



**December 2021**

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

It is that time of year again where we are getting excited about Christmas, being with our loved ones and exchanging gifts. It is also the time of year where the community of St Fintan's NS kindly and generously remembers those less fortunate than ourselves. For the last few Christmases, the children enjoyed carol singing with their classes outside the local supermarket and raised a huge amount of money for those less fortunate. Unfortunately and for another year, we must cancel the supermarket carol singing because of the ongoing pandemic.

So, this year we are asking the parents, guardians and children of St Fintan's NS to donate to three amazing causes. Please read on to find out more, along with some other St. Fintan's NS news.

***Best wishes to all as we prepare for the festive season ahead.***

**Mr. Caulfield, Principal**

- Our **first 2 school designated support charities for this Christmas** are **Grafton Street Kitchens**, a non-profit organisation whose aim is to help the poor and homeless-women, men and children and **Aoibhneas**, a service where women and children can access refuge accommodation when needed. **Starting tomorrow Friday**, we will leave two boxes in reception for the next week for any donations. Items needed are: men's and women's underwear, hats, scarves, gloves, selection boxes, chocolate, men's and women's toiletries wipes, coats, runners, children's toys and any suitable Christmas gifts that you would like to donate to these amazing charities. All donations will be gratefully received and your generosity will definitely make Christmas more special for many less fortunate families.
- **Also starting tomorrow and running to the Christmas holidays, all class groups will get to go to the hall to watch a Christmas pantomime / Christmas show** on our big screen. All pupils will get a bag of Christmasy treats to enjoy at their show and the children can wear Christmasy jumpers / Christmas attire for the occasion. Class teachers will inform you in advance which day their class are watching the show on and on that day, you are invited to make a €2 donation through Aladdin to **our 3<sup>rd</sup> school designated support charity: the Peter McVerry Trust**. This is a national housing and homeless charity committed to reducing homelessness and the harm caused by substance misuse and social disadvantage.
- Well done to Ms. Maher and Ms. Tarbett for getting our **Students' Council and Green School Committees back up and running**. All pupils involved were interviewed for their roles and already, footballs have been introduced to the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class yard, with other yard improvements planned by the Council for younger classes. The Green School Committee are working on a "binventory" and planning for improvements to "Feet First Friday" – watch that space!
- **And finally, local residents have been in touch with us to ask us to pass on the following message, along with the attached video (attached to Aladdin message):** Santa will be visiting Ho-Ho-Howth and Sutton on the 12th December from 4.30pm! He will be sleighing through the following estates: Grace O'Malley, Balkill Park, St Peters Terrace, Thormanby Road, Dungriffin Road, Woodcliff Heights, Thormanby Lawns, Summit, St Fintans Road (upper), St Fintans Park, Carrickbreak, Offington, Glencarrig. So everyone get ready to go out and give him a great big Howth and Sutton welcome when he visits your road! You can follow his progress in a Facebook live feed on the day by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/santahowth>. **Be sure to give what you can to the bucket collectors, who will be collecting money for Focus Ireland on the day!**