



**27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

***Dear Parents and Guardians,***

It's hard to believe but we're already nearly a month into 2022! Whilst society is gradually normalising, COVID-19 safety systems must continue in schools. This will remain the case next month. However, we understand that further Governmental advice will issue to schools in advance of 28<sup>th</sup> February which we will of course communicate at that stage.

Please read on now to keep up to date with the latest news here in St. Fintan's NS.

***Best wishes,***

***Mr. Caulfield, Priomhoide***

- **COVID-19 and related matters:** As noted above, all safety systems continue to operate in St. Fintan's NS. From 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class, children should continue to wear face coverings in class. Please provide your child with a face covering daily for these class levels. All Board of Management approved COVID-19 safety systems are in line with our COVID-19 Response Plan, available to view at [www.stfintansns.ie](http://www.stfintansns.ie)
- **Pupils arriving after 9am are late for school.** From 1<sup>st</sup> February, we will be taking names of pupils who are late arriving and we will be contacting parents if necessary.
- **Applications for school year 2022-2023 junior infant enrolments:** As previously communicated and in-line with our Application Policy and Annual Admission Notice (see [www.stfintansns.ie](http://www.stfintansns.ie)) the school is currently accepting applications for admission to junior infants for our autumn 2022 intake. We will cease doing so on 31st January 2022 at 2.30pm
- **Child Protection:** The Board of Management wishes to inform you that it conducted its annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement during the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Board meeting. The school's Child Protection Safeguarding Statement is available at [www.stfintansns.ie](http://www.stfintansns.ie) and by request from the school office.
- **Pupil Attendance:** Please note that it remains the case that in-line with the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, all schools continue to be required to submit Student Absence Reports twice each year to TUSLA on those students with serious attendance issues. Of course, many parents have had to keep pupils home for extended periods for COVID-19 reasons this year and of course, we

respect this. Such absences need not be reported. However, where no reason is communicated to the school for extended pupil absences (over 20 days in a school year), the school may be required to report such instances to TUSLA for child welfare reasons. To avoid such circumstances, please provide a reason to the school for any and all pupil absences. Further information about schools' obligations in this regard can be found here: <https://www.tusla.ie/tess/tess-ews/reporting-absenteeism/>

- **Bike safety:** We continue to work to secure our playground through installation of safety railings. This process is ongoing with Fingal County Council. All pupils who currently cycle to school must bring a lock and must lock their bikes when onsite.
- **“Celebrating our Cool Curriculum”:** All National Schools teach the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment’s *Primary School Curriculum* (www.ncca.ie) There are 11 subjects in our curriculum, plus religion. Each month for the 6 months between now and the summer holidays, St. Fintan’s NS will have a whole-school curriculum-linked theme. The schedule and some additional information is as follows:
  - **January theme:** English (classes have been working on displaying a favouring piece of writing, to create corridor “literacy lanes”. We plan to publish photos of these to our school website next week.)
  - **February theme:** Wellbeing, Anti-Bullying and Kindness (including work on kindness and safety online for World Safer Internet Day).
  - **March theme:** Gaeilge
  - **April theme:** Social, Environmental and Scientific Education
  - **May theme:** Maths
  - **June theme:** Arts
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022:** School closes at 1.40pm for all pupils to facilitate staff continuing professional development.
- **HSE information about child vaccination for COVID-19 and other illnesses:** The Department of Education asks us to pass on the information at the following 2 links to parents, regarding vaccinations and related matters:
  - [Microsoft Word - Principals letter COVID-19 060122 \(hse.ie\)](#)
  - [Schools Programmes - HSE.ie](#)
- **And finally,** we are sorry to announce that Sinéad our longstanding school secretary will be leaving St. Fintan’s NS at the end of February. Thanks to Sinéad for all her super-efficient work over the past 12 years and we wish her well in her future endeavours. We plan for a replacement morning secretary to be appointed to take over from Sinéad in early March. Sandra will continue to be our afternoon secretary. The school office is open daily from 8.30am – 3.45pm.

