

St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

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TERM 1A SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022



New Term - New Beginnings!

'Back with a Bang' - and just fabulous to see the boys and girls settling back so well into school routine! We extend a very special, warm welcome to our new pupils in Reception, Primary 1, Rang 1 and to our new Primary 2 pupils. We hope your journey in St Francis of Assisi PS brings many happy and fun-filled days with plenty of new exciting learning experiences to share with all your friends.

Seesaw App:

Parents should now have received an invite to join your child's class on Seesaw. If you are not already on this app please ensure you activate your account asap.

Seesaw have just recently added a new parent facility where a parent with more than one child in the school should be able to open a parental account and access notifications from numerous classes. We are still looking at how this works and will inform parents in due course as to how this can be set up.



Seesaw is now our main port of call for parental communication which will include important messages and notifications from both the Principal, Mrs Hughes, and your child's teachers. If parents have any questions or concerns these should be addressed privately with the class teacher using the Seesaw messaging service. Please do not message Mrs Hughes on Seesaw as these messages are not monitored regularly.

Staff will within reason endeavour to answer any queries you may have however please understand they are under no obligation and will not be expected to monitor Seesaw outside of contracted school hours.

Please use this service to inform teachers if your child has an appointment, will be late to school or will have to leave early, or if your child is unwell and will not be attending school - explaining the absence so as any absenteeism is recorded accurately on our system.

NB: If you comment under anything posted, a thread will open and other parents will be able to see your message. If you wish to leave a private message (1:1 for the teacher only) use the white speech bubble to open a conversation. Click Create New Conversation at the bottom of the page. Add recipient by typing first letter of the teacher's name -click on teachers name icon which appears below the search bar. Write your private message in the box below and add attachments if necessary using the green + button. Only the teacher chosen will see that message.

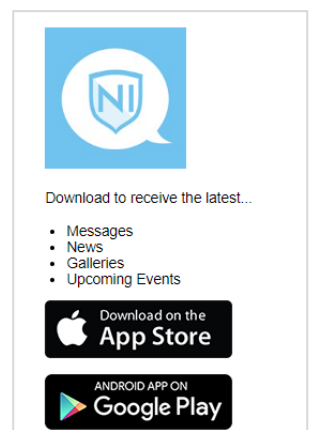
School NI App/ School Website:

Our website can be accessed through the schools NI app on your phone or on any browser using the link below.

<https://www.stfrancisofassisisips.co.uk/>

Attendance:

Please note attendance at school is monitored regularly by the Education Welfare Service on behalf of the Department of Education. It is vitally important that you inform the school via private message on Seesaw giving an appropriate explanation on the morning your child is not attending school. The appropriate code will then be recorded on our school system.



School Uniform:

We are off to a great start with everyone looking very smart in their school uniform.

NB: Polo shirts are for PE days only. Ties worn with shirts on non-PE days please.

We again would thank parents for your support in maintaining such high standards throughout the school year.

PE Uniform

PE uniform consists of the Playrfit PE jumper. All other items of the PE uniform remain unmarked. This includes a plain white polo shirt, navy unmarked bottoms (no addidas stripes etc) and suitable trainers of your choice.

Online PE jumper order – expected delivery of the jumpers is mid to late September. Please note the school have no control over delivery dates or online orders so please be patient! Jumpers will be distributed as and when they arrive – parents will be informed via Seesaw. **Until this delivery all pupils are to wear the green school jumper for PE days.**

Wrap Around Services:

Service	When?	Where?	Cost – Payable on Parentpay
Breakfast Club	Monday-Friday 8am -8:45am	School dining hall –entrance to rear of school from courtyard. Younger pupils should be accompanied to club by suitable adult	£1 per child or £2 per family daily.
Minding Club	Monday-Thursday	Classroom/Hall	£2 per child or £3 per family daily
After School Activities	Half Termly – refer to each half termly timetable on website and Seesaw	School Grounds	Varies as per activity - refer to each half termly timetable

Parentpay Online Cashless System:

To ease with administration, we ask that payment for school dinners and our wraparound services such as Breakfast Club and Minding Club are paid IN ADVANCE on the Parentpay system. Any absenteeism resulting in overpayment will be credited to your child's account.

Registration for After School Activities each half term will be via full payment on this system. Only pupils who have pre-registered may attend.

Please ensure you are registered for this system and your account is fully activated. If you are having problems, please contact Mrs McQuillan Wednesday-Friday in the school office.

Covid Guidance –Most current NI Direct guidance:

“...Adults with a positive test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started.

For children (under 18 years of age) this period is reduced to three days.

As a precautionary measure those who test positive should avoid contact with individuals who are at 'higher risk' from COVID for ten days...”

We would ask parents to remain vigilant when your child is feeling generally unwell. In this case we would ask you to please use your better judgement - you know your home situation and your child best! If your child tests positive for Covid 19, please continue to inform the school. If your child has been sick and vomiting allow 48hrs after the last of this before returning to school, as per HSE guidelines for schools.

Morning Yard Supervision:

Yard supervision begins at 8:45am. In line with Health and Safety guidelines unfortunately there should be no-one on school grounds before this time. For any family requiring earlier supervision the Breakfast Club is open from 8am at a cost of £1 per child.

Reminder that younger pupils must be accompanied to the playground gate for morning supervision or to the assigned entrance in the case of adverse weather.

Reception and Primary 1 pupils should continue to use the gate at the outside play area at all times. In adverse weather Rang 1-3 and P2-P7 will assemble in the school hall under staff supervision.

NB: Morning supervision ends at 8:55am. Classes are then accompanied from the yard by school staff. In line with Safeguarding Procedures the entrance doors to the rear of the school are the locked at 9am. Any child late to school should be accompanied to the school reception. Pupils should not be dropped off and left to wander outside the building unsupervised!

Car Parking:

Following Health and Safety guidelines and in an effort to ease traffic congestion the school operates a drop off system outside the school grounds.

To assist with the smooth running of this traffic system parents/guardians are asked to please adhere strictly to the guidelines below and to ensure whoever is collecting your child is aware of these procedures.

All vehicles should park in the chapel car park at drop off and collection times or turn in the car park using the front of the school for drop off only on the way out. To avoid pedestrians crossing in front of oncoming traffic, pupils must not be dropped off on the way into the car park.

Staff car parks must not be used, unless in special circumstances and previously agreed with the school principal.

There is strictly NO PARKING on Madden Row or at the front of the school during peak times.

When parking in the chapel car park, please park at all times as instructed by staff on a Friday afternoon. This maintains a safer practice for pedestrians entering or leaving the carpark on foot.

Dates for the Diary in Term 1:

Halloween Break	School closes 2pm Friday 28 th October 2022	School reopens Monday 7 th November. Breakfast Club to reopen at 8am. Minding Club as normal this week.
P2 – 7 Parent Teacher Meetings	Dates will be sent out once teacher training dates have been confirmed for Oct/Nov.	
Christmas Holidays	School closes 11am Thursday 22 nd December 2022	School reopens Thursday 5 th January 2023 Breakfast Club to reopen at 8am. Minding Club as normal this week.
Reception - P1 & Rang 1 Parent Teacher Meetings	These meetings normally take place once pupils are settled in Term 2.	

After School Activities:

Term 1A Activities – Commence week beginning 12th September. Information available to view on website app and Seesaw. Registration is live via payment on Parentpay.

Extended Schools Programme:

Fortunately, due to this invaluable funding in addition to literacy and numeracy support in school we are in a position to offer additional curricular and extra-curricular activities to our pupils, either free or at a reduced cost.

Yr 1 - Yr 7: Healthy Kidz PE Lessons. Class details of designated PE days will be posted by teachers on Seesaw.

P3-7: Tin Whistle lessons every Wednesday with Patricia Vallyely.

P5-7: Swimming lessons will again be partly subsidised. Parents will be asked to pay £15 per set. Letters will be posted before lessons begin for each relevant class on Seesaw – lessons are currently on hold due to ABC Council strike.

P4-P7 Hurling/Camogie Coaching: – Term 2/3 with Micheal Murphy.

P3 -7 Irish Language lessons will resume throughout the school later this term.

Yr 1 – Yr 7: After School Activities partly subsidised – See Term 1A information on website app and Seesaw.

EA Music Tuition - Ukulele and Guitar:

Letters will be distributed to those pupils in P5-7 who have attended tuition last year and to all Primary 4 pupils for any new enrolment in this tuition. Please return reply slips on or before Tuesday 13th September.

Free School Meals:

It is vital that any family entitled to Free School Meals has applied for this funding ASAP as the school's annual returns to the DE is now due. If you have applied for FSM and are still awaiting confirmation please contact the school office to let us know. If you think you may be eligible for FSM please use the link below to apply asap. Nothing lost, nothing gained!

<https://freeschoolmealsanduniforms.eani.org.uk/>

Shared Education:

This is our 5th and final year participating in the government funded Shared Education Programme. The school have enjoyed a mutually beneficial and successful partnership with Lisnadill PS., with many of our pupils reaping the benefits of high-quality shared lessons including Forest School Outings, Outdoor Trips and STEM lessons to name a few. Funding from this programme was also used to improve and resource our fabulous outdoor learning area for our younger classes. We very much look forward to more exciting, fun shared lessons again this year. Details to follow.

Condolences:

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs Geraldine Loughlin, our Primary 2 teacher on the recent passing of her loving mother Mrs Brigid Dignam RIP. We keep Mrs Loughlin, her father and the entire family circle in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

As staff, we look forward to working together with all our families and to a great year ahead for all our pupils.

Is mise le meas,



Mrs F Hughes
Principal