



Our Lady & St. Francis Primary & Nursery Class



January 2017 Newsletter

Welcome Back



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Welcome back to our new school term. As ever we will be busy throughout this term, please remember that newsletters are published at the beginning of every month and contain the most up to date information regarding activities within the school. We always post a copy of these on our school website as a point of reference.

Thank You

As always, our Parent Council work tirelessly to fundraise for much needed resources for our school. Last year we extended our school stage and also installed a screen and projector in our hall, thanks to their efforts. Additionally, we were able to install a new lighting system thanks to the money raised through our Day of Dance sponsored event. We are hoping to add to the lighting system throughout the coming years. We can only do this due to the hard work and effort of our Parent Council, and the generosity of our whole school community throughout the year. Thank you!



First Friday Mass



There will be no first Friday Mass in January as Father McGachey is on holiday. Our next first Friday Mass will be on Friday 3rd February at 10am in St. Francis Xavier Church. P5 will be leading this Mass and the coffee morning afterwards. As always, we will be looking for donations of shop bought baking (nut free, please) and raffle prizes. The Parent Council will make two draws of the 200 Club on Friday 3rd February at the coffee morning.

Infant Registration

Children who reach the age of 5 between 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2018 should register for school during week beginning January 16th. Registration will be available daily from Monday to Friday from 1:30 to 3:00. Parents who wish to register should bring along the child's birth certificate, council tax bill and baptismal certificate where available. Please note that all children should enrol in their designated catchment area school where advice will be given regarding placing requests.



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Sacramental Information

First Reconciliation will take place for P3 pupils on Tuesday 21st March at 7pm and First Holy Communion for P4 pupils will take place on Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th May at 11am in St. Francis Xavier Church. An information evening for parents whose children will be making the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Tuesday 10th January in the school Hall at 6.30pm. A meeting for First Holy Communion parents will also take place on Tuesday 10th January in the school hall at 7pm.



An information evening for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on the evening of Tuesday 28th March; further details will be issued nearer the time to P6 and P7 parents.

Staffing

Miss O'Donnell will be responsible for teaching Primary 5 this term, as Mrs Balmer remains unwell. I am sure you will remember her in your prayers and wish her a speedy recovery. Mrs McMahon joins us for two days per week, teaching music throughout the school. We also welcome a Bed4 student, Erin Poutney, to P4/5 and a Bed3 student, Gillian Rind, to P7b. Mrs Mushet will be working full-time and will remain in P3 for three days per week, and in P4/5 two days per week alongside Mrs Keenan.

Trim Trail

We have finally taken delivery of a brand new trim trail in our yard thanks to a Big Lottery Fund award. Risk assessments are now in place for it and the children are looking forward to having lots of fun on it!

Holy Ghost Fathers Parking

As you know, the Holy Ghost Fathers are very kind to us as a school and have historically allowed parents to use their grounds to park in before and after the school day. Their land is private, and they do this as a goodwill gesture to help our school community. Unfortunately, there was an incident just before Christmas where it was reported that one of our parents was very rude and verbally abusive towards one of the Priests who had asked the parent to move their car. This is extremely disappointing and could have potentially resulted in ALL parents having this goodwill gesture removed. I urge that when you use the car park at the Holy Ghost Fathers, that you use it safely and considerately, and do not cause obstructions or blockages for either the Holy Ghost Fathers or other parents.