

St Fintan's N.S.
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Taghmon
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ETHOS

St. Fintan's N.S. is a Roman Catholic School which aims to promote a happy, safe and friendly learning environment for all; an environment which will encourage each child to fulfil his/her potential in caring and supportive surroundings.

We promote close working relations between teachers, management and parents, all of whom work for the benefit of the children. We place a strong emphasis on the relationship between teachers and pupils, which contributes to a hard-working and enjoyable atmosphere.

Our Catholic Religious ethos finds expression throughout the curriculum, and particularly in our Religious programme which is a fundamental part of the school course (*Rule 68, Education Act 1998*). Our school and class Masses, liturgies and daily prayer are an important part of this programme. Visits to the classes by our priest are a welcomed part of parish and community involvement in the life of our school.

While the religious practices, teachings, morals and ethics of the school are those of the Catholic Church, the school acknowledges and respects the diverse religious beliefs and ways of life of pupils' families and the rights of parents in their children's moral and spiritual upbringing.

We recognise that each child is unique with a history and background that is also unique. We uphold the pupils' right to have access to the entire range of education which the school provides.

We foster and promote a love of the Irish Language and Gaelic Culture in our school. We encourage participation in the various sporting, musical and dramatic events/activities of a cultural nature which are organised throughout the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Daily Schedule

- Due to covid restrictions we have introduced staggered school start and finish times.

- Surnames beginning I - Z arrive between 9.00 - 9.10
A - H 9.10 - 9.20
- Breaks: 11.00-11.10 am
12.30 - 1.00 pm
- Junior and Senior Infants are dismissed at 2.00 pm.
- Other classes are dismissed: I - Z 2.50
A - H 2.55
Bus 3.00
- Junior infants enter the school through the small gate to the right of the main gate.
- Once children have been dismissed/collected from school they are not permitted to re-enter the school premises.
- We will have a free breakfast club in September, where parents may avail of a drop off time from 8.30 am onwards and a healthy breakfast will be provided for the children.

Further information about the breakfast club will follow.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

In the event of a pupil being absent through illness or for any other reason, the class teacher should be informed through Aladdin on the pupil's return to school. If it is anticipated that the absence will be of any lengthy duration, the class teacher should be informed via Aladdin as soon as possible.

The principal is obliged to forward names of pupils who have been absent for 20 days to the National Education Welfare Board (***Education Welfare Act. 2000***)

When it is necessary for a pupil to leave school early, the school must be informed either by phone or via Aladdin. Parents/guardians are asked to call personally to the school to collect the child and the child will be signed out on Aladdin.

Infants can become upset and confused if there is a change to their routine at home-time. Please inform the teacher if there is such a change (e.g. the child might be going to a neighbour's house, etc).

Children should have their names on their coats and school half zip, and on other personal property, ie school books, folders, copies, lunch boxes, etc.

Most communication with parents will be via Aladdin. Occasionally hard copy newsletters and notices will be issued. Encourage your child to deliver notes immediately and check each evening at homework time to see if there is a note from the school.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Under a scheme (funded by the Dept. of Social Protection) a morning snack and a hot school dinner are provided to each pupil. Our current provider is Fresh Today. To change lunch order parents log onto www.freshtoday.ie , enter the password they are given and make the changes. Alternatively they can email changes to info@freshtoday.ie.

We operate a Healthy Eating Policy so only **one small treat item** is allowed on Fridays eg one mini bar / One small pack of sweets

Chewing gum and crisps are not allowed in school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The uniform is as follows:-

- A half zip top with school crest (available to purchase directly from school)
- A plain navy tracksuit bottoms (no stripes or logos allowed)
- A light blue polo shirt
- Navy shorts (mid thigh) or O'Neills navy shorts with blue stripes that match the half zip exactly when weather permits.

The school will keep a limited number of half zips in stock to replace lost/damaged tops.

We strongly advise that the parents **write the child's name on the top**. It is also permissible for parents to get their initials embroidered on, once you have received the top.

MOBILE PHONES /ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of Mobile Phones and electronic devices by pupils is prohibited in school.

SCHOOL BOOKS

A book rental scheme is operated in the school. Pupils using these books are asked to return them at the end of the year in good condition.

HEALTH/SAFETY

- Children who are ill should not be sent to school.
- Parents are asked that teachers be made aware of any physical disability or allergies which their children might have.

- Please check your child's hair regularly for outbreaks of head lice. If there is an outbreak of head lice in a class, all of the parents are informed by text, and asked to take immediate action to treat infestation. Information on the treatment of head lice is available from the school.
- Requests for children to remain indoors at break-time should only be made in exceptional circumstances.
- Parents who collect their children are requested to exercise extreme caution. We ask that the **bus areas** are kept clear at all times, that the **pedestrian crossing** is kept clear and that **reverse parking** be used outside the school.
- We encourage parents and students to use the pedestrian crossing when crossing the road.

ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

- Minor accidents are treated at school. Parents will be informed and should check the injury when the child comes home.
- In the event of an accident/child becoming ill, every possible effort will be made to contact the pupil's parents or the person delegated to take responsibility for the pupil. The school should be notified immediately of changes of phone numbers or addresses.
- Parents will be informed immediately of any head injuries.
- 24-hour cover is available under a personal accident insurance scheme. Details of this scheme are circulated in September.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Frequent communication is of vital importance in developing and nurturing co-operation between home and school.

- Individual consultation: This occurs when a parent has asked for an interview with a teacher or has been invited to visit the school to exchange information or to discuss matters of concern. A note to the class teacher via Aladdin requesting such an appointment is always essential. A suitable time will be arranged.
- Parent/teacher meetings are held during the first term.
- Meetings are held in connection with preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Teachers and parents may communicate by means of writing notes (in the pupils' homework notebooks where in use) and via Aladdin.
- School Reports are issued in June.
- Newsletters are issued once a month
- The school website can be viewed at www.taghmonns.com or follow us on twitter on @taghmonns on facebook or instagram at taghmonns

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Parents are asked to study the Code of Behaviour and discuss it with their children. Copies of the Code of Behaviour will be distributed early in the new school year and it is also available on our website..

School Rules – School Rules are kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

Anti-Bullying Code – Every pupil has the right to enjoy his/her time in St. Fintan’s N.S. Unkind actions or remarks will not be tolerated. Pupils are encouraged to support each other by reporting all instances of bullying.

Copies of the School Rules and Anti-Bullying Code are available from the school and on the school website.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The curriculum is presented in seven subject areas, some of which are further sub-divided into subjects –

- **Language** (Gaeilge and English)
- **Mathematics**
- **Social, Environmental and Scientific Education** (History, Geography and Science)
- **Arts Education** (Visual Arts, Music and Drama)
- **Physical Education**
- **Social, Personal and Health Education**
- **Religious Education**

HOMEWORK

Homework is generally given every night from Monday to Thursday. Teachers will use their professional discretion in allocating homework.

In the Infant classes the emphasis will be on developing reading skills and fostering a love of reading.

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and in the middle and senior classes in particular, written tasks.

Parents should provide appropriate conditions for homework – a quiet time and place, a suitable work surface, etc.

In the case of a child having difficulties with homework, parents should consult with the teacher.

Teachers will consult with parents where homework is proving to be a problem or where homework is not satisfactory.

A copy of the school Homework Policy is available from the school.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council holds its AGM early in the new school year. All parents/guardians of children attending St.Fintan's N.S. are deemed to be members. Parents are encouraged to get involved in the council and to attend the meetings. A copy of the Constitution of the Parents' Council may be obtained from the Secretary.

Being a member of the Parents' Council is very worthwhile. It gives an insight into the workings of the school and also provides parents with an opportunity to become involved in their children's education.

It can also be a great opportunity for parents to get to know other parents and make friends in the community.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management/Manager is the body of persons or the person nominated by the Patron (Bishop of Ferns) and recognised by the Minister of Education and Science. The Board/Manager is charged with the direct governance of the school, i.e. responsibility for management, administration, appointment of teachers and all financial matters pertaining to the school.

There are eight members of the Board of Management –

- Two direct nominees of the patron (Bishop);
- Two parents (one mother, one father) elected by the parents;
- The Principal and one other teacher elected by the teaching staff;
- Two extra members proposed by the nominees described above.

A new Board is elected every four years.

The current Board members are:-

Fr. Robert McGuire (Chairperson)

Geraldine Doyle (Principal)

Paula Gondard (Teachers' Nominee)

Dan O' Flaherty (Patron's Nominee)

Jim Morrissey (Community Rep.)

Lucy Lacey (Community Rep.)

Shane Carroll (Parents' Rep.)

Esther Murphy (Parents' Rep)

SPORT/ACTIVITIES

Our school has a great tradition in sporting activities, in particular hurling, football, rounders and handball. We enter the Mini-Sevens hurling/football and camogie each year and then join with Carroreigh to compete in the Rackard League.

The Girls were Roinn A Rackard League County Football Champions in 2017/2018. Taghmon are also the current County Rackard League Champions in Handball.

The school participates in the Schools Athletics Competition, winning many titles over the years.

We also participate in the Schools Debating Competition.

We were awarded the Active School Flag in 2019/2020.

ICT

Technology and computer skills are given a high priority in St. Fintan's N.S. Each classroom is equipped with an Interactive Whiteboard/Projector, teacher's laptop and printer with wireless broadband connection. A laptop trolley complete with 16 laptops all with wireless broadband connection is available for class groups to work on. These are utilized on a daily basis, particularly in the older classes. We also have a set of 24 iPads which are available for groups or classes to use. Online content is filtered by PDST and is suitable for primary school pupils.

STAFF

Teachers

Ms. Geraldine Doyle (Principal)

Mrs. Colette Allen (Deputy Principal)

Mr. Trevor Doran

Ms. Kathleen Downes

Ms. Neasa Fitzgerald

Ms. Antoinette Fitzsimons

Ms. Paula Gondard

Ms. Annaleigh Hore

Ms. Niamh Leacy

Mrs. Sinead Murphy

Ms. Tanya Murphy

Ms. Karen Purcell

Special Needs Assistants

Ms. Donna Franzis

Ms. Jeannette Kelly

Ms.Elaine Hogan

School Secretary Ms Mai Gaynor

Caretaker Mr. Charles Doyle

Cleaner Ms Christine Doyle