

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome Back! The school year is well and truly underway and we are back in full swing. All the classes are working very hard and it is really business as usual. A good start is very important for ensuring that your child has a productive and fulfilling year in school. We are thrilled at how quickly everyone is settled back to school. A huge welcome to our new 2nd class boys and their parents, we are really looking forward to the next 5 years of education.

We are delighted to let you know that Avril Nolan is now the Deputy Principal of our school. We are also welcoming Cathy Howlett to the school and Maeve Hayes is back.

Please keep an eye on our website www.francisstcbs.ie and twitter for all the activities your son will be engaged in.



EVENTS COMING UP

We are going to spend much of September settling back into routine but very soon we will be having a coffee afternoon for all classes. The afternoon will give you a chance to meet with you son's teacher and gather information around the coming school year including the curriculum, homework and the general school plan for the year. The following dates apply:

- 2nd classes—Thursday 21st September at 2 p.m.
- 3rd class—Tuesday 26th September at 2 p.m.
- 4th class—Wednesday 20th September at 2 p.m.
- 5th class—Monday 18th September at 2 p.m.
- 6th class—Tuesday 19th September at 2 p.m.

We are celebrating Active Citizenship month and preparing for our Halloween Howl.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The After School Clubs will also be starting up soon. We will let you know when they will be commencing. Clubs that will be on offer this year are:

- Hip Hop and drama (Tracey)
- Lego (Avril McClenahan)
- Football (Dan)
- Franner Examiner (Sarah)
- Gaelic Football (Conor)
- Guitar (David)
- Chess (Brendan)



Handwriting in Homework copies

Care should be taken with handwriting in the Homework Copies:

- Print writing is used in 2nd class with a pencil
- The boys start to attach their writing in 3rd they also start to rule their copies with red pen
- When they are ready the boys achieve a 'Pen Licence@' whereby they can use blue ball-point pen only
- Pencil is only ever used in Maths Homework copies
- Great care must be taken of these copies and pages not wasted

Volunteers and P.A. (Parents Association)

Our P.A. is amazing fun and really productive. **The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th September at 9.20 a.m.** We will be fundraising for the school and for Cancer Awareness. Please contact Avril for more details if you would like to join on **086 8075204.**

There is an Internet Safety Talk here in the school run by the National Parents Association on October 13th at 9.20 a.m. here in the school.

Lunches



Most boys receive their lunches in school. If your son chooses not to partake in this initiative please adhere to the school's Healthy Eating Policy. We encourage healthy eating only and crisps, sweets and bars are not permitted.

Pupil Absences

A written note of explanation must be provided in the event of your son being absent from school for any reason. This note should be written and dated in your son's homework diary in the space for the day he has missed. Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, Principals of all schools are obliged to inform the authorities in the case of pupils who miss 20 days or more during the school year for any reason.

School Uniform/Tracksuit

Tracksuits are only to be worn on P.E. days or days when the boys are doing sport. Teachers will notify you via diaries of P.E. days. The tracksuit should be worn with a white or other plain coloured polo shirt. **Football jerseys are not permitted.**

Full uniform is expected at all times of the boys and this includes black runners/shoes.

Change of address or phone number

- Please notify us of any change in home address, contact numbers or phone numbers.
- Have you a backup plan if your son is sick or injured in school.
- Please ensure that the front of your son's diary has at least two up to date contact numbers and names.

Enrolments

Spaces are filling up very fast in the school for next year. If there are any brothers that need to be enrolled please let us know so we can give them priority. We can only take in one class next year.

Health and Safety

- **Please put your son's name on his jumper, tracksuit and coat. It is impossible for us to locate items without labelling.**
- The school cannot accept financial responsibility for items lost, damaged or stolen in school or during school activities
- The school is a nut free zone.
- The whole school is a smoking free zone.
- We do not allow dogs in the yard.
- If you are collecting your son early you must sign him out at the office.
- Please be vigilant when collecting your son with the volume of boys and the narrow roads.
- All rings, earrings and jewellery are not permitted.
- Chewing gum is strictly forbidden.

Hygiene

Children's hair should be checked regularly for head lice. Please encourage the boys to develop good habits of hand washing and cleaning teeth!



Ringling the School and the School Bell

The school office door and phone are not always manned. Please when ringing the door be patient. Please where possible avoid having to ring the school with messages for your son. Please use the diaries to communicate absences and other information.

Mobile Phones

Phones are kept in the offices. Phones must be turned off. The school accepts no responsibility for phones lost or stolen. We discourage children to have phones in school.

Parent/Teacher Communication

Formal parent teacher meetings will be held in November. If at any point you need to meet your son's teacher use the school diary to make an appointment. An appointment ensures that classes are not left unsupervised. **Do not go up to a classroom at any time.** The school staff are at all times available to discuss your concerns—an appointment will lead to a meeting that benefits all. Should you wish to speak with the principal please make an appointment via the office on (01) 4531800.

homework

The following is a guideline from our school Homework Policy on the amount of time pupils should be spending on Homework:

2nd Class—not more than 20 minutes

3rd Class—not more than 25 minutes

4th Class -not more than 30 minutes

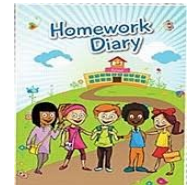
5th Class—not more than 40 minutes

6th Class—not more than 50 minutes

If your child is having difficulty completing his homework assignments within the recommended time span on a regular basis please let your son's teacher know. Homework should be completed in an atmosphere free from distraction and pupils are encouraged to work independently on their homework.

Homework Diaries

Diaries must be signed every night. If your son attends After Schools Club here in the school, his homework must be checked by you and his diary signed also.



Special Thanks

We really appreciate the help and support you give us in school to continue to provide a wonderful education for your son. A special thanks also to our fantastic parents in the P.A. for all their fundraising which helps make our school the wonderful school that it is!

Thanks for your continued support.

Warmly,

Fiona Collins
Principal