**November Circular 2024**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you all had a lovely mid-term break. We have a very busy half term ahead with many events planned.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings** We will be facilitating Parent/Teacher meetings from Monday 11th to Friday 22nd November. Each parent/guardian will be allocated a ten-minute slot. Please use Aladdin Connect to book an exact time slot if you have not done so already. Please email the school office if you do not have Aladdin Connect. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Anti-Bullying Awareness Day**We are having a whole school Anti-Bullying Awareness Day on **Thursday 5th December.**

**Christmas Cards** We are organising our very own Christmas Cards 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 days.

**Christmas Concert** This year we will have a whole school Christmas Concert in St Mary’s Church, Westport on Wednesday 11th December from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. We would like to thank Fr John for accommodating us.

**School Hot Meals Programme** We started our School Hot Meals programme yesterday. Following Department guidelines, the chairperson of the Board of Management and I prepared the necessary paperwork and along with support from the Schools Procurement Unit the application was published on the government eTender website. We received two applications and having reviewed both, the successful supplier was Hobans Centra. We look forward to working with Hobans to deliver this hot lunch programme to our school.

**Halloween Disco** We would like to thank our Parents Association for organising a Halloween disco and decorating the hall on the last day before our mid-term break. A big thank you to Gavin Callaghan from The Voice Box who kindly gifted the silent disco, which was enjoyed by all.

**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 2025-2026** Places in our Junior Infant classes for September 2025 will be offered next February.

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

**Swimming** Our 1st to 6th class pupils have started their 6 week block of swimming lessons.

**Art Teacher** We are delighted to have Ms Mary Gallagher with us again for this term. Mary is working with all classes creating wonderful art. Thank you Mary for all your time, energy and expertise.

**Pilot Languages Scheme – Primary Sampler Module** We were successful in our application to take part in our fourth primary sampler module. This is a language pilot scheme for primary schools. Mr Douglas Whittaker from Westport Language School has started Spanish with pupils from 4th, 5th & 6th class.

**Music** Ms Christina Heneghan is teaching tin whistle to pupils from 3rd to 6th class. We have also started the Music Generation programme. This involves Ceol na nÓg for Junior Infants to 2nd class and Ceili Ukulele for 5th class taking place every Wednesday. A big thank you to our Parents Association and parent body for covering the cost of this initiative.

**Parking** In consultation with Mairead Hastings from An Scoil Beag, we have changed our preschool start time in the morning to alleviate traffic congestion. Unfortunately, we continue to have problems and congestion during pick up at 2.30pm. **Reminder please do not park or stop in the middle lane** of the roundabout. We need to ensure that this lane is kept free for through traffic. Please park away from the school if possible or encourage older children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If anyone has a solution to this issue of congestion during pick up we would appreciate your advice and support.

**School Closure** Please note school will be closed on **Friday, November 29th** as it has been requisitioned as a polling centre for the upcoming General Election.

**Photocopying/ Arts and Crafts**

Please find details of Photocopying/Arts and Crafts costs for the 2024/2025 school year. This can be paid on Aladdin.

1 Child = €20 2 Children = €30

3 Children = €40 4 Children = €50

**Dates for your Diary**

* Please note school will be closed on **Friday 29th November** as it has been requisitioned as a polling centre for the upcoming General Election.
* The school will close for Christmas holidays on **Friday 20th December at 12 noon** and re-opens on **Monday 6th January 2025.**

Le gach dea ghuí,



Kevin Munnelly,

Principal