



Newsletter ~ Term 1, Week 2

School Mass

Our second week back was completed today with a beautiful mass in the hall led by children from each class. Thank you to all our children for participating so wonderfully well and to all parents who were able to attend.

Meet the teacher

Meet the Teacher meetings continue next week at 3.30 in classrooms as follows:

Monday 18 September - Years 3 and 6
Tuesday 19 September - Year 4
Wednesday 20 September - Year 2

There will be a meeting for year 1 parents on **Thursday 5 October at 3.30pm** to explain the transition from Reception to Y1, the Y1 curriculum and learning that will be taking place. Children will be able to watch a DVD in the Reception classroom while their parents attend the meeting.

The information meeting for parents of Reception children will take place **Wednesday 11 October at 7pm** and is an opportunity to learn how children have settled into school, what they will be learning over the coming year and how you can support them at home.

Well Done

As children have settled into their new classes, one thing every class has done is discuss and agree the behaviour and attitudes they will aspire to in their classroom. Each class then displays what has been agreed and this provides a visual reminder to all. In our start of term assemblies we have reminded ourselves that if we are to have positive and trusting relationships, we should treat each other with politeness, care, respect and equality. This will also be a focus at lunchtimes. We enjoy celebrating children's efforts and achievement through awarding Merit Certificates at Merit assembly and also like to hear of their successes outside school, so if they win awards for sporting, musical or any event they are a part of, please encourage them to bring in their certificates and trophies and we can congratulate them.

The Friends of St Francis

As soon as you become a parent of St Francis you become a 'Friend' and have the opportunity to support your school and children. Any parent can become a member of the Friends' and all are invited to the various events that are organised throughout the year. The Friends' have an elected committee that organises various fund raising and community events throughout the year. Money raised goes towards providing the 'extras' for our children and through the generosity of all parents, The Friends' can raise several thousand pounds a year.

This year we will be making significant improvements to our playground environment and in order to prepare for this, we need lots of helpers on **Saturday 14 October** to do some clearing and preparation of the area to be developed. Many hands make light work and if you are free, even to give an hour of your time, please come and help. Keep an eye out for further details.

Dates for your diary...

- Friends meeting Wed 4 Oct at the school 7.30 – 9pm
- Movies and Munchies for all children 3.15 – 5pm
- Fund Raiser 17 November...start collecting loose change!
- Official Opening of the new playground Friday 3 November

Data Collection Sheets

These are going home on Monday – please check, sign and return to school by **Monday 25 September**.

First Holy Communion at St Francis' Church 2017

We have information in the office for parents of children in year three and above who wish to take their First Holy Communion this year at St Francis' Parish Church. Letters are also available from the church itself.

Some reminders about procedures and routines as we begin the new school year for your information to ensure the smooth and safe running of the school:

Uniform

Some uniform reminders to help your child look their smartest:

- Please ensure that **all** articles of clothing including PE kits, school bags and water bottles are clearly labelled to lessen the chance of belongings being lost or 'mixed up' with another child's.
- Long hair must be tied back for school, keeping ribbons, hair-bands and bobbles simple – no large flowers, large bands or scarves.
- Nail varnish and jewellery should not be worn.
- If ears are pierced, only plain silver or gold studs are permitted. Ear rings must either be removed or taped up for PE and swimming lessons.
- All children must wear the school PE kit for games and sport: brown / black shorts, the school blue polo T shirt, daps/ trainers with socks. A pair of plain, dark track suit bottoms for colder weather.

Mid-Morning Snack

Children in Key Stage 1 receive a piece of fruit as their mid-morning snack as part of the healthy food initiative set up by central government some years ago. Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a **piece of fruit** for their morning break – biscuits, sweets, chocolate bars and cereal bars should not be brought in.

At the Start of the Day

A reminder that entry and exit to school is via either the front or back gates. Please do not use the car park gate to enter or exit, particularly when children are collected from an after school sports club. Morning school starts at 8.45am and children should arrive on the playground in plenty of time for the bell. A member of staff is on duty from 8.35.am. At the start of the day children are asked not to play ball games and to remain on the playground itself and not use the field, grassy areas, barked area or play equipment. This will ensure a calm and orderly start to the school day and with the wetter mornings coming, prevent accidents and muddy feet coming into school.

On the occasions when there is a wet start to the day, children enter the school building through the front door and gather in the school hall where a member of staff is on duty. Reception children go straight through to their classroom. It would be very much appreciated if parents – even of our reception children - could say their 'goodbyes' by the front door to avoid the congestion in the hall.

At the End of the Day

Key Stage 1 pupils will be released to a parent or known adult at the end of the day. Should collection arrangements change, please inform the class teacher or school office in advance. Staff will only release children to known adults so please let staff know in advance if there is to be a change. Children must ensure that they take everything with them when they leave the building at the end of the day so that they do not need to come back in to collect forgotten articles or use the toilets. This will help our cleaners and teachers as they complete their own day and begin to prepare for the next.

Parking

There will no doubt be several reminders about parking safely throughout the year and I do hope these will be relatively few and far between. Could I please make a plea to all of you to park thoughtfully so we avoid unnecessary issues. Can I therefore remind you not to park across driveways or up on the kerb. Should you park in the lane to the right of the school gates, please ensure you park as close to the wall as possible leaving enough room for neighbours to come out of their drive and onto the main road. Can we



please use the lay-by as a 'drop and go' point not a parking area. Do not park and leave your vehicle there as it causes problems for parents who want to pull up and drop off children.

Attendance and Punctuality

We look forward to seeing children attend school regularly and punctually. Should there be any reason for a child being absent or late, parents/carers are requested to notify the school on the first morning by phone call. A pupil's absence from school will be considered as unauthorised until a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming from parents. Parents/ Carers should avoid, if at all possible, making medical/dental 'check-ups' for their child during school hours. It is helpful if evidence of medical appointments is shared with the school in advance. School starts at 8.45am and children are expected to be on the playground ready for the morning bell. Children arriving after 8.45am but before 9am will be marked as 'late' in the register. Children arriving after registers have closed at 9am, without an acceptable explanation will be recorded as an 'unauthorised absence' for the morning session. Should there be an occasion when you are late, please bring your child through the front door and sign them in giving a reason for their lateness. Good attendance and punctuality will support your child to do their best and achieve their potential and parents play a vital role in this.

And finally a plea...

We are in desperate need of dads (or grand-dads) to help us supervise the boys as they change at the pool for swimming on a Friday morning. We have one amazing dad who has helped us out for a number of years now but we really need some extra support! If you volunteer to help out, for the safety of all concerned, we will need to carry out a DBS check. Please let the office know if you can help and we can set up a rota so we are not stretching the goodwill of the same helpers each week!

**Diary of Dates
to be sent home early next week**