

St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

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10th September 2018

FÁILTE / WELCOME

A very special warm welcome to our Reception and Primary 1 pupils. Everyone here at St Francis of Assisi PS wish you many happy years in our school.

RECEPTION & PRIMARY 1		
Lily May Murray	Jack Gilmartin	Dariya Zheleva
Danny Vallely	Grace Comiskey	Ava Ross
Ava Connolly	Sean McDonnell	Edvinas Andriulis
Cillian McCrory	Augustas Vainauskas	Jack Gray
Lily O'Neill	Grace Murphy-Nugent	Eva Hamill
Markas Albutavicius	John-Paul McKee	Paulina Vasiliauskaite
Brogain Guy	Filip Pawlowski	Colm Loughran
Nikolay Asenov	Naomi McQuillan	Kristin Markovska
Annabelle Mone	Christopher Guy	Yashka Demireva

Please find below relevant information for Term 1A September / October 2018.

Reception and Primary 1 Induction:

Last week was a very exciting week for all our pupils in Reception and Primary 1. As the children continue to settle into school life, Mrs Toner, from today Monday 10th September will be on duty in the Infant Yard.

Parents or older siblings are asked to please accompany the children down towards the bottom carpark, following the outside perimeter of the main school yard. This will avoid any younger children having to walk through the main yard when the older children are present.

Mrs Donaghy will remain in the classroom this week to greet the children who need a little longer to settle into the morning routine.

From Monday 17th September Reception children will be released at home time at 12pm from the main doors of the school, beside Mrs Byrnes office.

Primary 1 pupils will remain in school for the full day until 2.15pm and will be released at the bottom doors beside the infant classrooms. See note below in regard to minding club.

Armagh Gazette will be in school this Thursday 13th September to take the Reception /P1 photograph.

Minding Club:

The Minding Club is available to all P1-3 pupils from 2.15pm-3pm every day. Any parent wishing to avail of the minding club should use the booking slip attached and return to the class teacher on Monday mornings.

We appreciate that from time to time, circumstances will occur where you may require this service for your child at short notice. We would then ask you to ensure that a request be made by telephone to the school prior to 12:00 noon at the latest on the day that this service is required.

All children using the club should be collected at 3:00 pm from outside door at the paved area (where P3 children are usually collected).

The cost of attending the club is £2 daily or £3 per family payable on Fridays. Should any monies be outstanding or an overpayment made, parents will be informed of this at the end of the month.

Additional booking slips will be available for printing on our website under the parent tab or from our club leader.

P1 Settling In Meeting:

A meeting will take place for Reception and Primary 1 parents with Mrs Donaghy and Mrs Loughlin on Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 6.30pm.

Morning Supervision / Drop Off and Collection:

Playground supervision begins at 8.55am. In line with Health and Safety regulations pupils should never be left unsupervised on school grounds or outside the school gates.

Breakfast Club is opens at 8am at a cost of 50p per child or £1 per family.

Parents and pupils are reminded to use the pedestrian gates and steps when entering and leaving the school grounds. The two main gates to the school should be kept clear at all times. Parents are asked not to turn vehicles at the school gates and to please adhere to the practice of parking in the chapel car park.

The use of the school carpark is strictly for staff and school visitors only.

In the event of wet weather children will be supervised in the school hall from 8.55am until class begins at 9.10am.

Parents' Contact Details:

Parents are reminded to update any changes to contact numbers with the school office. The school will send out a text from our school texting system following this newsletter today. **If you do not receive this text, please ring the school office to check details.**

Dinner Money:

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13.00 per week. Parents are reminded that dinner money is **collected weekly on a Friday**. It would help greatly if parents could please send in the correct amount of money in the school envelopes with your child's name and amount clearly marked on the outside. School envelopes are available from the class teachers at a cost of £1 per pack.

Start of the School Year Mass:

Parents and parishioners are invited to join us in celebrating the beginning of the new school year at our school mass on Thursday 4th October at 10am in St Patricks Church, Keady.

School Photographs:

County Photographs will be in the school on Tuesday 20th November to take individual and family photographs. Further details to follow.

Fond Farewell:

As many parents may already be aware, Mrs Josie McIlvanny has recently retired from the school. Mrs McIlvanny has been a valued member of the Keady school communities, spending many happy years as classroom assistant in St Mary's Boys PS and then again here in St Francis of Assisi PS, following the amalgamation of the two schools. The staff and pupils of St Francis of Assisi wish her the best of luck on her retirement and send our very best wishes for the future. Any parent wishing to donate towards a presentation from our pupils for Mrs McIlvanny should send their donations into the school in a sealed envelope before Friday 14th September.

Healthy Snack Policy:

Parents are reminded that the school continues to promote their Healthy Eating Policy. Pupils are encouraged to take in a piece of fruit for break.

As pupils are encouraged to increase their water intake during the school day, it would be much appreciated if parents could please **ensure all water bottles have a sports lid** to help minimise damage to school books in the case of spillages.

NB: Snack is provided to the P1/2 class and details of costing can be found on your class letters.

Nut and food allergies:

Parents should be aware that we have children in school with nut allergies and request that all parents are vigilant when packing snacks and lunchboxes please. Products containing traces of nut should not be sent into school.

Swimming:

Swimming lessons for P5 pupils in Term 1, have begun at a cost of £11, payable to the class teacher.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October from 1.15pm – 5.30pm. School will close at 1pm on those days to allow for meetings. Some P5 meetings will be scheduled on a different day to accommodate our job share. Individual appointments will be sent out with the children nearer the time.

School Uniform:

Your child's name should be clearly marked on all items of their uniform including coats!

Please speak to your child about the importance of putting their own uniform in and out of their bags when changing and about checking their names when lifting jumpers at the end of the school day.

Homework:

Homework will be sent home this week. Parents are asked to check their child's Homework Folders and/or Homework Diaries and sign daily. P3-7 parents are reminded that reading books should be returned to school every day.

Shared Education:

The school has been successful in securing an additional year's funding for our Shared Education Programme with Lisnadill PS. We very much recognise the extended learning opportunities this initiative offers our children and look forward to rekindling our partnership for the 2018/19 school year. This year the P1 and P7 classes will participate and details of their activities will follow.

P4 - 'Do This in Memory of Me' Programme:

Reminder: An information meeting for the P4 'Do This in Memory of Me' Programme, will take place in the Assembly Hall in St Patrick's High School this **Thursday 13th September at 7.30pm**. This is a parish based programme which helps to support parents when preparing their children for the sacrament of First Confession and First Holy Communion. Parents are asked to please make a concerted effort to attend or to have an adult there to represent your child. The first mass of the programme will take place on Sunday 23rd September in Keady at 9am.

After School Activities:

A full timetable for all After School Activities will be posted on our school website asap. This will be followed with a school text to alert parents of the posting.

Future Correspondance:

In keeping with the 'Eco Code' the school will be reducing the amount of paper consumed and will be using the school website for future correspondence with parents. All Termly Newsletters, After School Letters, Calendar Events and Messages will be posted online.

The website is accessible online or is available to download on all digital phones and devices using the free 'Schools NI' app in your App Store. Once downloaded parents can search for our site using the school name in the Armagh section. This will then be added to your home screen as a favourite. An information sheet will follow with full details on how to manage the app in order to maximise the features on your phone.

Is mise le meas,

Feena Hughes
Principal

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL 'MINDING CLUB' BOOKING FORM

Week beginning _____

Name of Child:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please tick days you wish your child/ren to avail of the club:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Club fee: £2 for one child per day or £3 for a family per day; Payable on Fridays.

Signed: _____

REPLY SLIP FOR PTA 'FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PS':

I am interested in helping with the PTA 'Friends of St Francis PS' and give the school permission to pass my contact details onto the PTA secretary.

Parent's name: _____

Child/ childrens' name(s): _____

Mobile number: _____

The committee's secretary will contact you about the first meeting in due course.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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