

Telephone: 059 9132444
Email: st.fiaccs@gmail.com
website: www.stfiaccsns.ie



St. Fiacc's N.S.
Fírinne le Misneach

February 2021

Dates for your Diary

February 15th - 19th: Mid Term Break (no remote learning this week)

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our remote learning survey last week. A summary of the survey is attached as a pdf. The feedback was extremely positive which is a testament to the efforts of our teaching staff. I also welcome the helpful suggestions. To this end we will continue with seesaw as our main learning platform. Our class teachers will attempt two Zoom classes per week after the mid term break except in the cases of classes where hardly any pupils log on. In this instance we will keep it to one class.

Minor works

During lockdown we have been busy maintaining the school building. We have removed old carpets from the remaining four classrooms and replaced them with marmoleum which has been sealed. We are installing state of the art Promethean Panels in three classrooms. As mentioned previously, we are planning to erect perimeter fencing along the graveyard boundary wall and Aldi exit to prevent trespassing and dog fouling.

Return to school

We are still awaiting a confirmation date for the return to school of all our pupils. There was a proposal of an early return in January of pupils with additional needs but that was postponed due to high Covid case numbers. Hopefully we are nearer to a return date as we would all love to be back at school.

Retirement

It was a day of mixed emotions in St. Fiacc's NS on January 29th as the school staff bade farewell to Ms Sheila Hanratty and wished her a happy retirement. Sheila joined the teaching team 22 years ago, having previously worked in Dublin. She took on the role of Junior Infant teacher and brought with her exuberance, energy and experience. Her teaching methods were forward thinking and were adopted by her colleagues. Sheila then joined the Special Education Team and became an invaluable member of the group. With constant upskilling, she carved out a hugely important role as advocate for pupils with speech, language and hearing difficulties and ensured that those in her charge had access to the best resources and programmes in order to meet their needs. She also took on the roles of promoter of oral Irish, mentor for newly qualified teachers, trainer of the quiz teams and organiser of reading resources. The staff is hugely grateful for her trojan work and friendship and wishes her a long and healthy retirement!

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Bereavement

The staff, Board and parents of St. Fiacc's were heartbroken to learn of the passing of Mr Nolan's sister Sinead. A past pupil of St. Fiacc's and a wonderful teacher, Sinead was well known to many in the Graiguecullen community and beyond. Sinead was passionate about community, family, Gaeilge and her beloved Graiguecullen GAA Club. Sincere condolences to Sinead's parents Seamus and Jane, her brother James, his partner Magdalena, her niece Emily and her nephew Piotr. Ar Dheis De go raibh a hanam.

Living our Ethos.

Despite the Lockdown we managed to celebrate Catholic Schools Week last month assisted by Fr Dunphy, Mr Kelly and Mr Bolton at our Zoom Assemblies. We also managed to share some wonderful samples of the prayer boxes and St. Bridget's crosses designed by our students.