



December 2020

School Systems Updates:

Morning time arrangements: well done to all the boys and girls who arrive onsite before 8.50am. The pre-school yard lining up system (in pods) is working well. Yard is supervised from 8.40am. Pupils should not be onsite before this time.

Refinements to morning time arrangements: to avoid parents congregating at or near pupil doors we ask the following:

- If bringing your child to yard and their class is still lined-up in pods: your child joins their class pod in the line-up and parents can wait in the waiting zones.
- If your child's class has begun moving to their entry door or the class is already gone in, child alone can walk up to their entry door. Parents are asked not to approach the pupil entry doors.
- Finally, whilst 90% of pupils are now coming in before 9am, a full 10% of pupils daily are arriving after 9am. These pupils (averaging well over 40 pupils daily) are arriving late to school. This is obviously not acceptable. To avoid congestion at the front door, from Monday 14th December late pupils must come to the infant corridor door, their names will be taken and if late 3 times in quick succession, parents will receive an Aladdin message / phone call from the school.

Staggered home-times for last day of term: Tuesday 22nd December is our last day of term. To avoid overcrowding, the staggered home-times are as follows:

- Infant classes: 11.30am home-time
- 1st & 2nd classes: 11.40am home-time
- 3rd & 4th classes: 11.50am home-time
- 5th & 6th classes: 12pm midday home-time

The morning start times will remain unchanged on 22nd December. School reopens for all on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Classroom News:

Infant Class News: Our infant classes Aisltear (play based learning) theme this month is "Santa's Workshop" so the elves, reindeer and Santa are all super busy! Junior infants are also working on an in-class play which they are performing for each other called *Ralph the Reindeer*.

Ms. Gilmartin's Senior Infants: We are sorry to announce that Ms. Gilmartin will be relocating to Sligo after Christmas. Our very best wishes to Ms. Gilmartin and thanks for all her great work in St. Fintan's NS over the years! **Ms. Cogavin will take over from Ms. Gilmartin with senior infants after Christmas, until summer 2021.** Ms. Cogavin will be in school to meet the class this coming Monday. All class systems and procedures will remain the same.

1st Class Play: Straw and Order: In normal times, this play would be performed for a great crowd of parents here in the school. Due to the ongoing pandemic however, of course this can't happen. So, the 1st class gang will bring the play to you – digitally! The class performances will be recorded next week and a password protected link will be provided to all class parents to view the show digitally. This will be provided by the end of next week.

Ms. Bogan will remain teaching her 1st class group after Christmas up to the end of the school year (summer 2021).

2nd Class News: Fr. Liam recently did a Zoom visit to the boys and girls in both 2nd classes to say hello – through the interactive whiteboard. Also, both 2nd classes have been busy working on cool clay Christmas decorations – which will be ready and home in time for Christmas!

3rd Class news & the great St. Fintan's NS Cool Cookbook in aid of Temple Street Hospital and our school's digital technology fund : Well done once again to all the gang in 3rd class. On Thursday last the gang launched the book in the hall and were featured on RTE 2's News2Day programme! Our TV piece is still available to view on the RTE Player and some final copies of the book are still available to order through school reception.

4th Class News: Christmas Play - Bubble Trouble: Unfortunately again, due to the ongoing pandemic, we can't have parents in to see this great show. So, the class performance will be recorded next week and a password protected link will be provided to all class parents to view the show digitally. This will be provided by the end of next week.

5th & 6th Class News: Congratulation to all the children for completing their marathons today! Our most senior pupils have been running a full marathon (in stages) over the last few weeks – and completed their 26.2 miles / 42 kilometres this morning! All the gang got cool running tops and medals as prizes!

St. Fintan's NS Environmental Education News:

Our Senior Corridor (5th & 6th Class) Green School Students' Council has launched with Ms. McInerney. The gang will aim to meet every fortnight or so.

Feet First Friday: well done to all the boys and girls who have been able to walk, cycle or scoot to school each Friday (and lots of other days too!)

1st Class Picker Pals: this environmental educational programme has launched in 1st class. Devised locally, through this programme children learn to understand, value and protect their local and community environment. Each weekend a child gets to bring home the "Picker Pals Pack" too!

3rd & 4th Class Outdoor Education: this past week, these pupils got to go to Sutton Strand and do a seaside scavenger hunt – learning about seaside and sea life and checking out the rock pools.

Other News:

Whole School Games Day: next Friday 18th December is our first ever online whole school "games day". The event is being run by our 5th class pupils and includes lots of fun games plus a non-uniform day. Parents are asked to donate €7 / €10 per family through Aladdin for the 2 chosen charities:

Downs Syndrome Ireland and **The Irish Cancer Society**. Parents are also asked to donate raffle prizes into reception for pupils, before next Tuesday 15th December.

School food appeal for Inner City Helping Homeless: We have closely supported this important charity for the last few Christmases here in St. Fintan's NS. From next Wednesday 16th December we will be taking donations of non-perishable food items (into reception in a labelled box). All donations will be gratefully received by the charity, especially during this particularly difficult time for many families.

Congratulations to Fr. Liam our St. Fintan's Parish Priest, who launched his first ever book of poetry *Echoes of the Heart* with Zoom online last Monday evening. The event was hosted by Ian Dempsey and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was also in attendance. Contact the parish offices to make orders – all proceeds go to charity.

Christmas annuals: And finally, as a Christmas gift for all the great work from our boys and girls this past term, the school is giving a Christmas annual to everyone in the audience! The annuals will be appropriate to the children's differing ages and stages and they will be given out this coming Monday!

Happy Christmas everybody!