



News Sheet

October 2017



Halloween is upon us and we have almost completed our first half-term. The school will be closed for Halloween on Monday 30th October until Wednesday 1st November inclusive. To celebrate Halloween, Friday 27th 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 Trocaire. 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 & to respect the wishes and property of all.

St Francis' PTA

The Annual General Meeting of the PTA was held recently and the following officers were elected:

Chairperson: Andrea Savage
Vice Chair David Bryson
Secretary: Natalie Rodgers
Treasurer: Caroline Brolly
Committee: Cathy Devine, Eimear-Barbour Mulholland, Claire McCoy, Caroline Burns, Laura McCooley, Karen McGrath, Maria O'Neill, Patricia Connolly, Andrea Gourley, Maria Doyle, Aileen McCartan

It was great to see a number of new parents attend and offer their support. The next PTA meeting is on **Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm** ALL parents are welcome to join 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 Thursday 2nd or Friday 3rd November. The collection is Monday morning, 6th November. Money raised will go to the PTA.

PTA Christmas Fair: Sun 26th November

The PTA will be holding a Christmas Fair in the school on Sunday 26th November from 10.30am until 1.30pm. More details later.

Curriculum Evening

Thanks to all the parents who attended and contributed to the Curriculum evening on 26th September. A special thanks to our guest speaker, Dearbhail Lewis; the feedback from the parents has been very positive.

Admissions

Parents of children due to start school in September 2018 should contact the school to ensure that their child's name has been registered with the school and Governors. If you know of anyone considering St Francis' P.S., please refer them on to the school. Application forms will be available in December and completed forms must be returned to school by 12 noon on 10th January.

Dates for your Diary:

All parents received a copy of the school's holiday list in September. Please note the following dates:

Sun 26th Nov – School Christmas Craft Fair

**Fri 1st December – Parent Teacher meetings
(school closed)**

**Fri 8th December – Mass in school and
Christmas Dinner, school closes at 1.30pm**

**Mon 18th & Tues 19th Dec – Christmas Plays –
times will be confirmed later**

Wed 20th Dec – PTA party in school

Thurs 21st December – school closes at 11.30am

Mon 8th January – School reopens (Term 2)

Sacramental Dates

Tuesday 27th February – First Confessions (P3)

Saturday 9th June – First Communion

Date for Confirmation – to be arranged.

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. We operate a text system to inform parents of important or urgent changes such as the recent closure due to Storm Ophelia. If you have not been receiving any texts from the school, please contact Michelle to ensure that the contact information we have is correct.

Macmillan Coffee morning

Thanks to all the parents who made donations, at the Parents' evening to Macmillan. A total of £109.50 was raised.

Shoebox Appeal

All donations to the Road of Hope shoebox appeal should be brought to school by Friday 27th October.

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 Friday 17th November. Currently all classes are receiving coaching in either Fundamentals (Ryan McShane), Gaelic football (Liam Hardy) or hurling & camogie (Ryan Gaffney). 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.

School Entrance

In the interest of the safety of our children parents are again reminded to display due caution at the entrance to the school. There are only 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. An increasing number of parents now drop off and collect their children from Bronte Park or Scarva Street; this has eased congestion at the school entrance.

Art Club

Caroline Burns will be organising the Christmas Art Club. Letters will shortly be issued.



School Twitter and Website

The school operates three twitter accounts as well as the website; the details are: P1&2: @stfrancisp; P3&4: @stfaghks1; P5-7: @stfrancisagh and www.stfrancisaghaderg.com Teachers and pupils are frequently adding information and links to the accounts. We trust that it will be an invaluable resource for the school community.

Maths week

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



Eco Council

Elections will be held in early November for the 2017/8 Eco committee; last year's committee helped to secure for the school our first Green Flag.

Around the Classes

P1 have settled into school so quickly and are enjoying learning their numbers and sounds.

P1 & P2 The PSNI visited the school; the P1 & P2 children got to look around the police car.

P2: Have been learning about dinosaurs this term. They have been digging for bones and creating their own dinosaurs.

P3 as part of their local studies the P3 class has completed their village trail. They explored the different types of buildings in our village.

P4 visited Whyte's Estate and learned about trees; leaves and fruit and also the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.

P5: Are undertaking the Belfast Telegraph Titanic project. They also have had a visit from the NI Fire & Rescue Service and learned about fire safety at home.

P6: Spent 5 weeks preparing for and have just completed the Cycling Proficiency test. Well done boys and girls.

P7 Have set up the ICT suite and are working on ICT projects with the P1 and P2 classes. Some of the class will have a very busy November.

Aghaderg does School Around the Bend

Mrs Macauley, Mr McNally and our Chairperson, Colum Conway, would like to thank all who supported them in the recent fundraising event. All the participants were excellent and this night will be remembered and talked about for years to come.