



September, 2021

From: David O'Leary / Yvonne O'Sullivan  
Principal / Deputy Principal

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We would like to extend a warm welcome to our 21 Junior Infants and to the 7 children who have joined other classes in the school. We have a current enrolment of 104 pupils.

We would also like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere condolences to the O'Sullivan family on the death of Betty. Betty was a member of our School BoM for a long number of years and was always generous with her time, advice and support when need. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

We welcome Marion McGill to our school staff. Marion will be working alongside Niamh McCarthy in on the Special Educational Team. We also welcome Joanne Fitzgerald onto our Board of Management and look forward to working with her.

- **School League:** The children from Third to Sixth have been taking part in the ever-popular school league which is played at lunch time. Six teams took part and our final is due to be played on Friday. Thanks to the teachers for acting as refs for these games during their lunch break.
- **School Development Plan Questionnaire.** Thanks to all those who have returned this questionnaire. Please return in the coming days if you haven't already done so.
- **Parent/Teacher** meeting dates to follow in October newsletter.
- **Reminder:** School starts at 9am. We accept children on the school grounds from 8.50am onwards only. Children should not arrive before 8.50am. See 'Letter to Parents' sent by email at end of August, for more details on this.
- **Eolas App:** As the School is moving forward with the Eolas App for future school notifications (texts) and attendance keeping, we would strongly encourage you to download the Eolas App so that you don't miss out on important information. Absences will appear on your App when the school roll is called on that day. This is a quick and easy way for you to monitor your child's attendance and will do away with the need to email the school with reasons. You will not be able to log absences in advance, they will only appear when school roll has been called for that date. Also, if you are picking up early you will not be able to log this on the App, you need to send email to your class teacher or ring the office with a message. Please use the proper emails for classroom teacher if you need to contact them with other queries:

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- **Book payment:** Gentle reminder re paying of book money. This will enable us to pay our school book bill.
- **Congratulation** to Laragh Egan and Eve Draper who received prizes in the art competition which KCC ran in conjunction with Fleadh Cheoil weekend. Well done girls!
- **Drop-off Box:** Please continue to use the Drop-off box outside the door and remember to put pupil's name on items.
- **Team Hope:** Leaflets have gone home for the Team Hope Christmas ShoeBoxes Appeal. This is one of the charities the school supports each year and the pupils enjoy getting the boxes ready. Please follow the instructions on the leaflet and return your Shoeboxes to the School before Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November to allow time for transport to Sorting Depot or alternatively log onto [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie) and donate online.
- **Broadband:** School is in the process of installing fibre broadband.
- **Congratulations** to the children who made their First Holy Communion and thank you to Ms Lyne and Ms McCarthy for preparing them. Confirmation is on this Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 11am for last year's sixth class.
- **Thank you** to Eugene Dennehy for designing and making a Target Ring for improving the pupil's ball kicking skills. This has proven very popular at breaktime.

## ***In the Classroom:***

- ***Junior and Senior Infants*** are very busy with the autumn theme at present. They have painted fingerprint trees in the Autumn colours as well as practising their cutting skills to cut out autumn leaves to make Autumn lions. They are also enjoying their busy breaks in the classroom. They are learning the song the fight song and their dance moves are something to behold. Mrs O'Sullivan is very proud of all their good work in class and particularly the kindness they are showing towards other children in their class. Maith sibh!
- ***First and Second Class*** have been very busy this year so far. Along with all our classwork we have been learning to play the tin whistle with Roisin for the first time and are practicing our first tune – Hot Cross Buns. We have done some lovely art work including 3D Zebras and have learned all about the artist Picasso and done some self-portraits based on his art style. We also carried out a science experiment called “The Roaming Rainbow” learning both about how water travels and our primary colours – how mixing them we make new colours.
- ***Third and Fourth Class*** have been working very hard settling back into school after the summer break. They really enjoyed studying the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and painted some fantastic pieces using Arcimboldo’s fruit and vegetable ideas. They have enjoyed Gaeilge with Micheál, music with Róisín and GAA with Eugene & P.J. during this term.
- ***Fifth and Sixth Class*** really enjoyed learning about the colour wheel, experimenting with tints and shades of primary and secondary colours to produce some wonderful pieces of art. They also produced some very creative prints using paint and everyday objects. We learned about sound and how the ear works in science. We are currently engaged in a project on the history of the GAA. All of the children were asked to speak on an oral topic of their choice for one minute in front of their peers. Their presentations were very interesting and well prepared. Geocaching is a type of global treasure hunt, where people look for hidden caches. We have registered on the website [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) so we can set up our own geocache. The children have been asked to select a suitable location in Waterville to hide our geocache in. Our geocache will have GPS co-ordinates, which we will upload online to allow other geocachers to search for our hidden geocache.
- ***Resource*** - In response to the COVID pandemic, the Government have announced a supplementary teaching scheme called CLASS, for all Irish schools. Each school will be allocated additional teaching support hours, which are dependent on school enrolment. We are delighted to welcome Mr Monaghan back twice weekly following the October mid-term, in order to help us fulfil our supplementary teaching hours, through a combination of in-class and other support.

### **Dates for the diary:**

- ***Uniform Days:*** School uniform on Mon, Tues, Wed. Tracksuit on Thur & Fri.
- ***Sports:*** Every Thursday with Eugene/PJ Reidy.
- ***Roisin Ryan*** (music) will be here on Tuesdays 12 Oct-7 Dec.
- ***Irish:*** Micheál Ó Sé on Mondays, for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- ***Parents Association AGM:*** 9<sup>th</sup> October @ 7pm in kitchen of GAA Clubhouse.
- ***School walks*** on week before Halloween mid-term, day to be decided:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Glencar to Glenbeigh via the Kerryway.
  - Juniors to 2nd Class will do the Skelligs Monk Trail in Ballinskellig.
- ***Halloween Holidays:*** Mon, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri, 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- ***Parent/Teacher Meetings*** – early November, dates to follow.
- ***School Photographer*** will be here on 10 February, 2022 to take pupil photographs. Purchase of photos is not compulsory.

See school website [www.stfiniansns.ie](http://www.stfiniansns.ie) for photos – password is *stfinian*

*Please see Letter to Parents sent late August for other information.*

*Next School Newsletter will be at end of October.*