



27th August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's almost time for us to reopen St. Fintan's NS after the summer holidays and we are all really excited to be "back to school". I know that our super pupils will be excited too and we are looking forward to seeing everybody next week! This message is just a follow up to my message issued earlier this week to remind all of the main COVID-19 safety systems that will be in operation when school reopens:

- **Here is the link to some Department of Education information** to help you and your child in advance of school reopening:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>
- **Start and end of school day information:**
 - **Note that the school yard is supervised from 8.40am daily.**
 - **Pupils entering the yard from 8.40am line up with their class groups** in an orderly manner, in the "socially distanced" pod line sections. Pupils should not be in the yard before this time.
 - **When in class, like last year, pupils again sit in pod groups:** Class teachers will send on information about which pod your child is allocated to and your child's new yard line number before Monday. Please tell your child their pod colour and class line number before Monday so they know where to line up if coming to the yard before 8.50am.
 - **Pupils will have their hands sanitised upon entry to the school and at regular intervals during the school day.** If your child needs their own special sanitiser (eg. due to an allergy) please let us know by contacting the school.
 - **Pupils will not be marked late unless arriving to school after 9am**
 - **On their first day, all pupils will be allocated a box with a lid.** Pupil books, copies and resources etc. go into this box. The boxes stay in class.

- **Class Level Specific Start and Finishing Times Information:**
 - **New intake junior infants:** Just for your child's first 2 days of school (Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st August), to avoid them being overwhelmed with large numbers of other pupils arriving at similar times, the junior infant day will run from 9.15am – 12pm.
 - From Wednesday 1st September until Friday 10th September inclusive, the junior infant day runs from 9am – 12pm.
 - Thereafter, the junior infant day extends to 8.50am – 1.15pm.
 - **Senior Infants** day finish at 1.30pm
 - **First and Second Class** day finishes at 2.10pm
 - **Third and Fourth Class** day finishes at 2.20pm
 - **Fifth and Sixth Class** day finishes at 2.30pm

Other Important Information:

- **The Department of Education again asks that parents / guardians do not congregate in the yard** before or after school. Therefore our parent waiting zones are again not in operation at this time.
- **We will be operating our supervised “pupil waiting zone” at home times.** This is an area of the yard marked by cones where younger siblings can wait for older siblings to be released from their class. This can be necessary in some circumstances – eg. where older siblings walk home with younger siblings.
- **For outdoor break / play times, as with last year, pupils will again play just with their own class group.**
- **An external health and safety agency is advising on and overseeing our health and safety procedures as we commence the new school year.** Be assured that the school continues to follow all required health and safety procedures for the safe and sustainable operation of St. Fintan's NS as we begin this new school year.
- **Please see our updated COVID-19 Response Plan including COVID-19 Risk Assessment on our website www.stfintansns.ie for further details** of the safety systems in operation in our school as we begin the new school year. For any COVID-19 matters going forward as we commence this new school year, please call our COVID-19 specific phone line: 0860691160

Best wishes to all for a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing all our pupils in St. Fintan's NS after the summer, this coming Monday, 30th August 2021.

Mr. Caulfield, Principal