

St. Fintan's NS

Spring 2025

A Word From Our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There has been so much happening at St. Fintan's over the past few months, and we are excited to share some highlights with you. From Confirmation to Grandparents' Day, Peace Proms to Science Blast, the Spelling Bee, and a host of sporting events, it's been a busy and exciting time for everyone!

As always, we are incredibly proud of all our students. They continue to be a credit to both you and St. Fintan's NS. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and positive attitudes never go unnoticed.

Recently, we had a whole-school evaluation, and the inspectors were full of praise for the children. They highlighted the students' dedication to their work, their enthusiasm, and their respectful nature. The inspectors also commended the wonderfully positive atmosphere at the school, which is a direct reflection of the commitment and passion of our dedicated staff.

We are also delighted to share that two new trees have been planted at the front of the school. These trees will be dedicated to our beloved past pupil, Hugh Fitzgibbon, and to Ms. Fiona Dunlea, who taught at St. Fintan's for 43 years. A special thanks to Ciaran Cussen for organising this beautiful tribute.

Please continue reading to find out more about the wonderful activities taking place in your child's class this term.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter break! The school will reopen on Monday, April 28th, at 8:50 AM.

Kind regards, Ms. Farrell



Autism Acceptance Month: A Special Visit to Our School

In preparation for Autism Acceptance Month this April, we were delighted to welcome the **Howth and Sutton Autism Community** to our school for a special assembly. Stephen Clery, a past pupil of

St. Fintan's National School, and Chairperson Gillian Molyneux spoke to our students about Autism and how to be supportive classmates and friends.

We were also honoured to have some parents in attendance, making the event even more meaningful. A highlight of the assembly was hearing from two of our incredible pupils, who bravely and proudly shared their experiences of being autistic and what it means in their daily lives. They spoke with honesty and confidence, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

This visit was a fantastic opportunity to foster understanding, kindness, and inclusion within our school community.



Linda Maher

Special Education Co-ordinator

Chinese New Year

St. Fintan's celebrated The Chinese New Year on Wednesday 29th January. We had a great day and got to learn loads about how this tradition is celebrated in China. Luckily for us, we have numerous students in our school who are from China and who were able to teach all the classes about The Chinese New Year. They worked hard to put together a PowerPoint presentation outlining facts, traditions and stories about the Chinese New Year. Students in each class enjoyed this presentation and loved how they got to try out some traditional Chinese games. All classes got to see a traditional red envelope, Chinese decorations, a Chinese chessboard, practiced using chopsticks, heard the story of the zodiac animals, opened a fortune cookie for their class and lots more. Well done to all students involved in the presentation and thank you for teaching us about your traditions for this celebration!

Ms. N. Byrne



Here at St. Fintan's we are working hard towards becoming a Child Right's School. Last year, we achieved our Bronze award for successfully completing Year One of the Unicef programme. We displayed Child Rights around the school, we involved children in school decisions with the help of the Student Council and we created classrooms where children enjoyed all of their rights. To achieve the Silver award, we need to display a deeper understanding of the rights among children and staff of our school. We aim to achieve this by exploring child rights in different subjects, opening discussions with children around what they would like to learn and creating a school inside and outside where children enjoy all of their rights. In Term 2, the Student Council spent some time displaying the rights where they felt they should go around the school. They did a fantastic job with very little need for guidance and were able to find a 'home' for most of the rights around our school which is exactly what we were hoping for! We look forward to the accreditation process with Unicef in Term 3.

Ms Burke, Student Council Leader.



Sports

Traditionally spring is a very busy time for competitive sport in St. Fintan's and 2025 has proved no different.

Our classes from 3rd to 6th acquitted themselves fantastically well at the first cross-country event of season out in Newbridge Demesne. Ms. Foley's charges were competitive in all races and she is very much looking forward to the second outing on the 10th of April. All told, approximately 100 children will get the opportunity to represent the school over the course of the three days of competition, which is a wonderful testament to Ms. Foley's dedication to our aspiring athletes.

Our soccer teams are achieving great things in both 11-a-side and 5-a-side formats. Mr. Dunlop's 5-a-side boys team won a multi-school tournament back in February, beating Bracken ETNS in the final, and will be competing in the Dublin Regional Finals on the 9th of April. They are also unbeaten in league and cup in 11-a-side, with a memorable 4-1 victory against local rivals Scoil Mhuire Howth a definite highlight. Not to be outshone Mr. Vereker's girls team beat the same opposition 6-0 in Celtic Park. The girls are also unbeaten having won their opening fixture by an incredible eleven goals to nil.

Our GAA teams have been making the most of the fine weather, getting plenty of matches played in February and March. The boys gaelic football team have won all five of their league matches to secure an automatic place in the final at Parnell Park in May. Coaches, Ms. Byrne and Mr. Mac Lochlainn are very pleased to see how the team has been able to bring lessons learned from previous matches into each subsequent game. Ms. Giles and Ms. MacHugh have also overseen some very spirited performances from their ladies football team. In what's proving to be a very



competitive league they have been unlucky on a couple of occasions while also securing an excellent victory on the road against Balrothery.

Once we return from our Easter holidays, we'll be as busy as ever. St.Fintan's have entered hurling and camogie teams for the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions, and our Santry Athletics teams will be put through their paces. We are also looking forward to the Peninsula Cup for tennis in May. Our busy PE programme continued apace this spring. Our 4th and 5th classes attended swimming lessons, while our 6th classes completed their 6-week cycle safety course. Our 3rd classes have begun soccer sessions on Thursdays with coaches from Shelbourne FC, while our GAA Officer Mark continues his sterling work with classes from Senior Infants to 3rd.

The first term of 2025 also marked the arrival of a large order of PE equipment, courtesy of the generous contributions we received from Halloween's sponsored walk. Included in the delivery are our fabulous new gymnastic mats, various footballs, basketballs, reversible PE bibs for every child, cones, high and low hurdles, foam javelins and other assorted equipment. Thank you again for your wonderful support. We would like to take the opportunity to thank parents Johnny Lappin and Eugene O'Neill for their extremely generous sponsorship of new sets of gear for our boys and girls soccer teams.



New Gear for our Soccer Teams

Thank you to Johnny Lappin and Eugene O'Neill for sponsoring the new gear.



Football Team



PE Lesson Using New Equipment

North Dublin Spelling Bee Competition

Congratulations to our North Dublin Spelling Bee finalist, Olivia. Following intense and exciting in-school heats, Olivia was chosen to represent St. Fintan's in the final held in Sutton Park on March 26th last. Although she didn't win on the day, her courage in stepping on to the stage to showcase her talent is commendable. Her exceptional performance and mastery of spelling also deserve special recognition. Well done, Olivia!

To all those students in 5th and 6th, who participated in the heats and gave it their all, regardless of the outcome, you are all winners in your own right.

Ms. A. Byrne

Promoting literacy

World Book Day Writing Competition

This year, as part of our celebrations for World Book Day, we ran a writing competition for students in 3rd to 6th class. The students were asked to write about a favourite character from a book they had read or listened to. They also had to explain why they chose that character and what the character meant to them. We had a wide variety of entries submitted with in-depth and colourful descriptions as well as some very personal connections to the chosen character. There were prizes for the winners (pictured), who also got to showcase their writing at the assembly at the end of March.

Ms A Byrne

ESB Science Blast

St Fintan's National School were delighted to get back to Science Blast in the RDS this year!

What is Science Blast?

It is a non-competitive educational program for primary schools (3rd to 6th class), where the entire class explores the science behind a simple question. It was held in the RDS Dublin from the 4th-7th March this year. The really great thing about Science Blast is that it is very child-led. The teacher helps coordinate it, but the children are encouraged to lead the project themselves. 6th Class were our chosen representatives this year .

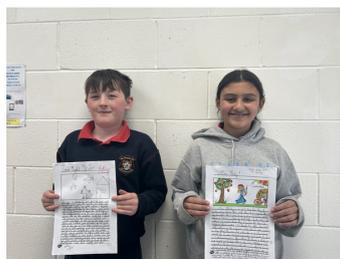
Their project was titled "Who has faster reaction times, boys or girls?" On Tuesday, March 5th, we travelled to the RDS for the event, and it was an amazing experience. We had our own stand to showcase the project, and the students stayed busy presenting and explaining it to visitors. At the end of the day, we received feedback from the judges, who were very impressed not only with the project's research and execution but also with how the students conducted themselves and presented the project to others.

As a school, we acknowledge the significance of STEM. We're looking forward to potentially entering one or even two senior classes into Science Blast next year, as it's an incredible experience which really broadens the children's understanding of the amazing possibilities science has to offer.

In the final term, the senior classes will also aim to engage in more 'Science Buddies' activities with the junior classes to encourage and foster STEM across the entire school.

Gill Furlong

Science Co-ordinator



Cross Country Running

Some children from 3rd to 6th class represented St Fintan's in the first cross country league race of 2025. There were many fantastic performances from the St Fintan's children and most importantly great fun was had by all. Well done to all involved!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí craic agus spraoi againn uilig i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. We painted the town green with a Céilí Mór/Dioscó and a sea of green clothes! Bhí an t-atmaisféar leictreach! Is cuid lárnach de shaol agus de chultúr na scoile í an Ghaeilge. Raidió RíRá was on the airwaves for the week....we heard an eclectic mix of songs, poems agus caint is comhrá. 5th Class went on a Toraíocht Focal sa Cheantar. They were searching for Irish signs and place names in Sutton. Their beady eyes found an array of Gaeilge sa cheantar. There were lots of prizes up for grabs for Gaeilgeoirí in each class. Everyone in our Fintan's community made a massive effort, particularly at the school gates. It was go hiontach ar fad. Maith sibh!



Lost Property

Lost Property is located in the lobby of the school. There are many lost jumpers and lot's of very nice coats left behind by the children. If you are missing an item please check lost property!

Junior Infants

The boys and girls in Junior Infants have had a busy and fun filled Spring. We kickstarted the spring term with Friendship February, where the children explored the importance of kindness, sharing, and making new friends. Through stories, random acts of kindness and buddy activities the children made their teachers so proud by showing just how kind they are. Junior Infants also performed 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars with the 5th class students at our Friendship February assembly. It was very special and everyone enjoyed their big performance.

The children then extended their learning outside of the classroom to explore the signs of spring in the school grounds. They spotted some lovely flowers blooming and even heard birds singing.

In March, we celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children had so much fun learning songs, poems and rhymes as Gaeilge and playing lots of games. We concluded Seachtain na Gaeilge with a céilí, with the children practicing their Irish dancing and even learning the Haka Gaelach led by the amazing 2nd class.

World Book Day was another highlight, as our Junior Infants celebrated their love of books. The children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters and listened to their buddies reading them their favourite book.



Senior Infants

Term 1 was great here in Senior Infants!

We started the year with visits from parents teaching us about different professions and followed this up with a sunny teddys bears picnic.

We dazzled on our dress up days for World Book Day and St Patrick's Day.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to The National Gallery where we learnt all about stained glass windows and people in the past.

We are really looking forward to Easter and can't believe there is only have one term left in Senior Infants!





First Class

Both 1st classes welcomed the grandparents to St Fintan's for Grandparents Day 2025. We sang some songs and did some lovely artwork. We really enjoyed hearing about stories from times when our grandparents were growing up.

First classes also had a great time at the Ark theatre watching the show 'Luminaria'.



Second Class

Second class celebrated the sacrament of First Penance in February with Fr Paul. They did themselves proud by knowing all of their prayers and songs perfectly. And of course they were perfectly behaved too. They should be very proud of themselves. We are now about to begin preparing for their Communion in May which is very exciting. Also this term we have enjoyed Friendship February, Pancake Tuesday, World Book Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge! As always the boys and girls in second class have risen to every occasion and celebration with enthusiasm! They have also been enjoying their GAA practice with Mark from Beann Eadair every week this term. What a busy few months!

Ms. Morgans class have had a fantastic few weeks in school, filled with exciting activities and lots of fun! The children thoroughly enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge, where they embraced the Irish language through songs, games, and our lively Gaeilge disco.

As part of Friendship February, we had a magical Teddy Bears' Picnic, celebrating kindness and friendship. We also explored history and creativity by studying the Titanic, which inspired some

incredible artwork. It has been a busy and enjoyable time.

As we approach a special time for the children of 2nd class making their first holy communion the children are beginning to work very hard in preparation for such an exciting time.



Third Class

What a busy and exciting term it's been for both 3rd class! We've had a lot of fun learning and getting active over the last few months!

We've been lucky to have a soccer coach from Shelbourne joining us, teaching us new skills and helping us improve our game. Every week, Mark, our GAA coach, has been leading us in fun GAA sessions.

The girls had a fantastic time at the rugby blitz in Suttonians to celebrate International Women's Day. Meanwhile, both classes have been working hard on Ancient Egypt projects, using the Book Creator app to create amazing digital books about this fascinating time in history.

In March, we performed Coldplay's "Sky Full of Stars" as Gaeilge at the whole school assembly. We've also been taking part in the OWLS Nature Project, where we're learning all about the wildlife of Howth Head and the importance of protecting nature.



Fourth Class

It's been an exciting few months in Rang a 4! The Peace Proms was a massive success, and a huge congratulations to all the talented 4th class singers who represented St. Fintan's so brilliantly. Our Peace Proms choir will also be performing again at both the Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

We celebrated St. Valentine's Day by creating beautiful artwork, and the Valentine's Day Ball was an unforgettable day. Friendship February was packed with fun activities, including the chance to work with our Senior Infant buddies, making friendship bracelets and other creative projects. We've really enjoyed getting to know our new friends during Friendship Fridays.

Fourth class has also started swimming lessons, which we're loving! Both classes are working on projects about different countries around the world and the Romans & Greeks. We are excited to present them soon and can't wait to share what we've been learning!





Fifth Class

It's been a very busy few months in 5th Class! We've been working on several exciting assignments and events:

Seachtain na Gaeilge:

We had a fantastic week for Seachtain na Gaeilge. One of the highlights for Rang a 5 was our "Toraíocht Focal sa Cheantar". The two classes paired up and we went on a hunt for Irish signs and placenames in Sutton. Who knew there were so many! We certainly couldn't believe it. Some groups found more than 100! Is iontach an rud é go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar fud na háite! We performed Amhrán na bhFiann and Amhrán na gCupán for Raidió RíRá. We ended the week on a high note with the Céilí Mór and lots of green clothes and accessories. Bhí craic agus an-spraoi againn uilig.

Croke Park:

Another day to remember was our trip to Croke Park. We learned a great deal about the history of Croke Park, some fun facts and we even got to sit in Dressing Room 1. We watched the film "September Days", visited the museum, practised our skills in the interactive games zone and the pièce de resistance was walking pitch side & sitting in the VIP seats in The Hogan Stand. It was a bit quieter than match days but amazing all the same!

Grandparents' Day:

Grandparents' Day was a roaring success. We were thrilled to host our wonderful grannies and grandads and give them a taste of modern school life. We started off by performing some songs- a nice mix of old and new. Our repertoire consisted of:



-Oró Sé Do Bheatha Bhaile

-Báidín Fheilimí

-Pompeii from our Peace Proms Concert '24

-Somewhere Over the Rainbow from our Christmas play, The Wizard of Claus.

We wanted to conjure up some lovely memories from their own childhoods with Báidín Fheilimí and Oró Sé Do Bheatha Bhaile. We think it did the trick. 😊 After that, some lovely grandparents spoke about their own childhoods and schooling. It was fascinating. Their grandchildren were bursting with pride standing beside them on the stage. The children worked very hard on their projects and artwork and they got the chance to show them off. The day ended in our classrooms. We invited the grandparents up to our classes where they played cards/board games, drew pictures and did various other activities together. It was an incredibly special day and one we'll all remember.

World Book Day

A massive well done to Anthony O'Dwyer, Síomha Quinn, Luke McEvelly and Saoirse Roddy for winning the World Book Day Writing Competition. Anthony also won the overall prize within the school. What a coup! We certainly have some budding writers in our midst.

The Spelling Bee:

Lastly, the annual North Dublin Spelling Bee Competition took place in Sutton Park School on March 26th. Olivia was the representative for St. Fintan's N.S with Matthew O'Brien as the sub. The tension was palpable- we don't know how Olivia kept her nerve! What an incredible achievement. We are all so proud of her.





Sixth Class

It has been an incredibly busy time for our 6th classes. Both classes dedicated a tremendous amount of effort to prepare for their Confirmation, and it certainly paid off. Just a few days before their big day, we held a celebratory breakfast for them. Ms. Farrell spoke to them all, praising their hard work and continued excellent behavior.



One of the classes were so lucky to get to visit Kilmainham Jail and experience a wonderful tour around it. We learned all about the events of the 1916 Rising and this really helped the children to put their own projects together on this topic.

The children have also been taking part in 'The Cycle Right' programme. They have been learning all about road safety and how to keep safe when cycling. This was a really valuable and enjoyable experience.

Both 6th Class children made their Confirmation on Friday 4th April. We had a beautiful ceremony in St. Fintan's Church and all the children looked so well. A great day was had by all!





Linda Maher

Linda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters