



News Sheet

October 2015



Halloween is quickly approaching and we have almost completed our first half-term. The school will be closed for Halloween on Monday 26th October until Monday 2nd November inclusive. To celebrate Halloween, Friday 23rd October will be a non-uniform day. Children can dress up in their Halloween outfits if they so wish. Children may bring in £1 each (or more!) which will be donated to Mr McNally's Jailbreak fundraiser – Mr McNally has been sentenced to Crumlin Road Gaol on the 5th and 6th November, all funds raised go towards his £3000 bail and Down GAA. We would like to see him back in school on Monday 9th November. The children may also bring in some treats for a party. Please try to ensure that neither the costume nor the treats are a hazard to your child or other children. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable Halloween; please remind children not to handle fireworks and to respect the wishes and property of all.

NILA & NINA TESTS

Until on-going difficulties with the new CBA tests are resolved we will not be participating in these tests.

St Francis' PTA

The Annual General Meeting of the PTA will be held on Monday 9th November at 7.30pm. ALL parents are welcome to attend and to volunteer their services on the PTA committee OR to help with PTA activities.

Cash for Clobber

The PTA will again be organising the Cash for Clobber scheme. Information and bags will be distributed later this week and clobber should be returned to school on Thurs 5th or Friday 6th November. The collection is Monday 9th November. Money raised will go to the PTA.

Board of Governors

Parents are invited to an Open Meeting of the Board of Governors on Tuesday 1st December at 7.00pm to discuss the Annual Report of and the role of the Governors. The Governors are:

Chairperson: Colum Conway

Vice Chairperson: Donna Muckian

Secretary: Irene McClory

Trustee reps: Fr Colum Wright, Maureen Simpson, Nigel Husarz & Maeve O'Neill.

Parent Rep: Alison Lennon

Teachers' Rep: Mr Eamonn O'Malley

Curriculum Evening

Thanks to all the parents who attended and contributed to the Curriculum evening on 29th September. A special thanks to our guest speaker, Maureen McConville; the feedback from the parents has been very positive. We will be organising an information evening on e-safety and are awaiting confirmation of the date.

School Twitter and Website

The school operates three twitter accounts Foundation Stage @stfrancisp, Key Stage 1 @stfaghks1 and Key Stage 2 @stfrancisagh as well as the website: www.stfrancisagherg.com Teachers and pupils are continuously adding information and links to the accounts. We trust that these will be invaluable resources for the school community.

Eco Schools & Student Council

Congratulations to last year's Eco Council who achieved a Silver Award. The following have been elected onto the 2015/6 Eco committee and will aim to achieve the green flag:

P7: Ronan Armstrong & Edel Stewart

P6: Emily Burns & Anna Strain

P5: Sophia Furniss & Olivia Meara

P4: Sophie McComiskey & Sean Devlin

Mr Nigel Husarz will represent the Governors. Elections to the Student Council will take place in November. Children will be informed of the process through their class teachers.

Dates for your Diary: November

All parents were issued with a copy of the school's holiday list. Please note the following dates:

Mon 2nd November – Staff training, school closed

Fri 27th November – Parent Teacher meetings

Fri 4th December – Christmas Dinner,

school closes at 1.30pm

Tues 8th December – Mass in school

Mon 14th December – School fundraiser

Tues 15th & Wed 16th Dec – Christmas Plays – times will be confirmed later

Tues 22nd December – school closes at 11.30am

Wed 6th January – School reopens (Term 2)

Sacramental Dates

Tuesday 11th February – P7 Service of Light

Thursday 25th February – First Confessions

Sunday 8th May – Confirmation

Saturday 11th June – First Communion



Down Primary Schools Draw

Each family will be issued with one book of tickets for the Down Primary Schools' Draw. ALL tickets, sold and unsold, should be returned to school by Monday 9th November. Remember, the school now pays for the coaching, with this fundraiser there is the possibility not only of covering the cost of the coaching but also of raising much needed funds for the school.

Macmillan Coffee morning

Thanks to all the parents who made donations, at the Parents' evening to Macmillan. A total of £150 was raised.

Art Club

Thanks to Caroline Burns and Lily Byrne and the helpers from the PTA who are running the after schools art club. The children will be bringing home some wonderful Halloween artwork this week. You will shortly receive details of the after school art & craft for Primary 3 children.



Dinner Money

Parents are reminded that dinner slips and dinner money should be returned to school at the beginning of each week. This is to help the kitchen staff plan for the coming week and to reduce the time spent on school meals in our office. We accept that there will be the odd occasion when dinners will have to be ordered on the day.

Whyte's Estate

As part of our plans to develop the 'outdoor classroom' classes visit Whyte's Estate to develop aspects of their learning. This autumn children have had the opportunity to look at nature: bark, leaves and fruits of the various trees; in history they investigated why the Celts built raths such as Coolnacran Rath.

School Entrance

Parents are again reminded to park at the entrance and on Donard View Road with due consideration to residents, those visiting the school and other road users. There are a limited number of parking spaces on the left hand lane of the roundabout. These are for the use of parents and visitors to the school and should not be used for long-term parking. The right hand lane should be kept free to allow cars to enter and exit the school.

School Fundriser: St Mungo's Lurganulk Grimes & McKee



In memory of Mark Colgan, the Colgan family present the hilarious comedy, St Mungo's Lurganulk by Grimes & McKee on Monday 14th December (Mark's birthday) in Newry Town Hall at 7.30pm. All proceeds will go to St Francis' PS and St Colman's College. Tickets, costing £15 each, will be available after Halloween from the Colgan family or the school.

Maths week

Congratulations to Mrs Woods and the Primary 5 class who organised the Maths Week activities in the school. The varied events were enjoyed by all classes.



Back: By Popular Demand

Spanish classes Mrs Connolly have resumed for Primary 1 -5 classes. We believe that some children have already offered their services as interpreters when on holidays.

Contact Details

You are reminded to inform us immediately in writing of any changes to your general contact details or your child's medical and welfare details.