



MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM...

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. To our new parents and children, a very warm welcome to our school community. We are thrilled to have you join us and look forward to a another year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences. The children have settled in well - see the class update page below for some snapshots.

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together. Our school was awarded a Good Ofsted rating, a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and children. We were also recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion, highlighting our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all. Additionally, we received the Young Carers Award, acknowledging our efforts to support young carers within our community. Our commitment to environmental education was also celebrated with the Achieving School for Nature Award. These are all a reflection of our collective efforts and the strong partnerships we have with our parents and community.

As we embark on this new academic year, we are excited to build on these successes. Our achievements serve as a springboard for even greater accomplishments. We have many exciting plans and initiatives in place to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.
Together, we will make this year another remarkable one.

Mrs Viola

Head of School



Welcome

Welcome to our new office team! We have Mrs Perry, our school business manager, who joins us with a wealth of school experience from another local Primary School.

Mrs Penric our Admin Assistant, who has prior school experience and is quickly learning all about how we operate. She has been amazing at picking things up.

Thank you for your patience with us as we are finding our feet!

REMINDERS

Please note our school uniform below. It is essential your child comes to school in full uniform. Including black footwear. This helps support to develop a sense of belonging, and helps focus in the classroom as well as behaviour. Please see uniform below. Branded Uniform is ordered from Price and Buckland. Non branded can be found in most supermarkets. We also have some second hand uniform, please speak to Mrs Hatton if you need anything. Please note Make-up is not permitted in school.



All children must come to school wearing PE Kits on PE days. If children are not coming in to school with PE kit, we will ask for you to bring the kit into school and your child will need to change here. Please refer back to the letter you received when you were issued with kit.

PE kit is Black shorts/ trousers and a plain white T shirt or the school logo T shirt. No branded clothing with large slogans are permitted.

Keep an eye on our useful dates page below - this will be updated to share dates for your diaries.

Please ensure any snacks for break-time meet with our healthy school ethos. This means snacks should be fruit, vegetables, breadsticks, breakfast bars or other healthy items – crisps, chocolate bars or sweets are not allowed.



CELEBRATE!

St Columba wins a prestigious award for supporting students who are young carers

St Columba school has won a prestigious award for our work supporting young carers with their education.

Young carers are children under 18 who are responsible for the care of a family member with who, due to illness, disability, mental health condition or addiction, can't cope without their support.

The award is part of the Young Carers in School programme run by charities The Children's Society and Carers Trust. St Columba won the award by demonstrating how we support young carers. This includes running lunch clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils.

Vicky Morgan, Carers Trust's Head of Young Carers at Young Adult Carers, said:

"We're delighted to present the Young Carers in Schools award to St Columba. Figures show there are two young carers in every classroom but balancing learning with looking after family members can be tough without help. By identifying young carers and putting support in place, schools and teachers can make a huge difference to their wellbeing and education. That's why the brilliant work done by staff at St Columba is so vital and why this award is so richly deserved."

Lisa Witse hidden children and young people and ensuring they get the vital support they need to thrive in education and in life beyond school."

We would like to thank Mrs Edmunds for championing this and for her dedication in supporting all children at St Columba!

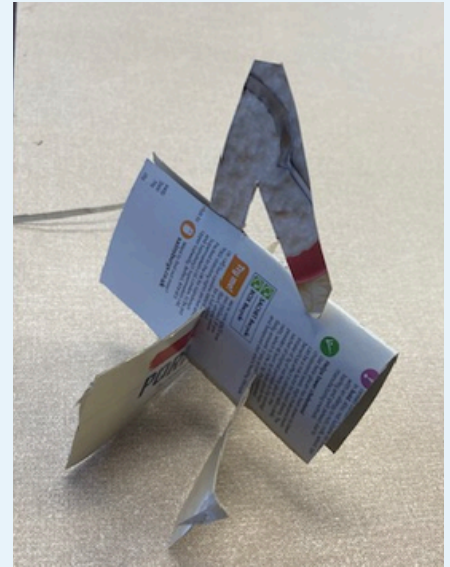
If you feel your child could benefit from Young carer support, please get in touch.



CLASS UPDATES

Spotlight on Beech Class

Beech Class had the challenge of turning 2d shapes into 3D structures without using tape or glue to join. They came up with some very creative ideas ... 💡



This term Beech class will be learning the Ukulele, This will develop so many skills, for example fine motor, listening and rhythm, not just create musicians



WELCOME TO YEAR R

Welcome to the newest members of the St Columba Family.

The children have settled in well and forming great friendships and relationships with the team. We have wasted no time, the children are already keen to take part in their phonics sessions, and transfer this into the provision in class.

We cannot wait to see them grow and flourish!





PLEASE READ THE BELOW TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



CLUBS

Club	Day	Adult	Year Groups
Tennis	Monday	Miss Lever	Year 3-6
Acrobatic Gymnastics *££	Monday	Outsourced	Year 1-6
KS2 Football	Monday	Mr Smith	Year 3-6
Funky Fingers	Tuesday	Mrs James	Year R, 1 and 2
Dance	Tuesday	Mrs Clements and Miss Lever	All
Netball	Thursday	Mrs Clements	Year 3-6
KS2 Choir	Thursday	Miss Jakeman	Year 3-6
Gardening	Thursday	Mrs Chorlton	KS 1 and 2

All Clubs will run from 3.15-4pm, other than outsourced clubs. Children must be collected promptly. If your child would like to attend any clubs please book via the Arbor Parent Portal, Places are offered on a first come, first serve basis. We will put your child on a wait list if the club is full. This term the clubs will run for from 16/09/24 until the end of term. Please note clubs with a £ are chargeable. Please ensure additional PE kit is brought in for any applicable clubs. Any queries please contact the office.

Attendance matters



Did you know?

A two week term time holiday will make your attendance 95%

 10 minutes late per day = 95% attendance

 20 minutes late per day = 90% attendance

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carer set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

You may be aware that the DFE has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes came into effect on 19th August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. Being late is defined as arriving after 08:45. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

This represents the most recent Government guidance on attendance, and these rules are being implemented as per the guidelines, not by the school's own decision.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding this matter.

100%

ATTENDANCE WINNER AUTUMN TERM

ANY CHILD THAT HAS 100%
ATTENDANCE IN THE AUTUMN TERM
GOES INTO THE DRAW TO WIN!

2 MATCH DAY
TICKETS FOR ANY
2024/25 GAME AT
FRATTON PARK



We are pleased to announce that Portsmouth in the Community has generously provided us with an attendance incentive. We hope this will motivate children to attend school daily and on time. At the end of the Autumn Term, all students with 100% attendance will be entered into a draw for a chance to win this reward.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



September

16th - 3.30 -4pm Beech (yr3/4) Class Meet the Teacher
17th - 3.30-4pm Willow (Yr 1/2)class Meet the Teacher
19th - Oak (Yr 5/6) Class Meet the teacher
24th - Flu Immunisations

October



2nd - 9.30am Harvest Festival @ Church
15th - 3.30pm Phonics and reading parent information meeting
11th - World Mental Health day - Wear Yellow
22nd and 24th - Parents Evenings
25th - Last Day of Term

November

Monday 4th - Back to school
Monday 4th Beech Class Trip to Butser Farm
14th - 2025 entry Year R Parents Evening 5.30 - 6pm

December

13th - Choir Singing @ Stewarts Garden Centre
17th - Carols on the Cross 5.30 - 6pm
18th - Whole School Nativity 9.30 - 11am
Friday 20th - Last day of Term

January

Monday 6th - Back to school

February

Friday 14th - INSET
Monday 16th - Friday 21st - Half Term
Monday 24th - Back to School

March

Wednesday 5th - NSPCC Talks Y2, 5 & 6
Thursday 6th - World Book Day
Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 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
Friday 23rd May - INSET
Monday 26th - 30th May - Half Term

June

Monday 2nd - Inset Day
Friday 6th - Monday 9th - Y5/6 Residential Trip
18th - Sports Day

July

Friday 18th- Last day of term

St Columba C of E Primary School

'Growing futures rooted in Love, Hope and Respect'

Starting School September 2025? We invite you to our open sessions on:

- Wednesday 16th October – 9.30am
- Monday 11th November – 1.30pm
- Thursday 14th November – 5.30pm

June 2024 OFSTED said:

'The school is going from strength to strength. Children in the early years get off to a flying start in an highly engaging environment. Staff provide the children with an array of rich learning experiences.'

Our Advantages

- ✓ "Learning at St Columba is an adventure, not a chore" IQM 2024
- ✓ Small and happy school
- ✓ Vast, well used grounds

Enquire today

01329 843226 admin@stcolumba.school www.stcolumbaprimary.co.uk

Tewkesbury Avenue, Fareham, PO15 6LL



Relish – School Casual Catering Assistants

Relish are currently recruiting for the above position to work within our school kitchens, covering staff absence.

If you are looking for casual or zero hours working between 11am & 2pm we may have the job for you, term time only.

If you are interested, please pass your contact details onto the school or contact Andrew Harvey on 07979 259236 or email andrewharvey@relishschoolfood.co.uk

**WE ARE
HIRING**

After school club - Barn Owls

Barn Owls are providing breakfast (from 7.45am) 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.

