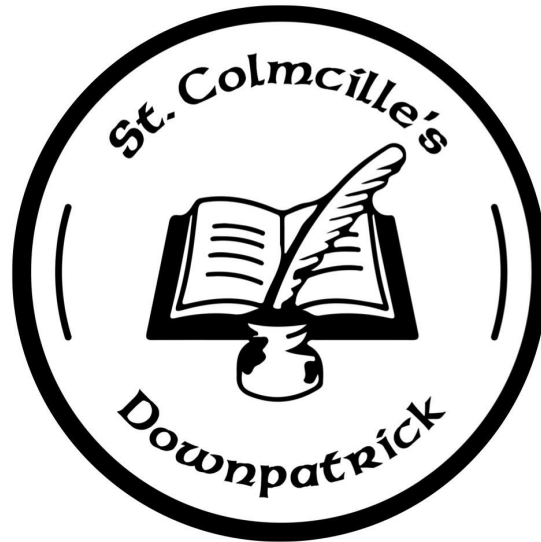


# School Newsletter January 26

The latest news and events from St. Colmcille's Primary School

January 2026



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✿ Fun Dates Coming Up at School! ✿

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. COLMCILLE'S PS



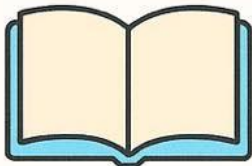
National Parental  
Health Day



100th Day of School



50p Friday



National  
Storytelling Week



Nurture Parents—  
Stay and Play



End of Term  
Disco & Fun Day



Mid Term Break

📅 Monday 2nd – Friday 6th February

📖 National Storytelling Week A week full of stories, reading, and imagination!

🧸 Thursday 5th February

👩👧👦 Nurture Parents – Stay & Play Come along to play, learn, and spend time together.

🎵 Friday 6th February

👯 End of Term Disco & Fun Day Music, games, laughter, and lots of smiles!

❄️ Monday 9th – Friday 13th February

🏖️ Mid-Term Break School closed – time to rest, recharge, and have fun at home.

👪 Grandparents' Day at St. Colmcille's PS 👪



This month, we were delighted to welcome the grandparents of our P1 and P7 children into school to enjoy tea and treats together. The celebration included a lovely photo montage,

beautiful handmade cards, and time spent sharing and reflecting on treasured memories. A number of grandparents were also presented with a special prize, adding to what was a truly heartfelt day. We are so grateful to all the grandparents who joined us, and to our wonderful children for making the occasion so memorable. Thank you for helping us celebrate the invaluable role grandparents play in our lives! ❤️

## 🎨🏆 Art Competition Winners 🎨🏆



Congratulations to Isaac (P6B), Lola and Taylor (P7A) who were winners of Downpatrick Credit Union's recent art competition, based on the theme 'The Future is...'. Isaac, Lola and Taylor not only used their amazing art skills and talents but also their imaginations, to predict how the future might look and offer advice on how we can look after our planet.



We are delighted to share that our incredible PTFA have recently donated £4,000 to our school! This fantastic contribution comes from their tireless commitment to fundraising and supporting our school community. This generous donation will be put to immediate use for the benefit of our wonderful pupils, helping to enhance experiences and reduce costs for families in areas such as:-New Development Opportunities 🏹🍰🌐-Educational Trips-New Playground Games & Equipment-Cupcake-Community Growing Area🌱A huge thank you to our PTFA for their continued hard work and dedication. Your support truly makes a difference! ✨❤️

♥ Trócaire Palestine Donation ♥



We were delighted to present Father Jim Conway, who has recently joined the Parish of Downpatrick, with a donation of £1000 towards Trócaire's urgent and important humanitarian work in Palestine, following the recent conflict in Gaza. This contribution was made possible by the very generous donations from our school community and staff throughout December. We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity and we continue to pray for all those affected by conflict across the globe and pray for peace for all.

 Safer Schools App 



## Parent/Carer Primary St. Colmcille's Primary

Our School is delighted to offer our school community the Safer Schools NI App, that has been developed in collaboration with INEQE and the Department of Education.

Why you should download:

This app provides parents and carers with news and notifications relating to child safeguarding and internet safety. It will also provide the latest updates relating to social media trends and dangers that it may be useful for you to be aware of.

Additionally, the app provides links to our school news and calendar, meaning you can conveniently access our entire school website through this app.

How to download:

Search 'Safer Schools NI' in your app store to find and download the app.

When setting up for the first time, you'll first have to register.

During the registration process, you will be asked to search for our school and then you will be prompted to add an access code. The access code for parents/carers is 8497.

A helpful guide for downloading and registering for the app have been sent to all families via Seesaw!

We hope that all members of our school community can benefit from downloading and regularly accessing this app! Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher via Seesaw if you need any assistance with accessing the Safer Schools NI App.

## 🕊 Spirit of Catholic Education Award 🕊



St Colmcille's PS is proud to announce that it has been honoured with the Spirit of Catholic Education Award, recognising the school's exceptional commitment to living out the values at the heart of Catholic education—respect, compassion, service, and a deep sense of community. Presented annually during Catholic Schools Week, the Spirit of Catholic Education Award celebrates individuals and school communities that demonstrate outstanding witness to the Gospel message. This year, St Colmcille's was selected for its unwavering dedication to nurturing the spiritual, academic, and emotional growth of every student. Mr Austin Principal said the award reflects the collective effort of the entire school community.

"We are very pleased to once again receive this honour. "Our pupils, staff, and families work every day to create a culture of kindness, inclusion, and nurture. This award recognises the heart and spirit that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. Special mention to our two RE Coordinators Mrs Morgan & Mrs Curan for their excellent efforts in promoting/coordinating this important area of the schools curriculum."



At St. Colmcille's Primary School, our core values guide everything we do. They shape how we learn, how we treat one another, and the kind of community we strive to build each day. Our values are:

- Peace
- Courage
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Humility
- Justice

- Forgiveness
- Kindness

Thank you for supporting the values that help our pupils flourish.

#StColmcillesPS #TogetherWeGrow

## Big Walk & Wheel 2026



#BigWalkandWheel is back! From 16 - 27 March 2026, we're encouraging families to get active by walking, wheeling, scooting, or cycling to school. It's a fun way to boost health and wellbeing for everyone!

For free school resources and information visit: [bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk)

Let's make every journey count! @WalkWheelCycleTrust

In partnership with @Schwalbetires

# After School Clubs

Beginning Mon 5th January

<b>Monday</b> Funfit or Lego Club 	<b>Thursday</b> Gaming & Coding 
<b>Tuesday</b> Arts & Craft Club 	<b>Friday</b> Chess Club (P3-P7)  or Netball & Football (P6&7 only)
<b>Wednesday</b> Multi-Sports & Outdoor Play 	<b>SchoolMoney</b> for booking 

**14:00-15:00 Clubs - £2**  
**15:00-16:00 Clubs - £2**  
**16:00-16:30 Homework Club - £1**

1 - Please see the attached poster showing the fun and exciting extra-curricular activities available each day. Bookings can be made via SchoolMoney.



Over the past few weeks, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Madeleine Crawford, coach and club secretary of Down Triathlon Club, who visited pupils from P6-7 and LSC4 on behalf of Triathlon Ireland. Madeleine helped boost our fitness and athletic abilities by teaching us some of the basic skills needed to take part in Triathlon, culminating in a final mini-race. Everyone involved had a fantastic time and we hope to welcome Madeline back again soon.

✈️🚗 Trips and Visits ✈️🚗





We are committed to providing our children with the best possible learning experiences.

Throughout the year, your child will enjoy:

- **A local visit** linked to their class learning
- **An educational trip** to enrich their curriculum
- **A fun end-of-year trip** to celebrate their hard work

We would like to thank the PTFA—and you—for your continued support in supporting their/our fundraising efforts. Thanks to fundraising, and careful management of the school budget, parents are charged **no more than 60% of the overall cost** of trips and transport.

## Football Success

Congratulations to our P6-7 footballers who represented our school at an indoor mini-tournament on Friday 30th January, demonstrating some excellent talent, skill and teamwork. Out of their 4 games, our team had a record of 3 wins and 1 draw. Thank you to the staff and pupils from Our Lady and St. Patrick's, St. Brigid's and St. Nicholas' Primary School Ardglass for joining us and demonstrating some excellent sportsmanship and skill!





We love to connect with our school community!

Get in touch with us at:

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