

St. Francis Primary
School

Calendar Dates

November

15th New rotation for
Afterschool
Programmes begin

Anti Bullying week
Road Safety week

16th Governors
meeting 7.00 pm

22nd/23rd Gimme 5
programme for P4
– 7 (IN SCHOOL)

December

3rd School Christmas
Dinners

(all pupils finish @ 1pm)

St Vincent De Paul appeal

- Date to be confirmed

22nd Christmas Holidays
11 am finish.

Principal's Newsletter

Nov 21



Though the mornings and evenings have gotten a little bit darker and colder, the warmth of our pupils' greetings simply gets brighter and warmer as we draw closer and closer to Christmas.

Our talented PTA gave of their time and creativity to make our end-of-term Halloween fun day extra special with their 'Haunted Hall', disco and games. Sincere thanks to everyone who made the day so special for the children. If you haven't already, have a look on our school website and see for yourself: <https://www.stfrancisaghaderg.com/news/?p=2&>

Our amazing pupils are continuing to 'be a channel for peace' in the spirit of St. Francis through our newly appointed Eco Council who have successfully obtained a water butt so that we can use rainwater for our grow-zone, and who are spear-heading a campaign to encourage pupils and parents to use our textiles recycling bin in order to give our pre-loved items a second chapter. Our fabulous P7s have successfully resolved some of our traffic congestion issues in the mornings by escorting our beloved Primary Ones and Twos to our school gate. Their kindness has been repaid three-fold by our PTA who have donated umbrellas to keep them dry, the Road Safety NI team who have donated hi vis jackets and Primary One who gifted P7 with some delicious selection boxes (kindly supplied by a PI family) as a 'Thank you'. If that's not school spirit, I don't know what is!

We also had the opportunity to welcome Fr McConville to St. Francis PS last week. Fr McConville met our Primary 4 pupils and talked to them about the very important 'Do This in Memory of Me' programme which begins on the 5th of

December. This is an essential part of the children's sacramental preparation and is a wonderful way to show our children how important the sacrament of Holy Communion is to us all. We will provide further details closer to the time.

As we draw closer to the holy season of Advent and the time of preparation for Christmas and anticipation for all that this beautiful season brings, we think also of the challenges some will face this coming Christmas. As with last year, we will run our appeal in support of the incredible work of St. Vincent de Paul who support so many families and do so with respect and dignity. We encourage those who can, to support our PTA-led St. Vincent de Paul appeal in whatever way you can – be that donations of food items, or woman/manpower to sort and group parcels and items. If you are available to help you can leave contact details with the school via email and I will pass these on to the Chair of our PTA, Mr David Bryson.

Smckeown803@c2kni.net

Our Breakfast club has been a great success and has seen an increase in uptake with our revised pricing. It continues to run at £2 daily and £1 for each additional sibling attending. If you wish to avail, simply indicate which days and send in the appropriate amount.

Finally, if any of you are aware of families in the area who are beginning to consider schools for their children, please encourage them to get in touch and register interest as soon as possible. Our pupils and their parents are the greatest possible advocates for our school and what we offer our pupils so if you have the chance to encourage prospective parents/ pupils to come and visit, do!

Mrs McKeown.

