

St. Francis Primary School

Calendar Dates

October

16/10/23 Maths week
20/10/23 PSNI talk on Firework Safety
23/10/23 Pupil Progress Meetings this week
26/10/23 Halloween Bingo and Costume/ Cozy day
27/10/23 School finishes at 11 am, cozy clothes encouraged.
31/10 – 3/11 inclusive: Halloween Mid-term Closure

November

Possible Industrial action by non-teaching Unions, details to follow.

13/11/23 Anti Bullying Week

23/11/23 Burns Skill School lead Positive Mental Health workshop for P7



P7 working on camera angles!



Pupils enjoy the coaching expertise of Kelvin Troy.



P3 gymnasts in action!

Principal's Newsletter



Welcome to the Term 1a summary newsletter!

We were delighted to welcome a fabulous new group of Primary One pupils who have settled in wonderfully. They have already brightened everyone's day with their huge smiles and warm 'Good Morning!'s for classmates and staff alike. Well done for spreading such sunshine P1!

Our new P7 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed reading to our P1s as part of our reading partnership programme and the bonds forged through this activity have helped our P1s confidently transition to walking down our path with the P7s in the mornings!

Pupils are already nominating each other for this term's Barnabus award: our focus is on doing things 'The St. Francis' Way' by showing care for our community and environment. We will find out who the winner is at a special assembly after Halloween.

Our pupils are currently enjoying an action-packed Maths Week! P7 thoroughly enjoyed their live lesson with Franz Schlindwein along with 100s of other schools throughout Ireland and gave a brilliant account of themselves in the maths challenges Franz set. The mental maths 'warm-up' activities had our pupils limber and ready to collaborate as they solved problems and worked together to build 'walls' of answers with the IZAK 9 maths cubes. Our P5 pupils are leading the way and inspiring pupils in younger and older age groups to rediscover the fun of using maths in creative and playful ways. Our younger pupils explored symmetry, shape, number and problem solving with IZAK 9, ably led by the P5s. The mathematical language was flowing and the fun levels were set to 100%. Congratulations to P5 and Mrs Woods for a fabulous start to Maths Week!

Our talented Primary 2 pupils have been embracing thematic learning with their work on 'Room on the Broom', you will have an opportunity to see the gorgeous showcase of their work in the hallway as you make your way to the Pupil Progress meetings next week.

IT in action at St. Francis'

Primary Seven have been working hard across the curriculum and have taken a leap into the world of Moving Images and ICT as part of their learning in Literacy. At St Francis' PS we pride ourselves on our effort to ensure our pupils receive a broad

and balanced curriculum, but this would not be possible without your support and the work of the PTA to improve our IT resources. Having replaced 8 of the 15 devices that became obsolete last year, our pupils were able to use the J2 software to create podcasts and are starting to create digital presentations exploring the PDMU theme 'Our Roots' and 'Victorians'. We have also applied for and received 30 'MicroBits' (tiny programmable computers) which will help us deliver learning opportunities in coding throughout the school.

Connected to our community:

Our P7 pupils have availed of a number of workshops in Technology and Design, all delivered by teachers from New-Bridge Integrated Secondary School and our P6 pupils are set to receive PE lessons in Term 2. Our partnership with the Poyntzpass Pumas has also meant that Basketball Ireland offered the support of a phenomenal coach, Kelvin Troy, in teaching our P5 pupils the fundamentals of Basketball. We hope to welcome Kelvin back after Christmas to teach additional classes. From world-class basketball to top-level gymnastics: our Primary Three pupils enjoyed coaching from world-class instructors at Salto Gymnastics Centre in Lisburn where they are flourishing. They have been building on their talents from last year and are becoming very confident with the equipment!

Finally, I would like to offer my very sincere thanks to our families and community donors for their continued support. I asked you to consider supporting our catering team by using our service and you have duly responded. We are so very fortunate to have the calibre of provision we have, and we cannot take it for granted. The cuts that have been inflicted on the Education Authority are having a very real impact on service provision and access to resources in school, despite our best efforts to mitigate this. Our PTA fundraising activities will continue to focus on raising vital funds to enrich our pupil's learning opportunities, source vital supplies that are simply not covered by our school budget and supporting our pupils and their families with cost-reduction initiatives such as our Christmas jumper swap and our Halloween costume swap. We hope you continue to support these events and make use of them.

Thank you, for your continued support.

Mrs McKeown.

Through their **Service, Teamwork, Ambition**
and **Respect**,
Our **STAR** pupils continue to shine!