

# St. Fintan's NS

## Easter 2026

### A word from our principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a wonderfully busy and exciting term here in St Fintan's NS, filled with learning, fun, and fantastic achievements across the school.

Over the past few months, the children have taken part in a wide range of activities including Peace Proms, Friendship February, Science Blast, Orienteering, Cycle Safety, the Spelling Bee, Seachtain na Gaeilge, and many sporting events. One of the highlights of the term was our very first Culture Day, where we celebrated the rich diversity of nationalities in our school community. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this day such a success.



We would also like to extend a special word of thanks to our wonderful Parents Association, whose ongoing support means so much to the school. The children absolutely love seeing parents involved in school life—whether it's visits from Santa and his elves, Valentine's Day Lovebugs, St Patrick and his leprechauns, Easter bunnies or help with school tours. Your involvement creates such a warm and welcoming environment for everyone.

#### School Tours This Term

- Infants – National Concert Hall
- First Class – The Ark
- Second Class – Croke Park
- Third & Fourth Class – Swimming Programme
- Fifth Class – EPIC Museum
- Sixth Class – Kilmainham Gaol

Each class has had fantastic opportunities to learn and explore beyond the classroom, creating lasting memories along the way.

Please continue reading for updates from your child's class and to see all the great work that has been happening throughout the school.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break. School will reopen on Monday 13th April at 8:50am.

Kind regards,  
Ms Farrell

## Child Rights Journey: Going for Gold!

### Newsletter Update – Article 3

Since our last update, our Child Rights journey has taken exciting steps forward.

On January 13th, we were delighted to welcome Emma Kenny, Education Coordinator from UNICEF, to our school. Emma spent the morning working closely with our Student Council, leading an engaging workshop on Child Rights. Through a mix of quizzes, games, questionnaires and open chats, pupils explored their rights in a fun and meaningful way. Emma commented on how impressed she was with the council's enthusiasm, confidence and strong understanding of the topics discussed.

Following the workshop, Emma visited every classroom in the school. She adapted her discussions to suit each age group, from our infant classes right up to the senior pupils. Once again, she was struck by how well our children understood their rights and how clearly they could describe the ways these rights are lived out in their day-to-day school experiences.

Our Student Council continues to meet with Ms Burke each month. One of their recent projects has been updating our child-friendly *Bí Cineálta* policy, which is now proudly displayed throughout the school and available to view on our website. Their input has been invaluable in ensuring the policy reflects the voices and experiences of the children themselves.

With guidance and suggestions from the Student Council, we have also continued to improve the range of equipment available in the yard. We recently invested in new goals, balls and skipping ropes, and the children are thoroughly enjoying the added variety during break times. These additions demonstrate how much St Fintan's values Student Voice as well as respecting **Child Right No 12** *Respect for Childrens' Views*.

As part of our journey toward achieving the UNICEF Gold Award, we are committed to linking Child Rights with other whole-school initiatives. We are delighted to be working closely with the Active Schools Committee to ensure the new yard equipment is available and accessible for pupils each day.

March 26th marked the very first celebration of all 38 cultures represented in St. Fintans by celebrating 'Culture Day'. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the many cultures that make up our school community. This celebration links to our commitment to **Child Right No. 30**, which highlights every child's right to enjoy their own culture, practise their religion and use their own language. Culture Day is a meaningful reminder of the richness that diversity brings to our school.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to foster a school environment where children's rights are understood, respected and celebrated. Please see

<https://www.unicef.ie/childrens-rights/> for more information.





## Creative Clusters Project

### Creative Clusters Project at St. Fintan's National School: "Tuning in with Sound"

St. Fintan's National School is delighted to be taking part in the Creative Clusters Initiative, working in partnership with two neighbouring schools to explore how sound and music can support creativity, wellbeing and self-regulation in children.

Our project, titled "**Tuning in with Sound,**" will bring together pupils from across the school to explore how sound, music and movement can help them express themselves, regulate emotions and develop their creativity. At St. Fintan's, one senior class will collaborate with some of the junior classes, creating wonderful opportunities for pupils of different ages to learn from and support one another.



What will pupils be doing?

Throughout the project, pupils will:

- Experiment with sound, rhythm and music using instruments, digital tools and their own voices and bodies
- Work individually and collaboratively to create and explore music
- Use indoor and outdoor spaces to discover how different environments influence sound
- Take part in creative activities that support wellbeing and self-regulation

Senior pupils will also support younger pupils through a buddy-style collaboration, encouraging teamwork, empathy and leadership.

Supporting creativity and wellbeing

"Tuning in with Sound" aligns closely with the Primary Curriculum Framework, helping pupils to develop key skills such as:

- **Being Creative** – exploring, imagining and making music in new ways
- **Being an Active Learner** – collaborating and sharing ideas
- **Being a Digital Learner** – using technology to create and explore sound
- **Being Well** – using music and sound to support emotional awareness and self-regulation

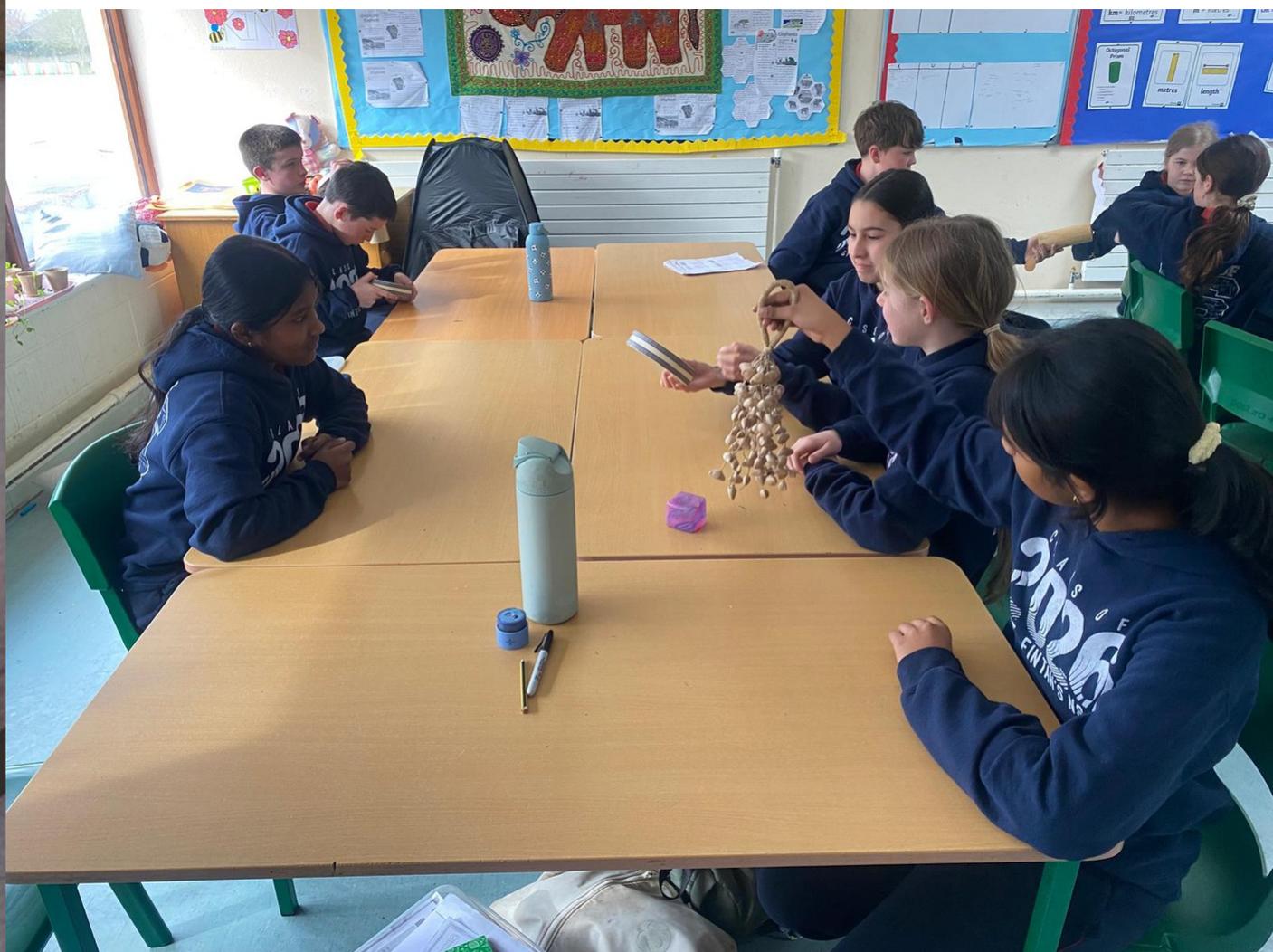
Through listening, creating and reflecting, pupils will learn how music can help improve mood, reduce stress and support positive transitions throughout the school day.

### Working together

This project is part of a **Creative Cluster** involving three North Dublin schools. Teachers and pupils will share ideas, experiences and creations with each other throughout the year using meetings, digital platforms and shared activities.

We are excited to see where the sounds of creativity will take our pupils this year!

*Stay tuned as we continue to explore, create and celebrate sound together at St. Fintan's National School!*



## 100th Day of School Celebration

On Friday the 6th of February, the 1st class children celebrated their 100th day at school. This tied in nicely with their learning of the new maths curriculum, including skip counting, number patterns, and counting to 100. The briefing the children received was to bring in something which represented the number 100. However, behind the scenes this talented bunch of 1st class children decided to take matters into their own hands! Please find some photographs below



of their wonderful creations. The children enjoyed an action-packed day, showcasing their projects to many other classes in St Fintan's. They also took part in class challenges, such as "How long is 100 seconds?" where they stood up once they thought 100 seconds had passed, and "Lucky Numbers" for the day, during which we had some spot prizes. The children had been counting down each day in preparation for the 100th day celebration. Parents of the 1st Class children were invited

to the hall to view the projects, where each child gave a short presentation. Thank you for joining us!



## St. Fintan's Science Fair 2026

On Friday 2nd February our 6th Class pupils proudly hosted their Science Fair in the school hall. Throughout the day, classes from across the school were invited to visit and explore the wide range of experiments and scientific demonstrations on display. From rocket launching and oobleck making to floating fruit experiments and reflex testing, there was plenty to capture the interest of our many curious minds.

It was clear that the boys and girls from all three 6th Classes put a huge amount of effort into both the preparation and presentation of their projects.



Gill Furlong

## New Active Committee

We are delighted to say that this year at St Fintan's, an 'Active committee' has been created. The committee members from 1st-6th class have been busy preparing equipment for the yard, with the aim being to make it as active as possible for all children. Each day they take out the goals, toys and skipping ropes for all St Fintan's children to enjoy during the breaktimes. They have also introduced a monthly 'yard disco' which is off to a great start!



In term 1, each class completed a daily 'active 10' whereby we moved for 10 minutes daily during the school day. In term 2, the focus is 'active playgrounds' where the committee are encouraging the yard to keep active through movement. We hope in term 3 to organise an 'Active Schools Week' for the whole school to enjoy.

Well done the active team for their suggestions, enthusiasm and hard work!

## Friendship February

February was a wonderful month in our school as we celebrated Friendship February. Throughout the month, children and staff took part in a range of activities that focused on kindness, friendship, and working together.

Children took part in Random Acts of Kindness, completing kind actions at home and in school. At the end of the month, teachers celebrated the many thoughtful acts with certificates.

Students also enjoyed Yard Buddies, giving them the chance to play and connect with children from other classes. Classes created beautiful Friendship Displays, including artwork, poems, and photos of friends, which were displayed around the school.

A highlight of the month was our Friendship and Valentine's Disco in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, where the Student Council helped decorate the hall with friendship-themed artwork. Children wore their own clothes and enjoyed all things music, dancing and bubbles! Thanks to your generosity we raised an amazing €1,057!

Classes also spent time with their Buddy Classes, taking part in activities such as art, reading, science and other fun lessons together. To finish the month, each year group enjoyed a Picnic, celebrating friendship with their classmates.

We were also delighted to welcome parents into the school, who kindly brought in sweets for the children, which everyone greatly enjoyed.

Friendship February was a great success and a lovely way to celebrate kindness and friendship throughout our school.





## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Our school recently celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge with great enthusiasm, creating a fantastic and energetic atmosphere throughout the week. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the Irish language and culture in such a positive way. The boys and girls made a fantastic effort to use Irish in everyday conversations, particularly ag geata na scoile gach maidin.

One of the highlights of the week was our brilliant Céilí Mór.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the music, dancing and singing. A standout moment was the performance of *Ballaí Luimnigh*, where Ms. Breen had everyone up on their feet and joining in. Nobody was safe! Bhí atmaisféar leictreach sa halla.



Overall, Seachtain na Gaeilge was a huge success. There was a great atmosphere across the school with students and staff alike celebrating our wonderful language and heritage. It was a week full of fun, learning & pride in Irish culture.





## Junior Infants

The three Junior Infant classes have had a busy and exciting term filled with learning, friendship and lots of memorable experiences.

One of the highlights of the term has been the introduction of our Reading Buddies programme with the three Sixth Classes. This has been a fantastic opportunity for both the younger and older pupils. The buddies meet twice a week and the Junior Infants begin by trying their very best to read a book to their buddy, and then their buddy reads a story back to them. It has been truly heart-warming to watch these relationships develop. The patience, kindness and encouragement shown by the Sixth Class pupils towards the younger children has been admirable, and the Junior Infants look forward eagerly to each session.

Before beginning our reading sessions began, we had a Lego workshop with our buddies. This was a fantastic way for the children to get to know one another while working together to build and create. It provided a perfect introduction to the Reading Buddies programme and helped everyone feel comfortable and excited about meeting each week.

February was especially busy as we celebrated Friendship February. The children enjoyed a fun Valentine's Disco, took part in a lovely spring walk, and had great fun at our Teddy Bear's Picnic, where many favourite cuddly friends came along for the day!

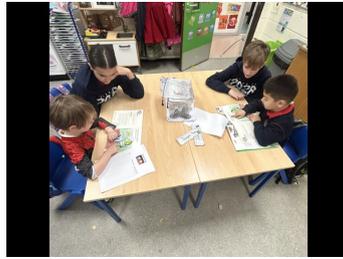
We also celebrated World Book Day, which was made even more special by a visit from the wonderful storyteller Niall de Búrca. The children were captivated by his storytelling. The Book Fair was another highlight, with lots of excitement as the children browsed the fantastic selection of books and stationery. Many felt very grown up bringing their own money to school and choosing something special to bring home.

As March arrived, we enjoyed learning about Irish culture and language during our St. Patrick's Day celebrations and Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children loved practising their Irish words, songs and phrases.

To round off a fantastic term, the Junior Infants also enjoyed a very special trip to the National Concert Hall, which was a wonderful musical experience and a great adventure for our youngest pupils.

It has truly been a jam-packed term full of fun, learning and friendship. We are very proud of how much the Junior Infants have grown in confidence and independence, and we look forward to many more exciting experiences in the months ahead.





## Senior Infants

Senior Infants had a very busy and exciting term since returning from the Christmas break!

January – Food Theme We began the new year with the theme of Food. Both classes set up their own role-play coffee shops—Café Ceapaire in Ms Cogavin’s class and Pancóga Milis in Ms Binchy’s class. The children loved using the Irish words and phrases they had learned while taking part in the café activities. They also explored healthy eating, created their own menus, and enjoyed poetry inspired by food. In art, the children designed beautiful coffee mugs and used pastels to produce vibrant fruit-themed pictures.



February – Friendship February focused on friendship. Inspired by the book *Sharing a Shell*, the children made and gifted lovely decorated shells to one another. We enjoyed buddy reading, boogied at the Valentine’s Disco, and went on a class picnic! We also learned about St Brigid and the kindness she showed throughout her life.

March – Spring, Magnets & Irish Culture In March, we investigated magnets through hands-on experiments and learned all about our world during Springtime. In History, we listened to traditional Leprechaun stories that have been passed down through generations and learned about the life of St Patrick. We also had a trip to the National Concert Hall and so much fun at the Céilí Mór for Seachtain na Gaeilge



## 1st Class

This term has been another busy and exciting term for everyone in 1st class. There have been so many occasions to enjoy and thankfully the children had enough energy and enthusiasm to celebrate them all!

Whilst the rain may have dampened some spirits, it certainly didn't dampen the anyone's spirit in room 5 or 6. Friendship February was celebrated with great enthusiasm, and kindness, and everyone took part in a number of activities throughout the month. The children had to guess who their Secret Friend was, put on their dancing shoes for the Valentine's disco and brave the elements (and the seagulls!!) for a year group picnic. It was a very special month that saw friendships blossom and kindness spread.

As detailed earlier in the Newsletter, everyone celebrated 100 days of Learning in 1st Class in early February. Many thanks to the parents for helping all the children in 1st class prepare projects to represent their own learning journey in 1st class.

Science week gave the children the opportunity to see science in action. During this week the children used skittles to explore the concept of diffusion, they discovered how to make lava lamps and used magnets to create their own Pac Man game.

The children also enjoyed the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character for World Book day and share stories about favourite books with their classmates. This day was a clear favourite with this year's 1st class!

As the weather improved, and we said goodbye to winter and the rain, Spring was the perfect time to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly. To explore this further, the children enjoyed a lovely outing to the Ark theatre where they watched a play about a caterpillar transforming into a moth. The children were thoroughly engaged with the captivating performance and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Well done to all the children in 1st class.

We hope the children and their families all enjoy the well earned Easter break and we look forward to welcoming them back for another exciting term in 1st class!





## Second Class

It's been a very busy term for Rang a 2! The First Confession took place in February. We are now heading towards Communion preparations- hard to believe it's almost that time of year again! We're really looking forward to it.

We're really enjoying Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our Toraíocht Logainmneacha (Irish Placename Hunt) was a great success. Who knew we were surrounded by Gaeilge in Sutton! It certainly was eye opening. We had great craic is spraoi at the Céilí Mór. The hall was awash with a sea of green! Seachtain na Gaeilge was topped off wonderfully when we went on a trip to Croke Park. We visited the dressing rooms & museum, walked pitchside, played games in the interactive zone and learned some fascinating facts about the stadium.

The Valentine's Disco was another day to remember. The boys and girls were dropping shapes left, right & centre!

We've had countless days of fun.... World Book Day, The Twig Hunt/Nature Walk, leading January's assembly with a performance of "Eye of the Tiger", The Book Fair, GAA lessons, Friendship February, Maths Week and The Science Fair...to name but a few. It really is a kid's life! We're really looking forward to the Easter holidays. We'll need to recharge before a very busy summer term!







## Third Class

Mr Vereker's third Class has been extremely busy this term. We firstly explored the history of Ancient Egypt. We learned about pyramids, pharaohs, and daily life along the Nile, and used this knowledge to inspire our fantastic art. The children created beautiful sunset silhouettes featuring pyramids and a colourful sky. In Science, we looked into multiple fascinating experiments such as electricity moving in a circuit, static electricity effective on paper and why coke and mentos react together! To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, we also designed vibrant chalk shamrocks which are really brightening up our classroom!

It's been hectic in Ms Flynn's class this term! In January we looked at different types of weather and weather lore. We designed, planned and made weathervanes according to specifications. Third class had a busy science week, investigating fungi by looking at bread mould and yeast. We also worked with circuits to explore current electricity, and we did some experiments with static electricity as well. We also did a junk marble run STEAM activity. Friendship February was a success, the children did art with their junior infant buddies, but we were glad we waited for the fine March weather to do our Teddy Bear picnic! As February is mí na Féile Bríde, we looked at old records and photos of St. Brigid's day traditions and the class made excellent St. Brigid's day crosses from rushes. In March we also learned about the counties of Ireland and their main towns, and each child did a county project.



## Fourth Class

It has been a very busy start to the year in Ms. Smith's 4th class, with lots of exciting activities and learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom. In February, we celebrated Friendship

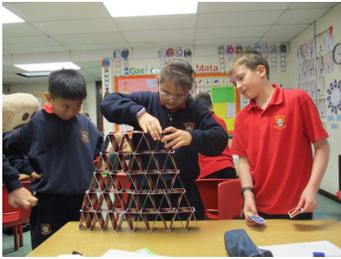
February, focusing on kindness, teamwork and being good friends to one another. The children took part in a range of fun activities. Another highlight this term has been the start of our swimming lessons at Trinity Sports and Leisure. The children have shown great confidence and determination in the pool. We also enjoyed a trip to Sutton Dinghy Club where the class took part in a beach clean. The students worked incredibly hard collecting litter and learning about the importance of protecting our environment and marine life. They were brilliant ambassadors for the school and showed great enthusiasm and responsibility.



In the classroom, the children were busy learning about the Romans, with a particular focus on Pompeii. As part of Science Week, the class had great fun creating their very own volcanoes and watching them erupt!

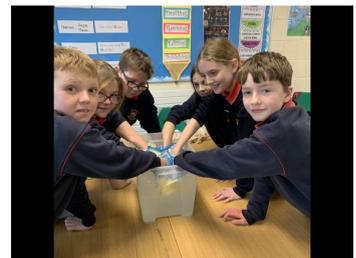
It has been a busy and active term here in Ms. Mac Hugh's 4th class. We had great fun celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge dressing up in green, taking part in a c?il? m?r, and using our Gaeilge i rith an lae. Swimming lessons are now in full swing, with the children showing great confidence in the water. Friendship February was a wonderful opportunity for the children to spend time together as a class, enjoying activities such as buddy reading, teddy bear picnics, random acts of kindness, and finishing with a Valentine's disco. In Geography and History, we have explored Greece, Pompeii, and volcanoes, and worked on a variety of country projects in preparation for our much-anticipated Culture Day. World Book Day saw the children reading, writing about their favourite characters, and dressing up too. We have also taken part in rugby and GAA lessons and shown wonderful creativity in Art through the Texaco Art Competition and mural designs for our 50th anniversary. During Science week we took part in stem challenges, visited the 6th class science fair and even made some volcanoes of our own. We explored and marked occasions such as Chinese New Year and Ramadan in our class too. One of the standout moments of the term was taking part in Peace Proms, and we are continuing to practice with the choir as we prepare for the upcoming Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.





## Fifth Class

It has been a very busy and exciting term for 5th Class since Christmas! In January, we explored Arctic animals and investigated how they stay warm by creating our own "blubber gloves." In February, we celebrated friendship with a Valentine's Disco and a Teddy Bears' Picnic. World Book Day was a highlight in March, with dress-up, creative activities, and a short story challenge. More recently, we have been learning about Irish history and culture, including 18th century Ireland and the Great Famine, enjoying Irish dancing, and visiting the EPIC Museum. A fantastic term full of learning and fun!





## Sixth Class

The 6th class children had a fantastic trip to Kilmainham Gaol Museum. They have been working on school projects in commemoration of the 1916 Rising. The children got to experience what it was like inside Kilmainham Jail and were blown away by the historical stories that took place there. I am sure it is a trip they will always remember.



The 6th class children recently begun a series of lessons with the Irish Centre for Cycling. The course aims to provide the children with the necessary skills and competencies to be able to navigate public roads on their bikes. The six-lesson course culminates with a practical session out on some local public roads and the children will be awarded a certificate of completion awarded by the statutory body "Cycle Right" (a Road Safety Authority affiliate)



**Linda Maher**

Linda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters