

## St. Francis Primary School

### Calendar Dates

#### November

7<sup>th</sup> New rotation for Afterschool Programmes begin  
10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Swap  
10/11<sup>th</sup> P6 and P7 receive PTA funded First Aid training.

**Anti Bullying week**  
**Road Safety week**

#### December

2<sup>nd</sup> School Christmas Dinner and Jumper day (all pupils finish @1pm)  
**St Vincent De Paul appeal**  
- Dates to be confirmed  
14<sup>th</sup> December Christmas School Concert  
23<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Holidays  
11 am finish.

# Principal's Newsletter



We have had another busy Term 1A at St. Francis' PS and it has been brought to a delightful close by our talented PA who gave of their time and creativity to make our end-of-term Halloween disco extra special with their 'Haunted Hall', goodie bags and home-made treats. 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 the spectacular costumes and dance moves.

We are delighted to recommence our weekly whole school assemblies. The children have enjoyed some stories and songs as we reflect on the values that help shape our STAR pupils: Service to others; Teamwork; Ambition and Respect. Our brilliant pupils have been sharing their great ideas on how we can show each of these qualities in our daily lives and inspiring each other to always do their best. We've also been having 'Celebration' assemblies every other week so that, as a school community, we can mark birthdays, cheer on the weekly Star pupils and congratulate pupils on their wonderful achievements outside of school too.

We have also launched the 'Barnabus Award' which centres on celebrating kindness and service to others. We welcomed Alan Finney and Professor Alan Woodside to the school. Professor Woodside led an Assembly on what the award means and how we can help each other do better and be better. Congratulations to Anna Cunningham from P7, our first recipient, nominated by Genevieve for her kindness.

Primary 3 – 7 have begun Chinese lessons kindly provided by the Confucius Institute, there will be additional opportunities to enjoy aspects of Chinese culture throughout the year, including the beginning of the Chinese New Year.

The PTA have kindly agreed to fund First Aid lessons for P6 and P7. We hope to run these every two years so that every child leave St. Francis' PS with knowledge of first aid essentials such as the recovery position and what to do when faced with a wound.

Our Primary 4 pupils have begun their preparation for Holy Communion through the 'Do This In Memory of Me' programme which is a parish-led initiative helping children understand what it is to be part of a community of faith. The children said their prayers and played their roles beautifully. Well done to the children and many thanks to Mrs MacAuley for preparing them so well. The mass was followed by workshops in the

school, led by our parents and supported by Fr McConville. We are delighted with the level of support and involvement our parents are playing in supporting their children with their faith development.

Our PTA met in October and elected our new Chair, Niamh Keenan. They have planned a number of events across the year some of which are focussed on helping our school community by working together to cut costs: exchanging pre-loved Christmas Jumpers; school uniforms and -next year- Halloween costumes. Don't forget to dig out any jumpers your children may have outgrown and send them in the week after Half-Term for our Christmas Jumper Swap on 10/11/22.

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 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, Niamh Keenan.

[Smckeown803@c2kni.net](mailto:Smckeown803@c2kni.net)

Our Shared Education programme continues with a range of activities planned over the coming weeks. It's wonderful to see our pupils build on the friendships they had started to forge before the pandemic.

Finally, we are hoping to enrich the loose parts we have for our water play and construction in our outdoor learning area. If any of our families could help us source lengths of guttering/ conduit/ crates/ wood slices or logs/ knobs/ corks / funnels, pots and tea pots/ off-cuts of wooden flooring, cones/ keys/ picture frames, off-cuts of carpet or artificial grass and old cds we would be delighted. If you can assist us please email and let me know.

Thank you,

Mrs McKeown.

