



30th March 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have almost reached the end of term 2 and it's great to see that spring is well and truly springing! We look forward to the return of our after school activities programme in term three along with lots more learning, activities and fun. We will also get to work on some of the actions in our 3 – 5 year School Development Plan. Please read on to keep up to date with the latest St. Fintan's NS news.

Best wishes,

Mr. Caulfield, Principal

- **Whilst society outside school has continued to normalise, school circumstances nationally continue to be most challenging due to COVID-19 and related teacher shortages:** Please continue to follow all COVID-19 guidance in relation to your child and their attendance at school (see www.hse.ie for latest information). Also, a big thanks to our special education teachers who have shown great team-spirit in teaching full classes many days this past term, due to COVID-19 related circumstances entirely beyond anyone's control. For term 3, in spite of the ongoing teacher substitution crisis, we have secured additional supplementary staffing to give extra learning support daily.
- **A big welcome to Elaine our new morning secretary.** The school office is open daily from 8.30am – 3.45pm daily with Elaine and Sandra running the show!
- **Well done to all involved in supporting our Gaeilge theme for the month of March.** We finished off this week with a visit from "Giggles" and Irish speaking clown, who performed a very interactive show in our hall for all classes "as Gaeilge". Bhí an spóirt again – maith sibh go léir!
- **Next week we will plant our giant "Pollinator Pizza":** thanks to all parents who have sent in SuperValu pollinator cards. Our Green School Committee have been busy gathering these up for our chart. Next week we plan that the committee will distribute pollinator "seed bombs" to all pupils, to plant up our new "Pollinator Pizza". This will be a giant 10 meter diameter circle of pollinator plants to support our local pollinators and biodiversity. Hopefully they'll be in bloom before the summer. The "pizza" will be at the front of the school facing onto Carrickbrack Road (top left as you look at the school from the front gate). A special word of thanks to the volunteer school family who have been helping us prepare "the pizza"!
- **Swimming lessons during the school day will restart for 5th classes after Easter.** This is a curricular area (aquatics) in our Primary School Curriculum. More information will follow for 5th class parents later this week.
- **Next week on Aladdin I will send parents an overview of after school activities that will start after the Easter holidays.** We will be very pleased to see the return of these activities, after 2 long pandemic years! Following circulation of the overview document, teachers may provide flyers / information to eligible pupils. Thereafter parents can contact teachers directly in relation to specific activities but do of course note that all after school activities are entirely optional.
- **School calendar dates to note:**
 - **School will close for the Easter holidays next Friday 8th April** at 12pm and will reopen on Monday 25th April.
 - **School will be closed on Tuesday May 3rd.** This is as a result of a recently published **Department of Education circular** shortening the school year in all primary schools by one day, in light of the recently announced new annual bank holiday.
 - **School will close early for all pupils (at 12pm) on Monday 30th May to facilitate Department of Education approved staff training.**