



23rd June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to say a huge well done to all our pupils, staff and of course you, the school parents, for the hard work and sacrifices made this past year to keep us all safe. We are delighted to say that up to now, we have had no reported cases of COVID-19 amongst our pupils in the school. Hopefully this remains the case up to next week. Thank you for respecting and following the safety systems in our COVID Response Plan and thank you for your patience in what has been an unprecedented and very challenging school year for all.

We have of course been delighted to have the school back open since springtime and despite the COVID safety systems, we have worked hard to retain lots of the fun and happiness of “normal times” here in St. Fintan’s NS too. We hope your child has had a happy school year. We wish all in our super school community an enjoyable and safe summer. Please read on to keep up to date with the latest school news.

Best wishes,

Mr. Caulfield, Principal

- **COVID-19 Arrangements for 2021-2022:** We have been informed in a recent communication from the Department of Education that “schools should continue to operate in line with their Covid-19 Response Plans” after the summer holidays. Therefore and unless otherwise instructed by the Department of Education, COVID-19 systems and procedures will remain the same upon reopening for the new school year.
- Despite having zero reported cases of COVID-19 amongst our pupils up to this point, the **Board of Management are initiating a whole school health and safety review** with an external agency, to build on our successes and to help us to prepare confidently for the new school year.
- **Further to the above, the Board of Management are planning to install some additional railings and gates around the school grounds to improve safety onsite.** In some cases, planning permission will be required for these enhancements. So, you may see planning signs referring to these proposed enhancements being displayed at the school during the summer period.

- **A huge thank you to all parents who made a voluntary contribution to the school this past year:** this funding initially allowed the school to buy 8 latest model interactive boards for classes at the end of term 1. Over the upcoming summer period, a further 8 new interactive boards will be installed in remaining classes so that come September, all St. Fintan's NS pupils will have a latest model interactive board in their classroom.
- **Thanks to all parents for paying for and collecting their child's school books** for next year. A big thank you of course to the parents who helped to sort and distribute the books from the school hall recently.
- **If any child has any school rental or library books at home please now return these** to the school.
- **Each day next week is a non-uniform day.** Next Monday is also Book Day in St. Fintan's NS: Pupils can dress up as a character from a favourite book for the day and bring the book to school too. Book Day, World Autism Day and Down Syndrome Day were all "officially" on earlier this year, in some cases during periods of school closure. Pupils are of course welcome to wear blue for Autism or to wear odd socks for Down Syndrome next Monday too. Also on Monday next, parents will be able to make a donation to the Irish Society for Autism and Down Syndrome Ireland, through Aladdin. All monies raised will be shared evenly between the two charities.
- **Pupil End of Year Summer Reports** are being issued through Aladdin later today. The list of St. Fintan's NS teachers for next year will also be issued later today.
- **Best wishes to Ms. Leona Ruane** who will be relocating to her native Mayo over the summer. Ms. Ruane has worked in St. Fintan's NS for a number of years now and has been a very popular member of staff and a great teacher. Thanks for all your work Ms. Ruane!
- **Best wishes to our departing 6th class pupils** as they prepare to finish primary school next week. Our 6th class graduation ceremony (for pupils only) will be held in our hall next Monday 28th June, starting at 1pm. 6th class parents can log into their child's Microsoft Teams account to view the event live. Thanks to those 6th class parents who have been helping behind the scenes too, including preparing the 6th class memories photo book and helping to prepare the hall for the graduation.
- **The school year ends for all pupils next Wednesday 30th June.** Pupil home times are as follows:
 - Infant classes: 11.30am
 - 1st & 2nd classes: 11.40am
 - 3rd & 4th classes: 11.50am
 - 5th & 6th classes: 12pm
- **St. Fintan's NS reopens for the new school year on Monday 30th August 2021.** The school calendar for 2021-2022 is available to view from our school website <https://www.stfintansns.ie/calendar/>