

St. Francis Primary
School

Calendar Dates

October

5th Afterschool
programmes begin

11th Odd sock day for
Action Mental Health

12th PTA meeting
7.30 pm

18th Breakfast club trial
Launch

22nd Halloween fancy
dress day

25 – 29th Mid-term break



Principal's Newsletter



Having had a month to settle into new routines and embrace the rhythms of a new school and a new year, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received. It has been a pleasure to get to know our children and parents over the past 5 weeks.

The children have shown kindness, inclusiveness and understanding as they have adjusted to new classrooms, new teachers and their new principal, so I would like to thank them all for their kind words, warm smiles and lovely greetings each morning. I hope our greeting at the gate is a tradition we can continue – weather permitting!

-On that note, I hope that all of our pupils will dig out their coats and winter woollies from here on so that we can fend off those winter colds!

I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to our staff, who have been incredibly welcoming and supportive in helping me settle in. I feel very fortunate to be working with a dedicated team who take genuine pleasure in seeing your children thrive and develop, personally and academically.

It has been a challenging few years for everyone, certainly our pupils have missed out on some of the wonderful things that balance the challenges they overcome as they learn all kinds of lessons every day. I am looking forward to restoring and building on these,

as we have done with our new after-school programme.

We are also trialling a new 'Breakfast club' which will be reviewed after Halloween. Ultimately, the school has to balance provision with sustainability when considering our wraparound services, none of which are funded by the Department for Education. While we are very keen to offer these, we can only do so if they are financially viable and your financial support for these services determines this.

You will notice that we have a new 'Cash for Clobber' bin at the school gate. Please encourage family and friends to avail of this whenever possible as it contributes to school funds. The school which gathers the most this year could win an additional £1000. Cookstown Textile Recyclers collaborate with Eco Schools Northern Ireland which is important to us in our commitment to education on green issues and ethical recycling.

Lastly I would like to congratulate our newly-appointed School Council who are bursting with ideas about how to improve the school experience and make the school as safe place for all who attend.

They have already raised their concerns about parking at drop off in the morning and have plans underway for addressing this, so watch this space!



Mrs McKeown

