

ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
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2nd July 2021

Dear Parents,

As we close another school year, it is time to reflect on the events of the past twelve months. The year ended in great sadness with the unexpected death of our beloved Parish Priest and chaplain, Fr Tony Corr. Fr Tony celebrated the First Communion Masses with our Primary 4 children on 5th June and, as he always did, made it a special occasion for the children. Little did anyone realise that the next day the tragic news of Fr Tony's sudden death would greet a shocked school and parish community. The children were given the opportunity to produce a prayer or reflection and these will be presented to Fr Corr's family by our church sacristan and dear friend, Kathleen Kearney. We extend our deepest sympathy to Fr Tony's family, his many friends and the parishioners of Aghaderg and Donaghmore parishes. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

The whole school community should be proud of the efforts everyone has made to ensure that the school remained open when government restrictions allowed. Everyone played an important role in ensuring that the children's education continued and that everyone was kept safe. The school routine was adjusted; hands were sanitised or washed frequently, bubbles maintained, SeeSaw and blended learning became part of the school routine with over 18 000 items or pieces of work posted on SeeSaw and more than 12 500 comments being added. There were some unexpected benefits; the phased starting and finishing times resulted in greatly reduced congestion at the school entrance; while the split lunchtime meant that everyone, children and staff, had a more relaxed lunchtime.

This is also a time of great change for the school community and me as I step down after twenty-six years as principal of St Francis' PS Aghaderg

1. **Classes.** As the new appointment has not yet been made, the probable 2021/22 classes and teachers are detailed below:

Class	Teacher	Room
Primary 1	Miss McNally	Room 4
Primary 2	Mrs McCone	Room 3
Primary 3	Mrs Trainor	Slieve Donard (Mobile)
Primary 4	Mrs Macauley	Room 2
Primary 5	Mrs Woods	Slieve Gullion (Mobile)
Primary 6	Mr O'Malley	Room 1
Primary 7	Miss O'Dowd	Slieve Foye (Mobile)

2. **Morning Club.** If conditions allow, it is planned to continue with the 'Morning Club' in September. The club will operate from 8.00am until 8.45am each morning and is open to all pupils at a cost of £1 per child per day.

3. **Sorry You're Leaving** Best wishes to our Primary 7 children as they set off on their new adventure into eight post-primary school, we wish them a seamless transition into their new schools.
4. **School reopens** for the 2021/22 school year on Wednesday 1st September. The Primary 1 class will start on a phased basis; details will be sent out in August.
5. **School App** You will continue to receive further information and updates through the school app.

I would like to thank you for all the support you have given us in the past year and I wish to extend to you and your children all our best wishes for the summer.

Yours sincerely

Donal McNally
(Principal)