



## St. Farnan's Post Primary School,

Prosperous, Co. Kildare, W91W520

Guthán / Telephone: 045868152

Idirlíon / Internet: [www.stfarnans.ie](http://www.stfarnans.ie)

R-Phost / E-mail: [info@stfarnans.ie](mailto:info@stfarnans.ie)

Príomhoide / Principal: Andrew Purcell

Leas Príomhoide/Deputy Principals: Sinéad Cassidy & Niamh Doyle

### Re: Incoming 1st Year Students 2026 – 2027

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians of incoming 1st Year Students,

We are delighted to welcome your son/daughter to St. Farnan's Post Primary School this coming August. The transition to second level school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring our 130 incoming First Years begin their journey with confidence and support.

To ease this transition, we are prioritising our new students with a dedicated induction programme and will meet with all 1<sup>st</sup> years on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 9am to 12 noon. During this time, students will meet their Year Head, Tutors, key school staff, and their classmates.

- No other year groups will be in school during the first day, ensuring a calm and welcoming environment. The 1<sup>st</sup> year students will then back in school on the following Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September for the start of their timetabled classes.
- We will be organising team-bonding events for early September – date to be confirmed.

*\* Please check with your provider of school buses organised by Bus Eireann on behalf of the Department of Education & Youth to see if they are running on this day.*



### Looking Back and Moving Forward

After a vibrant and successful last Summer term in St. Farnan's PPS filled with SEC examinations, in-house assessments, fantastic TY and 6th Year graduations, our annual End-of-Year Awards Ceremony, exciting school tours, and a blustery Sports Day, with, of course, lots of learning and teaching, we are now focused on preparing for 715 students in St. Farnan's PPS in the 2026 – 2027.

The State Examinations ran smoothly, and I want to commend our Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students for their dedication, positive attitude, and exemplary behaviour throughout. Thank you to the SEC and school staff that ran these exams so well, organised by Ms Roisin Murphy.

### Communications

Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date **mobile number**, working **email address** and an emergency contact number. SMS & Tyro mail (through the Tyro app) is our primary method of communication. If you have not received any messages from our Tyro system, please contact the office urgently for monitoring of child's attendance, reports, punctuality etc.

Our school main phone line on 045868152 and school office email is monitored by Jenna, Nicolette & Elaine in our main office. Email: [www.info@stfarnans.ie](mailto:www.info@stfarnans.ie)



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If students need to contact home, this **MUST** only be done through the front office and not via their mobile phone or by text etc.

If a parent/guardian needs to contact their child or a member of staff, this contact is to be made through the front office only. Year Heads, Tutors and Teachers will not always be available to meet immediately so if you require a meeting, please arrange by phoning the front office and this will be arranged.

**Important Dates:** Start-Up Week The full 2026–2027 School Calendar now available on our website

Date	Details
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Only 1 <sup>st</sup> years in school from 9am to 12pm.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Only 3 <sup>rd</sup> years (9am - 11am) and 5 <sup>th</sup> years in school 10am -12 noon
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Only 2 <sup>nd</sup> years ((9am - 11am), 6 <sup>th</sup> years (9.30am - 11.30am) and Transition Year students (10am -12 noon) in school
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Full timetable for all students.

## School Book Scheme, Student Journals & Annual Student Contribution fee

All schoolbooks are now fully funded through the government's Department of Education and Youth grants to schools. 1<sup>st</sup> students will receive all textbooks, copies, folders, a maths set, a calculator, log tables including a number of particular subject specific items and these will be ready to be collected during the first week of school. This is basically run like a *Rental* system, whereby all textbooks must be looked after and returned after students have completed using them at the end of the Junior Cycle. Any lost/damaged textbooks must be purchased by the individual/family and returned to school at the end of the *rental* period.

Students must have their own labelled school bags and labelled pen/pencil cases with them from the first day. All students must make a huge effort to maintain their locker in a neat and tidy fashion. Lockers **MUST** be locked at all stages throughout the day. Schoolbags - *A.B.B. (anything but black!)* it is much easier to find a schoolbag if lost, if it is blue or red or *Anything Else but Black!* School Locker and combination locks will be also provided during the first few days of school. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Year Mentors and 6<sup>th</sup> Year Prefect Team will support 1<sup>st</sup> year tutors in helping to organise lockers for all 1<sup>st</sup> year students.

St. Farnan's also charge an **Annual Contribution Fee** which covers many other items outlined below. The 1<sup>st</sup> year **Annual School Contribution fee** is €160.00

What your student contribution goes towards:

- School Journals, School Lockers & Lock Hire
- Access to StudyClix, Athena Academic Tracker & resources
- School apps and communication platforms, IT platforms and software licenses, wifi and internet services etc. (Google Education Suite, Tyro MIS and Tyro mail, postage)



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- 24/7 Student Insurance run by IPB (Irish Public Bodies) – 365 day a year student insurance
- Administration Fee to cover photocopying, printing, classroom and teaching materials
- Extra-curricular contribution including bus trips (huge increase in costs again over the past year), referee's fees, affiliation fees, workshops, guest speakers, wellbeing programmes. For any extra-curricular trips we ask for a €2 fee to cover the huge increase in bus hire.

We are very grateful to all families who support this annual student contribution via our **Way2Pay online system**. Payments can be made in full or by instalments and we will work with families in this regard.

Concessions apply for sibling and medical card holders.

Full details and payment setup will be available on our website in the coming days. We will also be texting details to each nominated parent/guardian.

### Student Mobile Phone Restriction Policy (part of Bí Cineálta Policy)

*No matter what age your child is and what year they are going into, can you please make sure that you sit down with your young person and talk through this section of our school rules on mobile phones.*

Mobile phones can only be used for educational purposes within the classroom under teacher guidance. Mobile phones **CANNOT** be used while waiting for school to start, at break or lunchtimes or at any time without permission in the school.

Please remember that it is illegal to photograph/video anyone else without their express permission and in the case of a school situation, the permission of the school. It is also illegal to share any photos/video footage or similar on any platform that you receive concerning anyone else without their express permission. Students - please be sensible and **THINK, BEFORE YOU CLICK/SHARE!**

At all other times in school, student's mobile phones need to be switched off fully. Mobile phones will not be allowed to be brought into the bathrooms at any stage - they must be left on the teacher's desk in the Mobile Phone baskets. At breaktimes, it is expressly forbidden to use mobile devices in any area and especially in the toilets on the premises. However, mobile phones (Revolut/wallet/bank card on phone) can be used to purchase food from Rafter's Canteen. Phones/devices must again be immediately switched off after using them to purchase food.

Every student in St. Farnan's PPS has a lockable locker with an individualised combination lock. Mobile phones should be locked away if not needed for educational purposes. All lockers **MUST** be kept locked and tidy. The school cannot assume responsibility for any items misplaced, lost or stolen such as phones, books, uniforms, bags, lunch boxes etc. It is the responsibility of each student to manage their belongings correctly.



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Any student interfering with another locker or any property not belonging to them will face serious sanctions.

### Uniform Policy & Appearance Guidelines

Our school uniform is available from SAVI Clothing <https://www.schoolwear.ie> (Vincent Sammon) and our P.E. Uniform is available from O'Neills Sportswear on-line shop:

<https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/education/schools/st-farnans-post-primary-school.html>

While there are 43 different branded school PE items available in O'Neills, a school *Academy* tee-shirt, half-zip and tracksuit bottoms (Academy, Cashel or Aston) are long-lasting and better value than some other models available. Savi clothing also has more waterproof coats (both light weight and heavier rain-proof), while O'Neill's have crested gilets and other crested padded jackets which are all acceptable.

#### **No other jackets or coats are acceptable within the school building or on school trips.**

- Full school uniform, including the school crested coat/jacket or fleece, must be worn daily. No other coats are to be worn in the school or school grounds.
- PE tracksuit and runners may only be worn on PE days or specified events.
- Fully black shoes or black casual runner-style shoes must be worn.
- Only one ring per hand and one small earring per ear is permitted with maximum and one stud nose piercing allowed. No hoops allowed on grounds of H&S.
- Unnatural hair colours are not permitted.
- Excessive makeup will not be allowed; students may be asked to remove it.

If there is an immediate issue with a student's uniform, please contact the relevant Year Head and write a note with a short explanation into the journal so that the tutor can see it at tutorial time.

Students who do not follow our school rules on Uniform and Appearance will be asked to rectify issues immediately. Failure to do so and adhere to our uniform policy on an ongoing basis may result in a more serious disciplinary sanction. Parents/Guardian, please work with us on this issue and we will always give time to students to help them understand why we have rules and regulations.



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### School Journal & Code of Behaviour

Students will again receive a **school journal** which must be with them at all times.

Please read and sign the **student/parent commitment** in the beginning of the journal and fill out your name on the front of the journal and your timetable (back of front cover) over the first week. During the first week of school, each student and their parent/guardian must read and sign the front section of the School Journal to confirm agreement with:

- **New School Code of Behaviour – please read through this policy and procedures with your child**
- Uniform Policy; Counselling Information; other Key Policies

If a school journal is lost throughout the year, a fee of €10 is charged for a new journal.

Please check your child's journal every evening and sign every night for the first number of weeks and thereafter, once a week. Year Heads will inform and remind parents & students of this. Tutors will check journals weekly and sign/stamp.

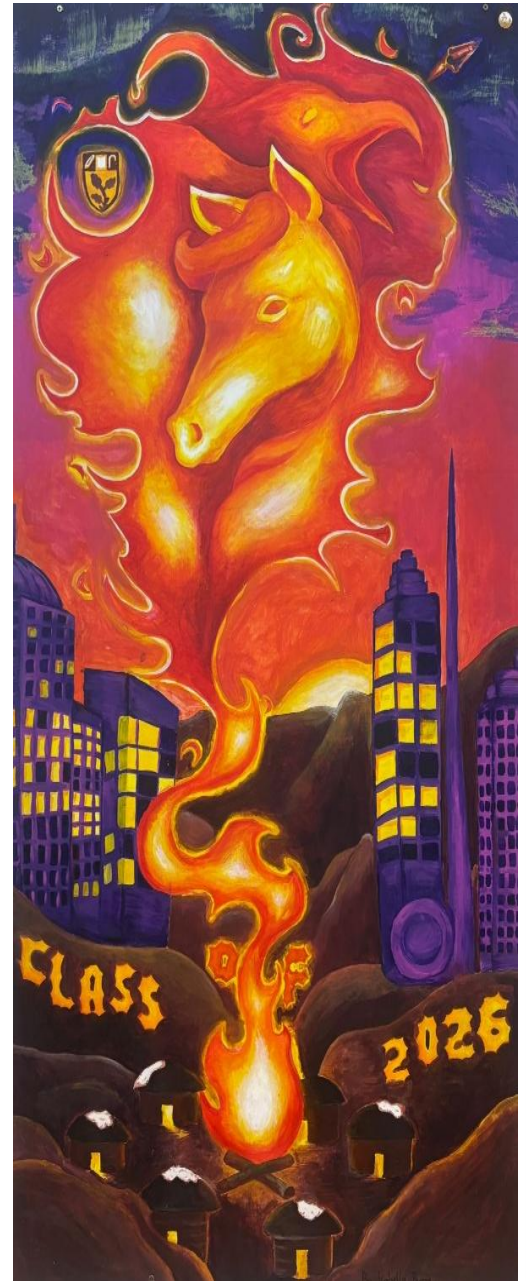
### Subject Options

**1<sup>st</sup> year subject options** have been completed and all students have received their choice options currently.

- Any change requests should be emailed to [info@stfarnans.ie](mailto:info@stfarnans.ie) when the school fully reopens on Monday 17th August. While we will do our best to accommodate changes but we cannot guarantee that all requests will be possible.

### Rafter's School Meals

- St. Farnan's PPS is funded by the Department of Social Protection's *Local School Meals Project Scheme* and we collaborate with Rafter's School Meals (Picel Ltd.) to offer a free nutritious breakfast from 8am every day.
- Free water stations are available all day. Tea/Coffee is also available in the canteen at breakfast. Healthy juices are available at a heavily discounted rate also.



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- Break times: healthy snacks are available from €1 and lunch time Hot Meals are available for all students at a cost of €2. Pay by card (bank or Revolut card or by phone but put the phone away immediately after paying!) or pre-pay and book ahead and order lunch and skip the long queues!

### Office Opening Hours

The school office will remain open from 10:00am – 1:00pm until Friday 10th July and email queries will be answered until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. The School's main office will reopen on Monday 17th August 2025. For any urgent matters during the summer closure, please contact us at:



[info@stfarnans.ie](mailto:info@stfarnans.ie)

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer.

We look forward to welcoming all of all our new students after their summer break.

Kind regards,

Andrew Purcell Principal

Sinéad Cassidy & Niamh Doyle, Deputy Principals & Jennifer Reilly 1<sup>st</sup> year Year Head



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