

**ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**24 DONARD VIEW ROAD**  
**LOUGHBRICKLAND**  
**BANBRIDGE**  
**CO. DOWN**  
**BT32 3LN**



**☎ 028 4062 8044**  
**E.Mail: [info@stfrancis.aghaderg.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stfrancis.aghaderg.ni.sch.uk)**

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

At this time, we should have been celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school. However, the period from March will be remembered as a time of upheaval and uncertainty for everyone. I would like to thank you for your support in these unique times and the efforts you have made in supporting your child's learning. As we move out of 'lockdown' many uncertainties remain. Last week, DE issued guidance (the New School Day) which addresses some of the concerns, but as the situation is continually evolving we will not know for certain what the post COVID-19 school will be like. I would like to point out that:

1. The school will open on a phased basis on the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August. It will not be possible to finalise whether this phased return will be based on either classes or families until early August.
2. The focus in the initial days will be on the 'New School Day'; focussing on their pastoral needs: the return to school after such a lengthy absence and informing the children of the new hygiene and social distancing measures. As parents you should continue to reinforce the good practice you are undertaking at home to minimise the spread of the virus, including hand washing and 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.'
3. We are working on options to see how we can accommodate our children within the current social distancing regulations, which is the preferred option. If we are unable to do so safely, we may have to revert to the DE minimum standard of 40% (2 days per week) face to face teaching with the remaining time being spent on blended online or remote learning.
4. The school day may have to be amended with staggered starting and finishing times.
5. We do not know what the arrangements for school meals or transport will be and questions remain over a range of issues including type of homework, wearing a fresh school uniform each day, what items can be brought into or taken home from school (schoolbags, books, pencil cases, water bottles, etc.).
6. Clarification is being sought on the operation of our Morning Club and the various after schools' activities.
7. Parents of our new Primary 1 pupils have been notified separately of the arrangements for their children with their induction days being held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August.

8. **Classes.** 2020/21 classes and teachers are detailed below:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Primary 1	Miss McNally
Primary 2	Mrs McCone
Primary 3	Mrs Trainor
Primary 4	Mrs Macauley
Primary 5	Miss O'Dowd/Mr McNally
Primary 6	Mr O'Malley
Primary 7	Mrs Woods

9. **Sorry You're Leaving** Best wishes to our 31 Primary 7 children as they set off on their new adventure into post-primary school, this year we also say goodbye to 17 families. We wish the Primary 7's a seamless transition into their new schools and thank their families for their support during their time in school.

10. A revised holiday list will be issued in September.

11. With so much uncertainty, **it is important that you download the school app or access the school website** for regular updates.

I would like to thank you for all the support you have given us in what has been an extremely difficult year. I wish to extend to you and your children all our best wishes for the summer and hope that the next few weeks bring some much needed clarity.

Yours sincerely

Donal McNally  
(Principal)