



13th May 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the sun shines down on Sutton on this lovely early-summer's day, the children continue to have fun, work really well and are learning lots here in St. Fintan's NS. Time continues to zip by however and it's already nearly mid-May, so please read on to keep up to date with the goings-on in St. Fintan's NS with this month's parent newsletter.

Best wishes,

Mr. Caulfield, Principal

- **School Calendar:** Here is a link to our school calendar for next year (school year 2021-2022): <https://www.stfintansns.ie/calendar/>
- **School Tours:** Last week the Department of Education issued safety guidance for how schools should conduct school tours this year, in the context of the ongoing pandemic (see attached). Teachers are currently in the process of making arrangements for trips or tours. Details will be communicated to parents as soon as possible. All tours will work within the tight safety guidelines. These include avoiding putting full class groups on single buses. For this reason especially, tours this year may be a little more expensive than previous years. Also for safety reasons and taking all matters into consideration, for some classes the tour this year may simply be a trip off-site for example to a local beach or park.
- **Sixth Class Graduation:** Again, in line with guidance from the Department of Education as issued last week (see attached) we will be pleased to hold in-school 6th class graduation ceremonies towards the end of June to say well done to our senior boys and girls, before they head off to secondary school. Parents / guardians unfortunately won't be able to attend this year in-person but we'll use the magic of technology to bring the event to you, as best we can. More information to follow in due course.

- **End of year sports days:** Again, in line with the safety guidelines as required by the Department of Education (see attached), the school will organise safe sporting events for all classes during the remainder of this term.
- **Standardised tests:** Next week our 1st – 6th class pupils will complete their standardised tests in literacy and numeracy (Tuesday – Thursday mostly). Do remember that teacher professionals use a very wide range of assessment tools to monitor children’s curriculum learning and broader educational development. Testing in literacy and numeracy is just one assessment method we use. Literacy and numeracy scores in standardised tests are absolutely not the most important thing for a child in primary school. Results of your child’s assessment scores will however be communicated on your child’s summer report, to be issued in June. Further information on standardised testing for parents is available from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment’s website here: <https://ncca.ie/en/resources/standardised-testing>
- **Booklists for next year** and related matters will issue to parents later this month along with information about payment arrangements through Aladdin.
- **Announcements about teachers for classes next year** will be issued before the end of the current school year, in June.
- **Pupil summer reports:** our target date for release of these to parents is the week beginning 21st June 2021.
- **Safety:** Our staff car park is very busy daily. Please, for you and your child’s safety, stick to walking on the clearly marked pathways when entering / exiting the yard from the front of the school. Also, please be especially watchful for cars entering / exiting the main gate of the school.
- **Pupils not returning to St. Fintan’s NS:** As previously requested, if you know your child will not be returning to our school after the summer (other than 6th class pupils), please let the office know as soon as possible.
- **Well done to 3rd Class:** Our 3rd class pupils were pleased to host Angie from the Temple Street Foundation this week to pass on a cheque for €5738 raised through the sale of our super-cool and first ever school cookbook!