



21st October 2020

Dear St. Fintan's NS Parents and Guardians,

We have almost reached the midterm break here in St. Fintan's NS. Well done again to all in our school community for all of the great work this past term. Please note the following information:

- **A big thank you to all families who have made a voluntary contribution** to the school following the issuing of last week's voluntary contribution request letter. Thanks for your fantastic support of our school! Voluntary contributions can still be made through the Aladdin system.
- **School will be closed for midterm break next week** (Monday 26th – Friday 30th October inclusive).
- **After midterm break:** At any stage over the next few weeks should classes / pods / individuals be instructed to work from home, arrangements will be promptly made for collection of relevant children's box of class resources / books. In such circumstances, distance learning will also be provided as outlined in the school's Educational Technology Acceptable Use Policy (see www.stfintansns.ie)
- **From Monday 2nd November, the only change to our COVID-19 school safety systems will be that we normalise the opening time for the school back to 8.50am.** We have observed that the majority of pupils are arriving at approximately 8.50am already. So, from the first day back after midterm break, all pupils across all classes will have 10 minutes (8.50am – 9am) to enter the building through their designated doors. It remains the case that there will be no lining up in the yard. From 8.50am – 9am pupils will still be greeted by one of our support teaching team at their relevant entrance door and they will still have their hands sanitized before entering their classroom. From 9am, late pupils must enter through the front door. Persistently late pupils will have their names recorded and their parents will be contacted if necessary. After midterm break, children should not be on school premises before 8.50am.
- **All visitors to the school, even into reception, absolutely must wear a face covering.** For everybody's safety, we would ask that all adults dropping / collecting children to / from the yard would also wear a face covering.
- **Our first ever super School Cookbook is in process.** Well done to all involved especially the boys and girls in 3rd class. Orders for the school cookbook (€10) can still be placed through Aladdin.
- **Friday school Hallowe'en parties:** As communicated last week, all pupils can wear a Hallowe'en costume to school this coming Friday and classes will have small parties. Pupils must not bring in hand-held props however and costume masks must absolutely not be shared around. Pupils must not bring in sweets or treats to share with others. Note that we remain a nut free school so absolutely no nut products are to be brought into the school please.
- ***Finally, best wishes to everybody for a happy and safe midterm break and well done to all of the boys and girls and our super staff for a great first half-term.***