



Prosperous, Co. Kildare, W91W520
Guthán / Telephone: 045868152
Idirlíon / Internet: www.stfarnans.ie
R-Phost / E-mail: info@stfarnans.ie
Príomhoide /Principal: Andrew Purcell
Príomhoidí Tánaiste/Deputy Principal: Sarah Kennedy

RE: Incoming 1st year students 2023/2024

4th July 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians & Incoming 1st year students,

We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter to St. Farnan's Post Primary School on Friday 25th August 2023 from 9am. We are prioritizing our incoming 1st year students and will spend 2 days at the start of the new term running our **induction programme** with our 142 new students whereby they will get to know their tutors and Year Head, all our staff, our school procedures, the school building and each other. No other students will be in school on this Friday or Monday so I'm sure our new students will enjoy and get to know each other in their tutor classes.

After a very busy final term including the completion of the Summer Assessments, the wonderful TY & 6th year graduation ceremonies, the first ever End of Year Awards Ceremony for all the remaining year groups, many fun-filled school tours, a blisteringly competitive and fun Sport Day and each day full of participation and achievement, it is now time to communicate our plans for the 2023-24 school year. The State Examinations have now concluded and have run smoothly and I would like to complement our Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students on their excellent work ethic, support and appropriate behaviour during the examinations.

It is important to remember to pass on your most up-to-date mobile number to our front office and another emergency mobile number if possible, as use of **SMS messaging** is necessary for communication with you. If you have not been receiving texts from school, this is a priority please. Parents and guardians will be able to access their child's profile on **VSware**, our School's Management Information System whereby you will be able to see your child's attendance, punctuality, all school reports and behaviour issues going forward.

The following information will help with your planning for your son's/daughter's start to second level school this August.

School books for each student are partly funded by parents/guardians and the remainder is funded by the grant that we receive annually from the Department of Education's **Book Rental Scheme** which is successfully run by Ms Pamela Bracken. Each student will receive their books and also a **locker and combination lock** which will be handed out to students during their initial days in school. All students will be helped organise their locker and new combination lock by staff and student 5th year mentors & 6th year prefects.

The **Annual Student Contribution payments** includes payments for all school books (it does not cover pencil cases, pens, copies etc.), our administration fee, 24 hour/365 day student insurance, student lockers & lock hire and includes our student journal also and is significantly less than many other local schools. We are very thankful that parents/guardians consistently fund these amounts in full through our Way2Pay on-line payment system. A text has already issued and explanatory notes are available through this link to set yourself up in this pay system:

<https://www.stfarnans.ie/news/new-online-payment-system/>

I would like to thank the Department of Education through their Book Rental Scheme for allowing us to keep the cost of school book purchases to a minimum for all families. Payments can also be made in instalments through this system. **Contribution for a 1st year student is €225.** There are concessions for twins, medical card holders etc. Please email if you have any particular query to info@stfarnans.ie

Other information below will be available from the main page of our school website

- **School Calendar for 2023 – 2024** school year is included on a separate sheet. *Start-up week:*
 - Friday 25th August & Monday 28th August: 1st year students **ONLY 9am – 12.40pm**
 - Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th August **No school for 1st years**
 - Thursday 31st August **Full timetable up to lunchtime only. Students finish at 1.15pm**



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- **Uniform Information** can be access by clicking on the School Uniform Supplier link:

<https://www.schoolwear.ie/>

Savi Clothing will be dispatching uniforms from 17th July 2023, if already ordered.

August 4th is the final date for placement of uniforms orders for this year.

Full uniform, PE tracksuit & school crested jacket (2 options available) or fleece are mandatory every day.

Please ensure that all students return in August with all necessary items of uniform in place and with appropriate hair styles and piercings that are in line with our latest school policies.

- One ring on each hand and one small earring on each ear are permitted.
- No nose, lip or other piercing is allowed.
- Unusual coloured hair is not acceptable.
- Excessive 'Make up' will not be acceptable and students will be asked to remove it.
- Black shoes/black casual shoe-runner type shoes must be worn with uniform.
- PE uniform with runners must be worn on PE day only (unless otherwise specified; school tours etc.)
- School Jacket (light or heavy new)/School Fleece must be worn to school please. A rainproof jacket can be brought and used when waiting for bus but must not be worn in school. Can be stored in locker or bag.
- Every student and parent/guardian must sign the appropriate space near the front of the school journal to confirm their commitment to the school code of behaviour, uniform, School Counselling notes and other school policies and procedures during the first week when the student's receive their journal. The student's tutor will check the school journal every week.
- Please find the School Calendar and our Timetable structure for each school day for 2023 – 2024 (new for this year). Any further changes will be notified by text message to parents/guardians throughout the year.
- **1st year Options will be supplied in August** and anyone who is seeking a change, please email alittle@stfarnans.ie when the school opens on Wednesday 23rd August and we will try our best to facilitate subject changes but cannot guarantee that a request to change options can be facilitated.
- **Rafter's School Meals** will be in situ from the beginning of term and will be in a position to provide breakfast, break time snack and a school lunch for all junior students for a small fee. More information to follow in August. We are delighted to be in a position to offer this for our students for the next number of years.

The school office is now closed to the public until Monday 14th August. Again, any urgent queries should be emailed to info@stfarnans.ie and we will prioritize your query. Wishing you all an enjoyable summer and looking forward to greeting all 1st year students on Friday 25th August.

Andrew Purcell

Principal



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