

# St. Fintan's NS

December

## A word from our principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our children in St Fintan's N.S. have been bursting with excitement for the last few weeks. There is a fantastic festive atmosphere in the school. Our junior and senior infants, 1st class and Ms. O'Reilly's 5th class children have been practicing their hearts out for their amazing Christmas plays. We hope you enjoyed them! All the children had a great time on their cinema trip last week. Our children from 1st class to 6th class performed in our annual Carol Service in St Fintan's Church yesterday. Such a lovely start to the Christmas period.

Thank you all for your generous donations for the homeless children in Dublin. They were shared between Grafton Street Kitchens, Focus Ireland and Helping Hands.

Please note that tomorrow, December 22, 2023 is the last day before the Christmas holidays.

Junior & Senior Infants will finish at 11:50 am

1st Class to 6th Class will finish at 12:00 noon

We will have a very special guest tomorrow morning. Santa will be arriving at the school with his little elves!!

You should all be very proud of your children. They have worked so hard this term and deserve a well-earned rest over the Christmas period.

A special thanks to you, parents/guardians. Your support and commitment to St Fintan's National School is invaluable. I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

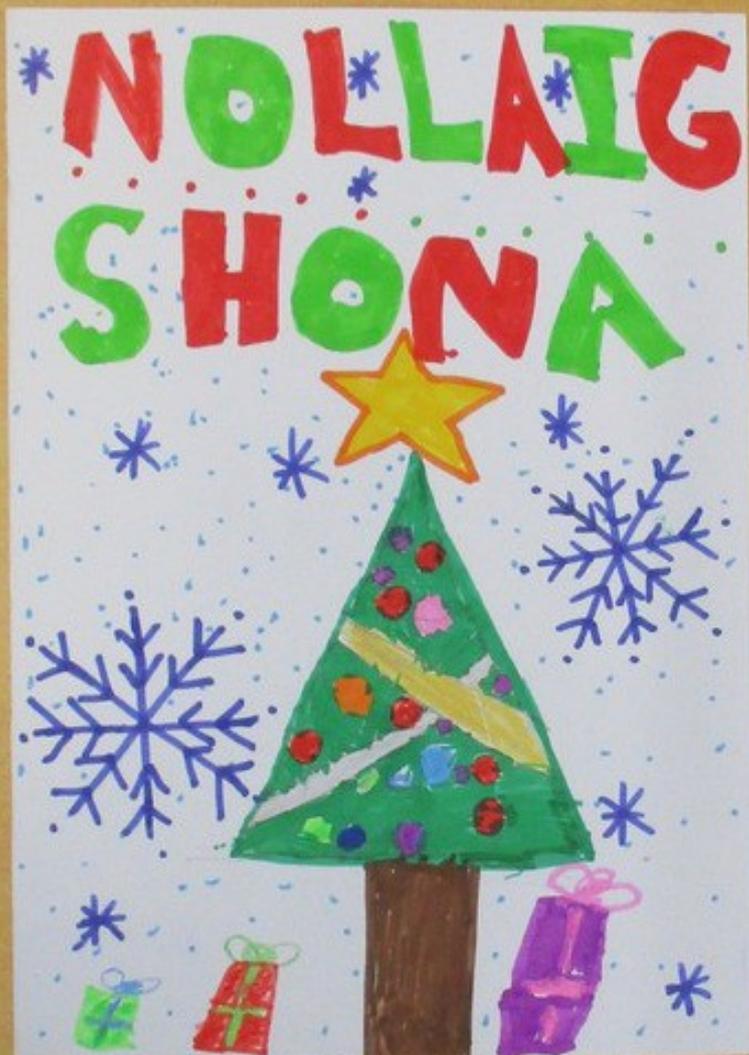
Our school will reopen on Monday 8th January at 8:50am.

Yours Sincerely,  
Ms. Farrell, Principal



**Care Pack**

With the help of Ms. Tarbett, the whole school took part in the [carepack.ie](http://carepack.ie) initiative. Care Pack connects residents in nursing/care homes with volunteers in the community. These volunteers send presents or make cards for individual residents. This year, every single child in St. Fintan's was assigned an elderly resident to whom they sent a card. They drew beautiful pictures and wrote lovely messages from the heart. Hopefully, these kind gestures will give a great lift to 444 members of various nursing homes around Dublin. The children really got into the spirit of giving and kindness; the true meaning of Christmas. Maith sibh a pháistí! 🎄



## Junior Infants

Junior infants were delighted to plant a variety of trees in the school yard with thanks to one of our lovely parents. These trees will grow with the children throughout their time in St Fintan's.



## Senior Infants

Senior Infants are very busy rehearsing their play 'Ralph the Reindeer' and were so excited to perform it on Wednesday. They have also been enjoying learning about Arctic animals and doing Christmas Art.



## First Class

Both first classes have been so busy practising for their Christmas play, Straw and Order!

They were also lucky enough to be visited by the author Gemma O'Neill Farrell who read the children her new book 'The Most Beautiful Uglybug'.



## Second Class

The boys and girls in 2nd class have been super busy in the run up to Christmas. The St. Fintan's elves have arrived and are getting up to mischief every day! We have been practising our songs for the Carol Service, we hope you enjoy them! We have also put our best efforts into designing cards for residents of nursing homes... we hope they love them as much as we loved making them. Finally, we had our trip to the cinema to see 'Wish' and had a fantastic day.



## Third Class

In third class this month we have been busy preparing for Christmas with lots of Christmas Art. We painted snowmen snow globes and made snowman sock puppets. We also received our pen pal

letters and are busy writing our replies. We enjoyed making our Christmas cards for the Nursing Homes. Lots of fun was had on our trip to the cinema where we enjoyed the movie Wonka! Mr. Dunlop has started coding with us this month too, we are really enjoying this! We love practicing our Christmas Carols together too, it's really helping us get into the Christmas spirit!

The children in Ms. Smiths class have been busy learning all about the Vikings and have been using the Book Creator app to create their wonderful projects. They wrote Christmas cards to their Penpals and even included a little Christmas treat!



## Fourth Class

December was a busy month in room 11 and 12. This month kicked off with our Peace Proms practice in the National Sports Arena. The children sang and danced along to all our songs, we can't wait for you all to hear. We went on a school trip to the cinema to see the movie 'Wonka'. We really enjoyed and would definitely recommend it! Both classes participated in a rugby blitz in Suttonians RFC. They had a great day out and there are definitely future Irish rugby players in the making! And now that December is drawing to a close we are all very excited for Santa to come! We wish you a Merry Christmas from 4th class!





## Fifth Class

Fifth class had a lovely time getting into the Christmas spirit on their recent trip to the cinema to see Wonka. We have been engaging in lots of Christmas themed work running up to the Christmas period like making and decorating their own Christmas tree decorations, making musical instruments and creating their very own Whoville themed classroom. The children have been diligently preparing to share their beautiful carols with you for the upcoming Christmas carol service.

Ms. O'Reilly's class had so much fun preparing and performing their Christmas play, No One Wraps Like An Elf. Well done to all the talented performers!





## Sixth Class

The highlight of December for 6th class was undoubtedly auditioning, practicing and performing our Nativity Play as part of the Annual Carol Service in the church. It was a real team effort, and everyone who wanted to speak a few lines got the opportunity to do so. There was great excitement beforehand getting into costumes and make-up (what about those beards?!) and we were delighted that we kept our best performance for when it really mattered. Our photo shows our wise men and their apprentices taking a well earned break!



**Linda Maher**

Linda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters