

St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

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Newsletter September 2017

Principal's Introduction- September 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter of another school year. It is wonderful to see our children back again and a big 'thank you' to parents for ensuring that the children are superbly turned out. They all look terrific in their school uniforms.

A special welcome to our new Reception, Primary One, other pupils and their families who have joined / will be joining our school this year.

School Building

I would like to record the appreciation of staff and pupils to Mr McGuigan and the cleaners for their hard work throughout the summer. The school summer holidays are a very busy time for them and they have done an excellent job in cleaning the school. The school building is really a credit to them.

Staff Changes

Mrs Noreen Smith has been appointed as our new Vice-Principal and Mr Hart is teaching the Primary 7 class until she takes up her post. Miss McBride is currently working alongside Mrs Quinn with the Primary 5 class. We would like to pass on our congratulations to Miss Kerr on obtaining a permanent post in a primary school in Armagh.

Keady Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

Traditional Irish music and singing classes will resume in St Francis of Assisi Primary School on Friday evenings at 7:30p.m. Registration for classes will take place on Friday 8th September at 7:30pm and classes will begin on Friday 15th September. Music lessons in tin whistle, banjo, guitar, mandolin and fiddle are on offer. Singing classes are also on offer if requested. Cost of twelve lessons for Term1 is £50. We would encourage as many of our children as possible from primary 3 to Primary 7 to avail of this opportunity.

Should any further information be required, please contact **Margaret Patrick** on **07833662593**

Big Summer Read

Congratulations to our boys and girls who participated in this year's Big Summer Read in conjunction with Keady library. All will be presented with a special certificate in the Library in the coming weeks. The library staff has also invited our children to attend Junior Book clubs in the library on Saturday afternoons. On **Saturday 9th of September**, Keady Library will hold a Junior Book Club for children aged from 7-9yrs and on **Saturday 16th September** there will be a Book Club for children aged 10yrs +. The Clubs commence at 2:30pm. There is no cost for attendance and light refreshments will be served for children. Again, we would urge all our children to attend and ask parents to support their children in this.

Healthy Breaks and Lunches

At St Francis of Assisi Primary School, we try to promote a whole school approach to our children's nutrition and healthy eating. We do this in a number of ways and ask that you encourage and support your child and the school in these.

Fruit only breaks

Pupils may have fruit only at break time (P3-P7). A snack time is in place for Reception, Primary One and Primary Two.

Water on desks

For a number of years we have encouraged pupils to bring in their own bottle of still, unflavoured water. Evidence has shown that dehydration can result in loss of concentration and reduced learning capacity. Drinking fresh water regularly promotes good general and dental health.

School dinners

Our school dinners are planned carefully in line with National Nutritional Standards. A varied, healthy menu is provided for our children and meals are prepared on the school premises. Dinners cost £2.60 per day for dinner and dessert. Each family will receive a copy of the monthly school dinner menu. We would encourage all our families to check their eligibility for Free School Meals. Application forms for same are available from the school office and should be submitted on completion to Education Authority as soon as possible.

Packed Lunches from Home

NHS Livewell (Child's health) recommends that a healthier lunchbox should be based on the following:

- be based on starchy carbohydrates (bread, potatoes, rice, pasta)
- include fresh fruit and vegetables/salad
- include a source of protein such as beans and pulses, eggs, fish, meat, cheese (or dairy alternative)
- include a side dish such as a low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurt (or dairy alternative), tea cake, fruit bread, plain rice/corn cakes, homemade plain popcorn, sugar-free jelly
- include a drink such as water, skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, sugar-free or no-added-sugar drinks

We would ask parents **not** to include the following in children's packed lunches: chocolate coated products/sweets/ confectionary, fizzy sugary drinks.

Do this in Memory Programme

Thank you to all of our parents who attended the Information Evening on Wednesday last. First Holy Communion will take place on **Sunday 29th April 2018** in St. Patrick's Church, Keady at 11:30am

Baptismal certificates must be sent into school as soon as possible for children receiving First Holy Communion or Confirmation if they were baptised outside the parish of Keady.

Dates of the Sunday Do This in Memory Masses at 9:00am are as follows:

Sunday 17th September: Enrolment Sunday

Sunday 22nd October: Mission Sunday

Sunday 26th November: Solemnity of Christ the King

Sunday 24th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 14th January: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St. Francis of Assisi P.S prepare)

Sunday 11th February: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 4th March: Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25th March: Palm Sunday

Sunday 15th April: Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3rd June: Corpus Christi (St. Francis of Assisi P.S prepare)

Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi

Our whole school will attend Mass at 10:00am on Wednesday 4th October in celebration of our school's patron saint. Parents, family members and friends are all welcome to attend.

Parent/ Teacher meetings

Parent teacher meetings have been scheduled for 26th and 27th October. However if there is a matter you would like to discuss with the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to see class teacher or Principal.

Policies

The school is updating a number of whole school policies. These are: Attendance, Anti-Bullying, Relationships and Sexuality Education. These are available on our school website and the school would welcome any comments on same by October 27th.

Enrolment of children

Places are still available in our Preschool Reception class. Children can enter the class this year if their 4th birthday is on or after 2nd July 2013.

Any parent seeking a Reception/ Primary One place for their child in the school year 2018-19 should contact the school and give name to the secretary.

Housekeeping Reminders

School closures

A list of holidays/school closures has been issued to all families. Please use this when planning holidays. The school cannot give permission for children to go on holiday during term time. Any such absence will be reflected in your child's monthly attendance printout which is forwarded to the Education Welfare Officer. As you may be aware from the end of term newsletter (June 17) we are endeavoring to ensure that all children have an annual attendance rate of 95% or better.

Breakfast/ Minding Clubs

Breakfast Club is now open from 8:00am. Any child wishing to attend should have a registration form completed by parent or guardian. The cost of club is 50p or £1 per family daily. Breakfast will be served up to 8:30am. Children can still use the Breakfast Club after 8:30am, at the usual above cost.

Minding Club is also operational from 2:15pm to 3:00pm. Cost is £2:00 per day per child or £3.00 per family.

Labelling of clothing

It would be appreciated if parents could check their child's clothing to ensure that they are clearly labelled.

Nut products

In our school, we have children with severe nut allergies. We would therefore remind parents to check the food being sent into school to ensure there are no traces of nuts.

Contact details

Please ensure you inform the school office of any change in contact or medical details.

I would like to wish all our staff, pupils, parents and governors a very successful school year.

