Newsletter September 2019

**Welcome**

Dear Parent(s)

Tá fáilte romhaibh ar ais i gcomhair bliain nua agus fíor– fháilte roimh na daltai is na clainn nua!

I am looking forward to another year at St. Fiacc’s. Our new prefabs will accommodate two classes as the school grows to a 23 classroom school. Over the next 18 months the Board plan to design and build four classrooms to replace all our prefabs and also to build a special class unit for pupils with autism.

Over the Summer our preschool developed a sensory garden that will benefit preschool and infant pupils alike. This year, with a view to reducing paper, our newsletters will be sent through the Aladdin app and will also be posted on our website. Please make sure to download the Aladdin app or contact the office for support (see note at end of this newsletter).

Finally, I would also like to welcome our new teachers Miss Edel Frayne (2nd) and Miss Sinead Davitt (1st) who were appointed to permanent positions at St. Fiacc’s in June and also to Miss Chantelle Coakley who is covering a maternity leave. I know that they will all receive a warm welcome at St. Fiacc’s.

Looking forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Beir bua,

John Brennan.

\*New infants will finish at 12.00 until Wed Sept 11th. Full day (9.20 – 2.00pm) from Sept. 12th onwards.

**Dates for your Diary**

Sept 4th – 5th : Class Meetings\*

Sept 3rd **:** Swimming for Mr Nolan (6th) & Miss Kavanagh’s (2nd) Classes (Tuesdays 2-3pm) – 6 weeks. Cost €24

Sept 5th: Swimming for Miss Minnock (6th) & Miss Frayne’s classes (2nd) classes (Thursdays 11am-12pm) – 6 weeks. Cost €24

Sept 6th : Swimming for Miss Delaney (6th) & Miss Walsh’s classes (3rd) classes (Fridays 11am-12pm) – 6 weeks. Cost €24

SWIMMING PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE

October 4th **:** Opening year school mass at 11.30 (All parents are welcome to attend. Our Junior Infants will not be attending mass as they need more time to settle in but we will have them down later in the year.)

\* **Class Meetings**

**3rd - 6th WED Sept 4th - please assemble in hall initially at 3.15.**

**Infants - 2nd THURS Sept 6th (as above). This presents a wonderful opportunity to meet your child’s teacher.**

**Health & Safety**

Everybody is aware of the mess dog dirt can cause especially around young boys and girls. For this reason dogs are not allowed on the school grounds.

**Wet Mornings**

Pupils in NEW PREFABS assemble in the PE Hall on rainy mornings.

**School Calendar**Our calendar and any latest updates will be on our website [www.stfiaccsns.ie](http://www.stfiaccsns.ie)

**Book Rental**

Please note that all book rental fees (€90) were due last June and should therefore be settles immediately. Every family is also requested to make a voluntary contribution of €50. This money ensures that the school is well resourced. This can be paid in monthly installments of €5. You will receive a voluntary contribution envelope next week.

**Absences**

Parents / Guardians are reminded that there is a legal obligation on the Principal to record every absence of every child throughout the school year, with an added obligation of reporting absences of over 20 days to the Educational Welfare Board. Parents/guardians are asked to ring the school Secretary on the morning of an absence and to write a note of explanation in the pupil’s homework journal following an absence or give a note to the class teacher. *100 pupils missed 20 days or greater last year.*

The class rolls are called no later than 10.10am each morning. Pupils who arrive after said time are marked absent. Your cooperation with these procedures is greatly appreciated.

   **Homework**

Where possible please ensure that your child tries to do the homework set every night and sign the Homework Journal. Our new Homework diaries also contain information on our key policies.

 **Supervision**

St Fiacc’s opens at 9.20am and closes at 3pm. St Fiacc’s does not take responsibility for supervision of pupils before 9.00. am or after 3pm. To this end we advise pupils to assemble in the school grounds between 9.00 & 9.20. where there will be supervision. The school would greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

St. Fiacc’s will open to receive pupils at the hour of 9.00am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.20am. No pupils should arrive later than 9.15am.

Classes will end each day at 3.00pm. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate and the person to escort them should be at the gate no later than 3.00pm as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time.

There will be morning supervision provided by staff between 9.00 and 9.20am.

**Change of Address/Phone numbers**

Please drop a note to Sarah if any of the above details have changed and we will update it on our system.

**Allergies**

Please ensure you inform the office if your child has developed any medical need over the Summer.

ALADDIN CONNECT

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school uses Aladdin Schools Connect.

Aladdin Connect will give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child’s attendance, test results, reports cards etc  via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App

Aladdin Connect is a fantastic way to enhance a school's communication with  parents. It enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:
- Ensuring that the school has their most **up to date contact information**
- Keeping parents appraised of their child's**attendance**
- Keeping parents up to date on **school and classroom news** via noticeboard messages
- Keeping parents up to date on what **library book**their child is currently reading and if it is due/overdue to be returned
- Allowing parents view their child's approved **report card**
- Allowing parents to view their child's latest **standardised test results**

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage Aladdin Connect helping the school by:
- Helping to **improve attendance** by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information.
- Helping to reduce the amount of **class/school notes being sent home**
- Helping the school/ teachers**communicate** with parents when the need arises
- **Reducing costs** by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
- **Reducing costs** by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

You can rest reassured that Aladdin Schools uses state-of-the-art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws.

How to connect

Request a **text/email message** containing your **registration link**.  There will be one link per parent which will allow the parent to access information for all their children in the school from one user account. Please do not forward this text/email or share this link as this is a unique registration code for each parent for your child/children in this school. During registration you will choose a password that will be used in conjunction with your email address to securely access the Aladdin Connect going forward. If you choose you may share your own contact details with other parents of children in the same class as your children, but please be reassured that this information will**not**be shared unless you choose to share it. Once you are registered you will be sent an email with links to download the Aladdin Connect App for your mobile device. The main advantage of using the App is to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by your school. Downloading the App is highly recommended to enhance both the parent and school's Connect experience.

**By default both parents will have access to view their child’s contact information**. If for any reason you do **NOT** wish to share your own personal contact information within the family circle or if you have any concerns regarding your particular family setup please contact the school in confidence to discuss or have this facility restricted.

**In preparation for this please let the school know if your email address or phone number has changed recently.**

We hope that you enjoy using Aladdin Connect. Your class teacher, the secretary or myself will welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Brennan

Principal