St. Francis Xavier Senior School

 September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are now well settled into the new school year and are looking forward to a great year ahead. We welcome our 3rd class pupils, new pupils who have joined other classes, and their families, to the Senior School and wish all our pupils and staff a successful and enjoyable year ahead. After a long recruitment process over the summer months, we are delighted to welcome Ms. Ward (5th), Mr. Mc Cabe (5th) and Ms. O’Reilly (3rd) to our school this year and also to welcome back Ms. Rogers (3rd). Due to summer recruitment, we were not in a position to announce our teaching team until the start of term.

 We are delighted to see all our pupils in full school uniform and we thank you for your continued support with this. Our school is in pristine condition thanks to the great work carried out by our caretaker, Brian, all summer long. Míle Buíochas!

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| Reminder: Inservice Training on Wednesday, 25th September. Senior School will be closed. Junior School is open. |

Parent Teacher Communication

At SFX Senior School we recognise the importance of partnership between parents and teachers to ensure the success and wellbeing of our pupils. We are always open to engaging with parents and welcome the opportunity to meet with you. Our annual Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on November 20th (Wednesday) & November 21st (Thursday). However, should you need to meet with your child’s teacher at any stage, we invite you to make an appointment through the School Office or by note in your child’s homework journal. Please refer to our Parent Staff Communication Policy on our website for further information.

Meeting with Parents of 3rd Class Pupils

Our 3rd class pupils have transitioned very well from the Junior School and I would like to acknowledge the excellent support we received from Mrs. Collins and the second class teachers in ensuring this transition would be smooth. A second meeting for 3rd class parents will take place **on Thursday, 3rdOctober at 7.00pm.**

New School Website

Information on times and locations of school sports activities can be found on our website in the Claendar section.

Library Support Request - Have you a morning free to assist us?

A library service is available to our pupils thanks to the support of a number of parents who volunteer their time one morning a week. This year we need the support of two more parents to assist us on Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 9 -10.30am. Anyone who is interested in assisting with the library service please contact the school on 01 821 1121. Our thanks in advance for your support.

Credit Union Service for SFX Pupils

Blanchardstown Credit Union team will continue to visit our school on Thursdays for pupils who wish to make lodgements into their accounts. This service will recommence on Thursday, 19th September.

After School Clubs

This year there will be a number of after-school activities available to our pupils again this year including the Homework Club, Lego and Sports Be Active Club. Details to follow shortly.

**Safety Matters...**

School Lunches & Allergies

Some of our pupils have allergies to nuts and we would therefore ask all parents **not to provide pupils with school snacks which include nuts or nut-related products.** While we appreciate nuts are part of a healthy diet for those without an allergy, we ask that pupils eat such snacks at home for the safety of all of our children.

Keeping Our School Safe

In an effort to ensure our pupils, staff and school are secure at all times, the following practices continue to be in place this year:

* The front door to the school is locked at all times. Please use the buzzer system to alert the School Office of your arrival.
* All visitors to the school must make themselves known at the Reception Desk.
* Lunches, books etc. which pupils may have forgotten may be left with our School Secretary, Louise. This will ensure that class disruptions are kept to a minimum.

Car Park Safety Reminders

* Pupils and parents are asked **to walk on the footpaths**, crossing onto the yard at the pedestrian crossing near the entrance to the Junior School.
* Main School Entrance - please avoid parking on the “No Parking” zones near the school gate.
* The School Car Park is for staff cars only and for deliveries to both schools. Please respect this request. We have a good relationship with the management of Tesco who kindly permit parking near the Tesco gate when dropping off/collecting children from school.
* Lollipop Service - we are fortunate to have three Lollipop Ladies assigned to our school. We ask that pupils only cross at these points.

Cycling on the School Grounds

In keeping with safety in the yard, our pupils have been very good at remembering to dismount from their bicycles when they reach the school gate and to walk onto the school grounds with their bicycle. It has come to our attention that some adults are still cycling on the school grounds in the morning time. We ask that this is discontinued in the interests of safety for all.

Cyber Safety - Social Media

We cannot stress enough the importance of monitoring your child’s use of the internet. It came to our attention last year that many of our pupils are accessing social media sites which are for children aged 13 years and older. Also, many pupils are also playing the online game Fortnite. Fortnite has a PEGI rating of **12 years** due to the frequent scenes of violence. Much research has been done on the harmful impact of the use of such sites, apps and games by young children. Class teachers will be reviewing our Internet Safety Contract in the coming week which can be found on pages 5/6 of the Pupil Journal. We ask your support by discussing this contract with your child. To quote an old Irish saying - *“Ni neart go cur le cheile”.*

Yours sincerely,

*Adrienne Darby*

*Príomhoide*

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| TTRS After School ProgrammeTouch-Type-Read-Spell is a computer based literacy course for students who wish to learn how to touch type. A multi-sensory course and is particularly helpful for students with learning differences such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dysgraphia. Classes are led by an external tutor and are held in our computer room on Thursdays after school. For further information, contact Carol Pitcher on 087 2868910 or by email on castleknockttrs@gmail.com. |