



22nd February 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of February and midterm break, I hope all in our school community continue to keep safe and well. From next Monday 28th February, all pupils will return to their normal school finishing times.

Below is this month's school news, including further information about easing of COVID-19 restrictions, to keep you up to date with St. Fintan's NS.

Best wishes,

Mr. Caulfield, Principal

- **From Monday 28th February 2022:** all classes to return to their usual home-times:
 - 1.30pm for junior and senior infants
 - 2.30pm all other classes.
 - There will no longer be sibling waiting areas from Monday 28th February.
 - Mask wearing will become optional. Revision of in-class pod arrangements will be managed internally.
- **From Monday 28th February up to St. Patrick's Day break:**
 - Maintain the 8.40am – 9am morning "assembly time".
 - However, it will be reviewed during this time and may from Monday 21st March return to start time of 8.50am sharp.
- **From now to Easter holidays:**
 - St. Fintan's NS will make arrangements for recommencement of after school activities for term 3 (ie. after Easter), if viable.
- **Sacraments:**
 - First Holy Communion will be held on Saturday May 14th 2022 in St. Fintan's Parish Church.
 - Confirmation will be held on Thursday 26th May 2022, in St. Fintan's Parish Church.
 - Note that for the above Sacraments, Fr. Cyril has informed us that there won't be preparatory masses in advance. Rather, Fr. Cyril will get to know and help to prepare the children involved by regularly visiting the school.
- **February theme of kindness and friendship:** well done to all our pupils who have worked hard this past month, doing lots of activities on our theme of friendship and kindness. Many classes have produced short friendship themed videos which we will share at an upcoming school assembly. Keep an eye out for a school website update next week with new content covering our January and February themes. Next month's whole school theme will be Gaeilge (in celebration of St. Patrick's Day).
- **The National Reptile Zoo will visit St. Fintan's NS hall** next Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th March. All class groups will get to visit the hall to view and learn about the zoo's amazing collection of animals.
- **On Thursday March 3rd 2022 we will celebrate World Book Day.** All children can dress up on the day for school as their favourite character from a book. This is of course optional. Children who choose to dress up must bring a book featuring their dress-up character.
- **On Monday 21st March we will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day** with an "Odd Socks Day". Pupils will be encouraged to wear odd socks to school on the day. We'll have some fun games and parents will be welcome to make a small contribution on the day to the Down Syndrome Ireland charity.
- **Well done to all pupils who have entered the Texaco Art Competition!**
- **And finally, a reminder that school is closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th February 2022 for midterm break.**