAY	MRS JAKEMAN

We have spaces in the following clubs!

Monday

Dance Club - All years

Arts & Crafts Club - YR-Y3

Football Club - All years

Gymnastics - Y1-Y6 £3.80 per session

Thursday

Gardening Club Y1-Y6

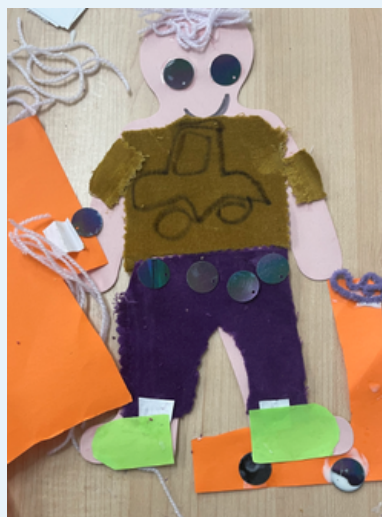
Choir Club Y3-Y6

REMINDER!!

Cooking Club on the 10th December has been moved the Monday 9th December!

ARTS & CRAFT CLUB NEWS

Over the last 3 weeks, the arts and crafters have been working on their craft skills. This has included exploring fabrics and designing our own clothes for people, learning about tessellation and making animals to showcase our art & unique paper clouds with chains. Thank you Mrs James for running this hugely successful club!





Mrs Edmunds *CHILDRENS WELL-BEING SUPPORT*

Hello! I am Mrs Edmunds and I am the Children's Wellbeing Support. My main role is to support the wellbeing of our pupils. This might involve a check-in with pupils, or an activity that helps promote self-esteem or self-confidence, to name a few.

I run a drop-in lunchtime club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays where children can come and play with Lego, complete puzzles, play with the doll's house and babies, or draw and colour. This is often a great way for me to meet younger members of our school. I am also privileged to run the School Council and lead support for our Young Carers.

For those children who might require some extra support, I run Drawing and Talking sessions, usually with the sand tray. This is a gentle, low-level therapeutic intervention which takes place over 12 sessions.

If you have any wellbeing concerns, big or small, regarding your child, please do contact me. I will be happy to help! You can email me directly at: ledmunds@stcolumba.school or leave a message with the main office staff and I will get in contact with you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



November

Monday 4th - Back to school

Monday 4th Beech Class Trip to Butser Farm

6th - PTA Meeting 15.15 -16.15

14th - 2025 New Year R

Parents Evening 5.30 - 6pm

19th - School Disco (details to follow)

20th - RNLI Visit - Year R

December

13th - Choir Singing @ Stewarts Garden Centre

10th - Christmas Fayre (details to follow)

12th - Christmas Lunch

17th - Walking Nativity -9.30-11.30 & Carols on the Cross 5.30 - 6pm

18th - Whole School Nativity 9.30 - 11am

Friday 20th - Last day of Term

Inset Days 2025

14th February

23rd May

2nd June

January

Monday 6th - Back to school

February

14th - INSET

Monday 16th - Friday 21st - Half Term

24th - Back to School

March

5th - NSPCC Talks Y2, 5 & 6

6th - World Book Day

18th & 19th - Parents Evenings

April

Wednesday 2nd - Easter Service 9.30-10am

Monday 7th - Monday 21st - Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd - Back to School

May

12th - 16th May SATS Week

14th - Bikeability Y5-Y6

23rd May - INSET

Monday 26th - 30th May - Half Term

June

Monday 2nd - Inset Day

Friday 6th - Monday 9th - Y5/6 Residential Trip

16th - School Photos

18th - Sports Day

July

2nd - Transition Day - Henry Cort Y6

Friday 18th - Last day of term

Half Terms

23rd December - 3rd January 2025

16th - 21st February 2025

7th - 18th April 2025

Monday 21st April - BANK HOLIDAY

26th-30th May 2025



family
lives

Parent Workshops

Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses:

Family Life - Free Parenting Course

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

(* Free from landlines and most mobiles)



Parents Together

[Read More](#)



Let's Play

[Read More](#)



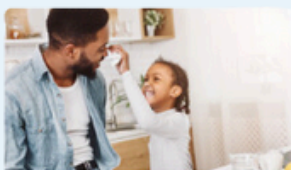
Coping with
teens

[Read More](#)



A New Baby in
the Family

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Bringing up
Confident
Children

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Sibling
arguments and
how to manage

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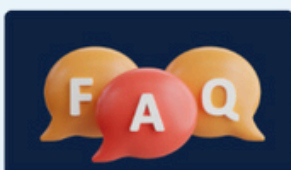
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FAQ - Online
Parenting
Courses

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Co-parenting
after divorce or ...

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PTFA of St Columba

A Huge Thank You to Our Amazing PTFA! 🍩🍪🎉🎄

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTFA for all their hard work and dedication in supporting our school community. Over the past few weeks, they've been busy organising some fantastic events - from the donut and cookie sales, which raised much-needed funds & the amazing school disco! With the upcoming Christmas Fayre, this is sure to bring even more excitement and joy to our children!

The PTFA's commitment to creating memorable experiences and raising funds for our school truly makes a difference. Every donut, cookie, and disco ticket sold goes toward enriching our school environment and making special events possible. We are incredibly grateful for their endless enthusiasm and support!

Thank you, PTFA, for everything you do!

After school club - Barn Owls

Barn Owls are providing breakfast (from 7.30am) and afterschool (until 5.30pm) wrap around care for the St Columba children. For any families who require a space for their child/children or have any enquiries please contact Barn Owls directly on: 07359 883847.

