

# SALLINS NATIONAL SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER/October 2022



### DIARY DATES:

<b>Friday 28th October 2022</b>	<b>Hallowe'en Walk</b>	
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	<b>Mid-Term Break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>Week starting 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Meetings</b>	<b>Times as booked on Aladdin Connect</b>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Meetings</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes finish @ 2.45 pm</b>

**Hallowe'en Walk:** For many years at Hallowe'en, pupils have dressed up on the Friday before the mid-term break. We then walked around the school or village to raise funds for the school. This year pupils may dress up on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October in their Hallowe'en outfits for the Hallowe'en Walk. We hope it will be a fun occasion for everyone.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:** Our annual formal parent/teacher meetings normally take place in November. This year, we hope to hold face to face meetings set over two or three days. You can book your child's parent/teacher meeting time using the Aladdin Connect app. The official parent/teacher meetings will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November** and therefore children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will finish 15 minutes before their usual time on that day.

**Parents Council AGM:** The Parents Council AGM was held on 7th October in the PE hall. The Parents Council account was discussed along with all expenditure during the year.

The Parents Council are currently looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email them at [parents.council@sallinsns.ie](mailto:parents.council@sallinsns.ie) or let Ms Kelly know.

**Junior Infants – September 2023:** Please note that applications for Junior Infants for September 2023 will be available from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The application period is from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 inclusive. The school's Admission Policy is available on our website.

### Food Collection in aid of Kildare Animal Foundation:

For many years now our school has supported Kildare Animal Foundation by running a pet food collection for the animals in their care. Kildare Animal Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the welfare of animals. They provide sanctuary and care for injured, sick and abused animals. Our past food collections have always been greatly appreciated by the volunteers at the Foundation, and of course by their furry friends!!



Many thanks for your support. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our pupils and their parents to this appeal.

**Digital Learning:** To celebrate EU Code Week 2022 all of our pupils engaged in different coding activities throughout this two week period. Some pupils enjoyed coding with our Lego Wedo Kits and our Bee Bots while others completed coding projects using Scratch Junior and Minecraft Hour of Code Challenge. For the month of October all classes were also very busy preparing their digital books to share with each other using Book Creator. The children will continue to develop their digital literacy skills and knowledge throughout the school year.

**Primary Debating Festival:** Our school debating team took part in their first debate this month against Maynooth Presentation Primary School. The motion for debate was 'School Uniforms Should be a Thing of the Past'. Both teams were excellent on the day with Maynooth Presentation Primary proposing the motion and Sallins N.S. in opposition. Unfortunately the motion was carried on the day. The team looks forward to their next debate in November.

**NEPS (National Educational Psychological Services):** NEPS has informed me that we do not currently have a NEPS psychologist assigned to our school. We will continue to support all children in the school. If we are assigned a NEPS psychologist later in the year I will inform you.

**Aladdin Connect:** The feedback, so far, on the Aladdin Connect app has been very positive. Parents have commented that it makes communication between home and school extremely easy. If you have not signed up to it please do so as parent/teacher meetings will be organised on it and your child's school report will be available through the app also later in the year.

**Retirement:** Mrs Rionagh Macnamara is retiring at Hallowe'en. I am sure you join me in expressing our gratitude for the work and support Mrs Macnamara has given to St Laurence's NS pupils, families and staff over the last 19 years. We hope Mrs Macnamara will have the good health to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

**Rainy Day Collections:** As the year progresses from autumn into winter I ask that parents/guardians who are collecting children by car from the school, at 2pm and 3pm, to please be mindful of pedestrians, other road users and rules of the road. Recently there was a shower at 3pm and a driver parked in the yellow box at the entrance to the school. This was at best thoughtless and inconvenient and potentially hazardous, as the school gate was totally blocked. Please do not park in the yellow box in front of the school. Also you are asked to leave space for the buses to park and help keep traffic flowing at the bus turning point (roundabout).

**Firefighter Visit:** Firefighter Zippy spoke to our three 6<sup>th</sup> classes on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. He highlighted some common practices in homes that are hazardous and gave advice on the importance of having an escape plan, in the event of a fire.

**Friendship Week:** For the first time ever, we held a 'Friendship Week' in our school. This ran from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of October. During this week the emphasis was on showing kindness, being friendly, making friends and anti-bullying. The Student Council led, organised and promoted 'Friendship Week'. Classes participated by encouraging kindness, learning friendship themed songs and poems, reading stories, making art displays, having kindness jars in classes, picking the name of someone in their class out of a hat to be an extra kind 'secret friend' to and by performing random acts of kindness.

The Student Council and prefects gave out 'Kindness Award' stickers throughout the week to reward any child they noticed being kind, friendly and inclusive.

'Friendship Week' was a great success and was a positive, fun and enjoyable week for all!

**Hurling:** Our Boys Under 13 Hurling team headed to Hawkfield for their County Final last Tuesday 25th October. They took on Scoil Uí Riada and it was the Kilcock school who made the better start to the game. Slowly but surely the Sallins players got into the game and after scoring a quick goal and two points, the boys pushed on and played some lovely hurling throughout the game. In the face of a stiff wind in the second half, Sallins battled well and were deserved winners at the final whistle. Well done to all of the boys involved with the panel on a great achievement and the effort they have put in this year. You have done your school proud. Maith sibh! Comhghairdeas!

**Cross Country:** Our cross country season is off to a great start as pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th Class took part in a competition in Celbridge in early October. Their hard work and dedication in the weeks leading up to the event paid off as the boys team placed first overall and the girls team came in second place overall. It was an outstanding result and we are very proud of their achievements. We'd like to extend a big thank you also to Derek McConnon for his expertise and guidance at training and on the day itself. For more information and photos check out our blog post written by 6th class on our school website.

**Road Safety:** A reminder to motorists and pedestrians to exercise care and caution when travelling to and from the school. This is especially important as winter approaches and the mornings and evenings become darker thus reducing visibility.

**Mornings:** I would like to remind parents and guardians that children should not be at the school too early in the mornings. As winter rolls in, the mornings are more likely to be cold and wet, so please ensure your child does not come to school too early. School starts at 9.20 am.

**Thank You:** I would like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to all the pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community for their hard work and co-operation in making our first half term such a success. We look forward to continuing our support of each other in order to ensure that school remains a place of learning, nurture, comfort and enjoyment for all of us, but particularly so for our children.

Yours sincerely,

**Íde Kelly**  
**Principal**



