



**21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

***Dear Parents and Guardians,***

We hope everybody in our school community is keeping safe and well. Despite this being a very topsy turvy year, time is zipping along very quickly and it's hard to believe it's term 3 already! Please note the information below to help keep you up to date with life in St. Fintan's NS.

***Best wishes,***

***Mr. Caulfield, Principal***

- **Daffodil Day:** Very well done and thank you to all in our super school community who supported our recent Daffodil Day. It was a lovely, fun day and it was great to see so many children dressed in yellow on the day! So far, we have raised nearly €2300 for the Irish Cancer Society. Payments to this collection can be made up to close of business on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, through Aladdin.
- **St. Fintan's NS Cook Book:** Also, huge thanks and well done to Ms. Reilly, Ms. O'Meara, all in 3<sup>rd</sup> class and all who supported our super school cook book, launched before Christmas, featured on RTE TV and in aid of Temple Street Foundation and our Educational Technology fund. The final tallies are in and we raised €1000 for our technology fund and €5738 for Temple Street!
- **Safety Reminders:**
  - Pupils and parents are asked to stick to the clearly marked footpaths / walkways when entering / exiting school grounds to the front of the school.
  - No dogs on site at any time before, during or after school. Dog fouling is an ongoing issue and also, whilst of course lots of the dogs are very cute and fluffy, they can scare some children, all of whom are entitled to come to school feeling safe.
  - We were very pleased to recently receive additional bike racks from Fingal County Council. Where possible, all bikes / scooters should be locked at school and certainly, all bikes / scooters should be taken home every day.
- **Please let Sinéad / Sandra in our school office know if your child won't be returning to school in September.** Pupil enrolment numbers dictate how many staff all schools are allocated by the Department of Education so please, if you know your child will not be returning after the summer (other than by finishing 6<sup>th</sup> class) please let us know promptly.
- **As previously communicated, despite the various lockdowns and distance learning periods St. Fintan's NS is sticking with the school calendar for the current school year** as shown on our website [www.stfintansns.ie](http://www.stfintansns.ie) Please note therefore that the school will be closed from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.

- **Reminder: as previously communicated, a new requirement for parents / guardians is that you should complete the HSE's "Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form" when your child is returning to school after any absence / school closure.** The Declaration Form is available to fill out in the Attendance Notes section on your Aladdin Connect homepage after 3pm on the day before your child is returning to school. The form will be indicated with a red notification dot on your Aladdin Attendance Notes Tab.
- **More generally regarding pupil absence: please send an email to [info@stfintansns.ie](mailto:info@stfintansns.ie) to explain any absence for your child.** We are obliged to keep records of all pupil absences so please provide a short explanation for any absence to avoid our records listing "unexplained" as the reason for your child's absence.
- **And finally, later today through Aladdin, your child's class teacher will send you some curricular information in the subject area of Social, Personal and Health Education (infants – 5<sup>th</sup> class).** This relates to age and stage appropriate curriculum content in the area of relationships and sexuality education, which teachers will be teaching from next week. It is important that you read through the content sent later and discuss this with your child, as appropriate. St. Fintan's NS, like all primary schools in Ireland, is required by the Department of Education to teach this content. Of course, all of the materials being sent home are devised by the Department of Education / National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and are specifically designed for your child's class level.