

St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL



Scoil Naomh Lorcán
Phone 045 879119

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Diary Dates:

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| Bank Holiday/St. Bridget's Day | Monday 6th February 2023 SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Book Fair | February 8th, 9th, & 10th February |
| Mid-Term Break | Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February 2023 SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Rag Day – Parents Council/Jersey Day | Thursday 16th March 2023 |
| Rag Day – Cystic Fibrosis & Pink Ribbon Day (Breast Cancer) | Friday 12th May 2023 |

In traditional terms, the 1st February, St. Brigid's Day, is the start of Spring. As the daylight lengthens and the natural world re-awakens we look forward to the new and positive opportunities to come. We hope that we all display kindness and compassion, traits that St. Brigid is known for, in our own lives.

Catholic Schools Week: We celebrated Catholic Schools Week between the 23rd to the 27th January. Each day some pupils read a prayer out over the intercom so the whole school realised that we were marking a special week in the school year.

School Uniforms: School uniforms or school tracksuits only should be worn in school on the appropriate days. Other clothes which are not part of the uniform should not be worn into school at all. The only exception is if an additional layer is needed over the appropriate uniform.

Attendance: If your child is absent for any reason, please send a note on Aladdin/email to your child's teacher explaining the reason for the absence.

Sacramental Dates:

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| Confessions for Confirmation Candidates | Monday 13 th February 2023 ALL Classes 7:00pm to 8:00pm | Ms Keane /Mr Behan Mr Kelly Ms Shortall | Sallins Parish Church ALL classes 7:00pm to 8:00 |
| Sacrament of Confirmation | Wednesday 1 st March 2023 ALL CLASSES 11:30am | Ms Keane/Mr Behan Mr Kelly Ms Shortall | Ceremonies to take place at Our Lady & St. David's Church, Naas. |
| Sacrament of Communion | Saturday 6 th May 2023 | Ms Andrews Ms Browne Ms Carey | Sallins Parish Church |

Parents Council: The Parents Council would like to thank everyone who helped out in the bag collection before Christmas. A total of €400.00 was raised and an additional €40.00 was given to Laura Lynn in the name of the school.

Book Fair: The Book Fair organised by the Parents Council is being held on the 8th, 9th and 10th February. This is the first one since 2020! A percentage of the overall takings will help to refresh the class libraries. So many thanks for your support in this endeavour

Sallins GAA: The 2023 GAA season is shortly kicking off for all age groups. From junior infants to 6th class there is a team for everyone. Training will be starting shortly with many teams using the school astro. Go Games will start in March and within a few months the brand new GAA astro will be up and running. New players are always welcome. If your child would like to play football, hurling or camogie in a fun environment please contact sallinsbordnanog@gmail.com

Internet Safety: Safer Internet Day was on 8th February 2023. There were lessons completed in school on this topic. Also the Parents Council has booked John Wills to talk to children from 3rd to 6th class about safer internet use on 7th March. John will also host a meeting for parents. The time for this meeting will be confirmed at a later date.

Credit Union Quiz: This year we have two teams representing our school at the annual Credit Union Quiz. Our under 11 and under 13 years teams will take part in the quiz on Friday the 27th of January in Toughers Restaurant, Naas. The teams have been working hard to brush up on their general knowledge in preparation for the quiz and we wish them the best of luck on the night. It should be very enjoyable.

Wool in School Project: Ten of our 6th class pupils took part in the Knit Stitch Project in partnership with Kildare County Council. This is an intergenerational project in which pupils learn to knit with the help of an older person in their family. Our pupils worked with their grandparents, great aunts and parents on these projects and some of our pupils shared their knitting with residents in Maynooth Lodge Nursing Home. It was a lovely experience for the children and adults alike and thanks to modern technology we had grandparents participating from many places around the country and world such as Carlow and Cameroon. This project encourages understanding and respect between generations and many happy moments and memories were made during the process. The knitted buntings will form part of an exhibition which will take place in the spring, the details of which have yet to be finalised.

Active School Flag: Classes are now doing active homework once a week which is increasing the physical activity levels thus helping each child reach the national recommendation of 60 minutes daily.

We look forward to keeping you informed of the activities we have planned on our Active School journey.

Remember, *Get Active, Get Fit, Your Body Needs It!*

Creative Stickers: Our Creative Stickers for 2023 have been designed by the following:

Junior Infants – Sadie (Room 2)
Senior Infants – Olivia (Room 4)
1st Class – Emily (Room 7)
2nd Class – Avery (Room 12)
3rd Class – Willow (Room 28)
4th Class – Lottie (Room 29)
5th Class – Sam (Room 16)
6th Class – Timea (Room 21)

Well done to all the children. I know the selection committee had to make very difficult decisions to single out the winning creative stickers designs this year. Thank you to all pupils who submitted a design.

Safety: I have noticed that some children and adults are walking through the carpark in the mornings. This is potentially dangerous and unsafe training for impressionable young children. Please use the pedestrian gate or the gate at reception to enter the school. Please be aware that children are not supervised in school before 9:10am.

Dogs: A reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

Weather: Should adverse weather conditions force the school to close, parents will be notified by text. This will be done as soon as possible but a decision may have to wait until early morning as the school will only close, if absolutely necessary, on the grounds of safety. Hopefully we are getting to the stage where this will not be a concern.

Allergies: A reminder to parents **not** to include eggs, sesame seeds, nuts or products containing nuts in your children's lunches. Several of our pupils have serious life-threatening allergies to these products. While it is not possible to have an entirely nut-free school as some items may contain traces of nuts, with everyone's co-operation we should have a safe environment for pupils. Parents are also reminded that some foods are a choking hazard e.g. grapes, please make sure such items are cut into bite size pieces.

Credit Union Quiz: This year we had two teams representing our school at the annual Credit Union quiz. Our under 11 and under 13 years teams took part in the quiz on Friday the 27th of January in Toughers Restaurant, Naas. The teams have been working hard to brush up on their general knowledge in preparation for the quiz. Both teams did very well on the night and our U11 team came joint second. All of the pupils should be really proud of themselves as they represented us so well on the night. Thank you also to Ms McKenna for organising this.

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Primary Debating Festival: Our school debating team progressed through the second and third rounds of the competition and reached the semi-final stage. The motion for the debate was "If we really care about climate change we should all fly less", with Sallins National School proposing the motion and Scoil Iosaf of Baltinglass in opposition. Both teams were very strong on the day but unfortunately the motion was defeated. Our 5th and 6th classes watched these live debates and this proved to be a wonderful learning experience. Our team worked very hard and we are very proud of their achievement.

Yours sincerely,

Íde Kelly
Principal

