



News Sheet

October 2020



Following this week's announcement by the NI Executive, the school will be closed for an extended Halloween break from Monday 19th until Friday 30th October inclusive.

Each pupil has been issued with a support pack consisting of literacy, numeracy and Halloween activities that can be completed next week. With your assistance, children can upload onto Seesaw a picture of themselves in their Halloween costume or engaging in some Halloween activities. We hope this circuit break will have the desired effect and that schools will be able to safely reopen on 2nd November.

Restart

Thanks for your cooperation with our school restart in August. Congratulations to the children for adapting so quickly to the new school regime. You are reminded to observe social distancing especially at drop off in the morning and pick up times in the afternoon.

Thanks to two local businesses, Loughbrickland Pharmacy and Loughbrickland Spar, for the generous donations of liquid soap and sanitiser.

COMMUNICATION

Contact details: Please ensure that you have provided the school with current contact details.

School App: If you have not already done so, could you please download the school app by going to your app or play store, search for Edtap and scroll to St Francis' PS Aghaderg. This app is now our main means of communication and we are moving away from the texting system.

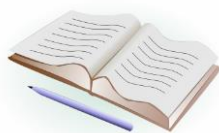
School Twitter: The school operates three twitter accounts: P1&2: @stfrancisp; P3&4: @stfaghks1; P5-7: @stfrancisagh and Teachers and pupils are frequently adding information and links to these accounts.

Website: Information will also be posted onto our website www.stfrancisaghaderg.com

Seesaw: Thanks to the vast majority of parents (and children) who are using, and benefitting from, Seesaw. Accounts have been created for all classes. Please sign up if you have not already done so.



All visitors are asked to sign the visitors book and to wear a mask when entering the school building.



Admissions

Parents of children due to start school in September 2021 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. Applications will now be made online via the EA Portal from 7th to 29th January. Further details will be issued by DE before the Christmas break.

Dates for your Diary:

All parents received a copy of the school's holiday list in September. The Executive's decision this week to extend the Halloween break from 19th to 30th October will result in minor changes to the holiday list in terms 2 and 3. You will receive details of these changes next month. Please note the following dates:

Mon 2nd November – School reopens

Fri 27th November – Parent Teacher meetings
(school closed)

Tues 22nd Dec – school closes at 11.30am

Thurs 7th January – School reopens (Term 2)

December Activities:

Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to host many of our usual pre-Christmas activities such as the Christmas Plays and the Craft Fair. We are looking at the options available, including the possibility of the Christmas Dinner and PTA party. This will depend on what restrictions are in place.

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. Park and Stride: an increasing number of parents now park on Donard View Road or Scarva Street and walk their children to or from school. The staggered starting and finishing and Park & Stride have eased congestion at the school entrance. Please continue to keep our entrance safe for our children.