

St. Fintan's NS

Christmas 2024

A Word From Our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to St. Fintan's National School. As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Looking back on 2024, it was a year filled with both highs and lows. It was during the more challenging times that I truly realised how special the St. Fintan's community is—a community that consistently looks out for one another and offers unwavering support. Your kindness, resilience, and generosity of spirit make this school more than just a place of learning- it's a family. You should be proud of your children and all they have achieved this year. They have worked so hard and deserve a well-earned break.

Wishing you all peace, joy, and happiness for the Christmas holidays and the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Ms Farrell

Principal



St Fintan's NS Parents Association

The Parents Association is a parent led volunteer group connecting the parents to the school and board of management.

In addition to connecting parents to the school, the parents association also organises events, with support from parent volunteers, during the school year to raise funds for specific school projects.

Some of the school projects that parents, via the parents association events, have raised funds for include: school hall, 2 new classrooms, yard garden and story time benches.

To sustain the parents' association in the future, we would encourage parents to please volunteer, either at a specific event, or to join the parents association committee.



Please Volunteer and Play Your Part

2025 Parents Association events calendar:

Volunteer: Play your part however small or big –choose an event

1. Table quiz: 12th March 2025 -10 volunteers required
2. Sports Day: 20th June 2025 -100 volunteers required
3. Ladies Lunch: 14th June 2025 (TBC) -30 volunteers required
4. Golf and dinner dance: 3rd October 2025 (TBC) -20 volunteers required

Contact:

1. stfintanspaccommittee@gmail.com
2. Parents Association committee member
3. Your class representative

2024 PA Committee members: Hannah Tighe, Sinead Moore, Claire Lydon, Ronan Dillon & Ian McEvelly

Anti Bullying Week

Last month we celebrated Anti bullying week in St. Fintan's. The Student Council had the idea to create an anti bullying tree in the hall displaying messages of kindness on hand prints. Every child in the school from Junior Infants to 6th class is represented on the branches of the tree which makes it very special. Well done Student Council!



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 been very busy in the winter months. We kickstarted November with Science Week, we put our science hats on and took part in a variety of activities from experiments to LEGO STEM challenges, technology work, a visit from Emma the scientist and even witnessing an egg drop challenge with our buddies from the senior classes! It was so much fun!! We then focused on kindness for anti-bullying week and made some kind and colourful leaves for the whole school display.

In December, we had great fun getting into the Christmas spirit. We saw Paddington in the cinema and had a great time at our first school trip. We also made Christmas care packages for people in care homes with our buddies and we hope they love them as much as we loved making them. We also worked extremely hard at our Nativity Play, we made our families and teachers so proud. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone!



Senior Infants

Christmas has arrived in senior infants. We were making snowmen in P.E and art! Getting ready for our Christmas play has been fun. We can't wait for you to see it. We also had a blast at the cinema, Paddington was a hit! Yoga has been a lovely way for use to find our zen during this busy time. Merry Christmas all!



First Class

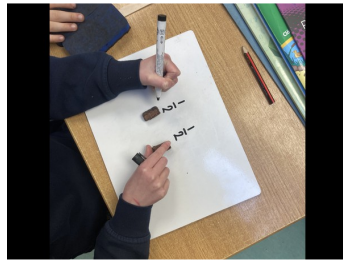
First class are busy practicing for the Christmas play. We had a lovely trip to the cinema to see 'Paddington in Peru'. We learned about the stories of 'Fionn and the Salmon of Knowledge' and 'Oisín I Tír na Nóg'. We have done a few art pieces which we are really proud of too!

The children in Ms Flynn's class were investigating insulators. We looked at why whales and seals use blubber to keep warm in the Arctic.

The children in the class also looked at how to create interesting characters. We had some fun with props and drama.

We had fun doing Lego structure challenges during science week.

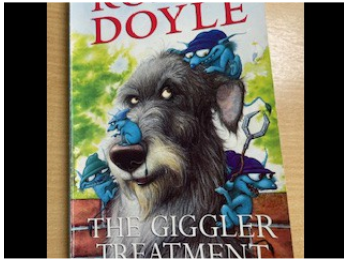
We also investigated halves and symmetry with some yummy treats and monoprinted butterflies.



Second Class

November and December continue to be busy for both 2nd classes. In November, both classes explored the world of Science during Science Week. They used skittles to explore the concept of diffusion and discovered how to make lava lamps. They were so enthralled by the world of science that many homes were converted into science labs for a few days, many thanks to all the parents for encouraging our budding 2nd class scientists!

The children also enjoyed using newspapers to explore the concept of 'Fact versus Fiction'. Thankfully this high brow reading activity didn't distract from their love of books. Ms Treleaven's and Ms McGinn's class are currently reading *The Giggler Treatment* (by Roddy Doyle) which they are loving. So watch out parents, make sure you don't fall victim to the Giggler treatment!! The festive season will bring lots of fun and festive activities and maybe even the chance to make some festive gifts to bring home! Merry Christmas from everyone in 2nd class!



Third Class

The boys and girls in 3rd class were delighted to be invited to a tag rugby blitz at Suttonians Rugby Club this month. Mr Dunlop's class have also been working on their first letters to their new pen pals from Belgrove Senior Boys School in Clontarf. We are really looking forward to getting to know our new pals throughout the coming school year. In November we took part in Science week where we had lots of fun with experiments. We designed contraptions to protect eggs as they were dropped from the roof. There were lots of

happy 3rd class students when lots of the eggs survived the big drop!!! 3rd class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the cinema where we saw Paddington in Peru. It was a well-deserved day out for us!

All the 3rd class students designed beautiful cards for people in a nursing home this Christmas. They put lots of thought and care into creating these cards, and they turned out fabulous. Although there is lots of excitement for the Christmas holidays, we are enjoying all the practicing for our carol singing outside SuperValu and our carol service in the church! We are really getting into the Christmas spirit with all our singing and lots of Christmas art!



Fourth Class

November has been a busy month for fourth class. Science Week was packed with fun, hands-on experiments. We created our very own lava lamps and tried to make eggs bounce. We also took part in the Egg Drop Challenge, designing parachutes, and some of them even survived the fall!! In celebration of National Children's Day, a number of children stepped up to take over the class. Our

young teachers led us in an art lesson, and they definitely have bright futures ahead in teaching! Every Tuesday, we've been enjoying our tag rugby sessions, which have been a lot of fun.

December kicked off with our Peace Proms practice at the National Sports Arena, where the children sang and danced to various songs. We can't wait for everyone to hear when the big day arrives! We've also started preparing for Christmas with lots of Christmas art. We transformed ourselves into elves and created our very own snow globes. We had a great time making Christmas cards for the Nursing Homes too. We are looking forward to our trip to the cinema to see the movie Paddington 3. We've been having so much fun practicing our Christmas carols, and it's definitely putting us in the Christmas spirit! We wish you all a Merry Christmas from 4th class!





Fifth Class

The two 5th classes have been very busy rehearsing for their Christmas play, The Wizard of Claus. The Wizard of Claus is a wonderful Christmas play based on the legendary Wizard of Oz movie. It was a wonderful experience and a fantastic opportunity for the two classes to combine forces.

We've also been working on our [CarePack.ie](https://www.carepack.ie) cards. Each pupil was assigned an elderly resident to whom they sent a card. They drew beautiful pictures and wrote lovely messages from the heart. The children really got into the spirit of giving and kindness; the true meaning of Christmas. Maith sibh a pháistí! 🎄



Sixth Class

Science Week Fun – November

In early November, we celebrated Science Week with a series of hands-on activities that sparked curiosity and encouraged problem-solving. Students participated in a variety of exciting challenges, including:

- Lego Builds
- Electric Circuits
- Egg Drop Challenge
- “Teach the Teacher” experiments

The students really enjoyed these activities and demonstrated excellent teamwork and ingenuity throughout the week!

Leading the School Assembly

In another first for 6th Class, we had the honor of leading the school assembly. This special occasion focused on Anti-Bullying. Both 6th-grade classes did an outstanding job with short dramas highlighting the importance of kindness and respect. The assembly concluded with a heartfelt performance of the song "This is Me," reminding everyone to embrace their uniqueness.

The Nativity Performance – December

As we approach the end of 2024, 6th Class are putting the finishing touches on our Nativity performance, which will be part of the school's Carol Service on December 19th. There has been

lots of rehearsal time and preparation, and we are confident that it will be a truly memorable performance. We can't wait to share it with you all!



Linda Maher

Linda is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters